



# General Manager's Monthly Report



**May 10, 2022**  
**Activities for the Month of April 2022**



# Table of Contents

Message from the GM	3
Executive Summary	4-5
Upcoming Board Items	6
Reflections	7-8
Water Resources and Engineering	
Water Resource Management	9-14
Bay-Delta	15-16
Colorado River	17
Engineering	18-21
Operations	
Water System Operations	22-41
Information Technology	42-43
Real Property	44-45
Environmental Planning	46-50
Security	51-52
Finance and Administration	
Finance	53-54
Administrative Services	55
Human Resources	56-59
External Affairs	60-64

# Message from the General Manager

After many months of virtual meetings, the spring conference of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) was an opportunity to meet and talk in person with colleagues from across the state. Being together underscored our interconnectedness, as an industry and as a network of systems that lead from the watershed to the tap.

As I joined Met staff, board members, and member agencies in discussions about the many threats to our water supplies, I was buoyed by the deep and renewed commitment to working together to solve our common challenges and I left inspired by a number of ideas for future collaboration.

Meanwhile a set of internal failings and serious workplace concerns have been highlighted by the State Audit. As staff are increasingly able to meet in person and are routinely spending more time in the office, now is a critical time to implement reforms that ensure a safe, inclusive, and accountable workplace where all employees feel valued, respected, and able to meaningfully contribute.

Expectations about the workplace have changed as larger social norms continue to evolve. In order to be competitive in recruiting and retaining the best talent in our industry, we must embrace and adapt to these changes, and it will take the best talent, our staff, to solve the historic crises of California's water.

Only by working together will we succeed in tackling these intertwined challenges.

We are one,

Adel



**“The greatest danger  
in times of turbulence  
is not the turbulence -  
it is to act with  
yesterday's logic.”**

**-Peter Drucker**



# 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**

Professional Services Contracting staff completed Request for Proposals (RFP) 1307 – Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Negotiation. The purpose of this highly visible and integral acquisition is to support Metropolitan’s effort to begin the process of negotiating a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) on construction contracts. A PLA is a collective bargaining agreement between the contractors and local unions that prevents work stoppages during construction, ensures the supply of highly trained craft workers to projects, enforces payment of prevailing wages, binds participants to a dispute resolution process, supports the development of crafts through apprenticeship programs, encourages participation by minorities, and women, and other underrepresented demographics, and provides for hiring workers from local labor pools. One of the first steps in implementing a PLA is to have an agreement negotiated and developed with the trade unions. Next steps for contracting staff will be to negotiate and execute an agreement with the successful respondent, Parsons Constructor’s Inc.

## **Bay-Delta Initiatives**

Bay-Delta Initiatives staff continued collaboration with non-government environmental organizations and public water agencies on the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP) Salmon Recovery Initiative. In April, the project team continued outreach presentations to interested parties throughout the Central Valley, including tribal groups, conservation groups, water agencies, and state and federal agencies, to make them aware of the project and ask for their participation. The project team is now collecting information on existing projects to benefit salmon and potential habitat restoration activities to aid in salmon recovery. In the next phase of the project, the salmon actions will be analyzed to identify which actions best achieve salmon recovery while meeting other objectives (e.g. cost, water supply, ag production, etc.).

## **Chief Financial Officer**

The Debt Management working group on the Appendix A update expanded its review process to include broader constituency within the organization. Reviewed Appendix E first draft from consultant regarding socio-economic factors for the six-county region covering the District.

## **Colorado River**

The Department of Interior and the Colorado River Basin States collaborated to develop a proposal to reduce the risk of Lake Powell falling below minimum powerpool in the next 2 years. The plan includes increasing releases by 500,000 AF from Flaming Gorge Reservoir to Lake Powell over the next year and reducing releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead by a similar amount this summer. The combined actions will add about 1 million acre-feet to Lake Powell, which is projected to keep the reservoir above critical elevations through 2023. To ensure no adverse impacts to Lower Basin water users, when determining tier determinations in Lake Mead, Reclamation will assume that the releases had not been reduced and the water was in Lake Mead, making the proposal operationally neutral to the Lower Basin states, including Metropolitan.

## **Engineering Services**

In April, Engineering Services opened bids for several major construction contracts including rehabilitation of treatment basins and installation of a battery energy storage system at the Weymouth plant. In May, bid openings are planned for relining of the Etiwanda Pipeline and procurement of four 84-inch butterfly valves for the drought projects in the Rialto Pipeline service area. On April 13, Engineering Services and the City of Anaheim hosted the annual Member Agency Engineering Manager Meeting. Staff from 13 member agencies attended, and several presentations were given by Metropolitan staff. The City of Anaheim provided an update on the use of the design-build process to rehabilitate aging pipelines and construct PFAS treatment facilities. A panel including the Cities of Anaheim, Glendale, Santa Ana, and Santa Monica highlighted some of their challenges and initiatives.

## **Environmental Planning**

Environmental Planning Section staff toured the Water Replenishment District's (WRD) Albert Robles Center (ARC) for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning with staff from External Affairs and Engineering Services Group. The tour provided an opportunity for staff to learn and gain information to incorporate into environmental planning phase tasks for the Regional Recycled Water Program, including a proposed Innovation Community Center.

## **External Affairs**

Responding to extreme drought conditions facing Southern California communities that are dependent on State Water Project supplies, Metropolitan's board adopted an Emergency Conservation Program to reduce water use and minimize the take of human health and safety water. The board action was communicated to the public with a well-attended press conference and interviews with TV, radio and print media that were viewed an estimated 25 million times.

## **Human Resources**

Teleworking employees returned to in-office work two days a week in the month of April, with a focus on collaboration, teamwork and employee development while in the facilities, and work/life balance while teleworking.

## **Information Technology**

IT continued to deploy updates (i.e., Microsoft critical vulnerabilities security patches) to mitigate the risk of exploitation to Metropolitan's computing environment. Behind the scenes, the cybersecurity team continues to conduct on-going cybersecurity initiatives to mitigate risks and vulnerabilities by working with business groups to implement security updates, protocols and enhancements to address potential cyber vulnerabilities to combat growing and evolving cyber threats.

## **Real Property**

The 5th Annual Real Property Group Outreach event was hosted by staff to introduce college students, recent graduates, and professionals to public agencies and the right of way industry. The virtual event promoted an internship opportunity within Real Property and included industry panelists from Metropolitan. The event was successful in educating the audience on topics such as public agency real estate practices and the variety of career paths at Metropolitan.

## **Security Management**

New Headquarter lobby turnstiles were installed leading to the main building's elevator bank as part of the security upgrade project. Turnstiles are physical access control devices designed to restrict access to one authorized person at a time and will only allow access to entrants with the correct credentials and approved access.

## **Water Resource Management**

Metropolitan coordinated extensively with the Member Agencies using SWP supplies to develop an Emergency Water Conservation Program. Metropolitan's Board declared a Water Shortage Emergency Condition and adopted the framework for the Emergency Water Conservation Program on April 26, 2022. This program allows agencies two compliance paths to reduce water use and preserve SWP supply for human health and safety purposes.

## **Water System Operations**

In mid-April, a leak was found on the Upper Feeder pipeline as it spans the Santa Ana River along a truss bridge. Operations and Engineering staff worked throughout a holiday weekend to develop short- and long-term repair plans for this critical pipeline delivering Colorado River water to the region. An innovative design was quickly developed and fabricated in-house, which was successful in stopping the leak while the permanent repair approach is being determined.

# Upcoming Board Items

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

Month	Key Board Items
<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bay Delta Policy Review Session 2</li><li>• Authorize payment for support of the Colorado River Board and Six-Agency Committee for FY 2022/23</li><li>• Update on Public Draft EIR Release on Delta Conveyance Project (Invited Presenter from California Department of Water Resources)</li><li>• Presentation on Director Inspection Trips</li></ul>
<b>July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approve 500+ Plan Implementation Agreements</li></ul>
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider Action on Updated Bay Delta Policies</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><li>• Report on list of certified assessed valuations for FY 2022/23</li><li>• Adopt resolution establishing the tax rate for FY 2022/23</li></ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oral Report on the Surplus Plan</li><li>• Approve Project Labor Agreement terms and conditions and authorize a professional services agreement for PLA administration</li><li>• Update on Delta Conveyance Public Draft EIR and Comments</li></ul>





**“With increased impacts of climate change and drought, collaboration with mutual benefits between agriculture and urban water users is more important than ever.”**

*Nadia Hardjadinata,  
Resource Specialist*

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Seasonal Fallowing Program for the Bard Water District (Bard), located in Imperial County, reduces water consumption that helps augment Metropolitan’s Colorado River supplies. The Program incentivizes farmers to fallow their land for four months at \$452 per irrigable acre, escalated annually. Metropolitan estimates a water savings between 1.5 and 2.0 acre-feet per irrigable acre. Bard diverts Colorado River water for crop irrigation grown year-round in the warm dry climate. Farmers typically grow high-value crops in the winter (vegetable crops) followed by a lower-value, water-intensive, field crop (such as Bermuda and Sudan grass, small grains, field grains, or cotton) in the spring and summer. Participating farmers will reduce their water consumption through land fallowing by a total of up to 3,000 acres annually between the months of April and July.

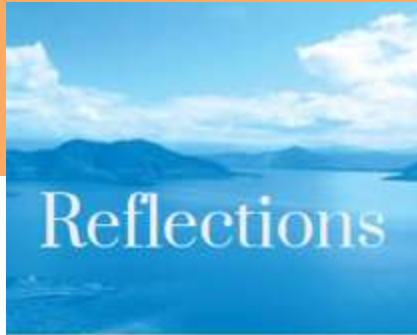
## **IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN**

With increased impacts of climate change and drought, collaboration with mutual benefits between agriculture and urban water users is more important than ever. In partnership with Bard and participating program farmers, Metropolitan would benefit as the saved water would remain in the Lake Mead and be made available for diversion and help provide water reliability for Southern California.

## **MEMORABLE MOMENT**

Staff worked through pandemic-related challenges and other hurdles to maintain a high level of collaboration and communication with Bard Water District and participating farmers. During the height of COVID-19 as Metropolitan halted all travel, staff was able to quickly pivot to work with a consultant who performed the required field inspections of the fallowed fields.

This program also requires a close interdepartmental collaboration between Water Resource Management, Water System Operations, and the Legal Office.



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Each spring, Real Property Group hosts an outreach event with the goal of introducing attendees to the right of way industry and providing them with an opportunity to learn more about the practices of public agencies. It also promotes student internships and career opportunities within Metropolitan's Real Property Group. This year's event was comprised of a presentation, panel discussion, Q&A, and breakout session with an HR representative. Panel speakers included representatives from Real Property Group, Substructures, Geodetics, External Affairs, and Engineering – questions focused on each panelist's career stories, providing insight on how they achieved their success at Metropolitan. The breakout session allowed for students to interact directly with an HR representative, learning more about the internship application process.

## IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

This event facilitates a valuable networking opportunity for college students and those looking to know more about working in the right of way industry, allowing them to hear and learn directly from professionals in the field. Educating the public about internship and career opportunities at Metropolitan is a crucial first step in workforce development. Whether it be in right of way or in another field, this event could spark a potential future employee's interest, acting as their "foot in the door." Creating doors of opportunity is a primary reason Real Property Group hosts this annual event.

## MEMORABLE MOMENT

Navigating from an in-person event to virtual was a unique challenge last year. This year, the event planning team had a better idea of what to expect and recognized the benefits to hosting the event virtually. Although participants missed out on face-to-face interaction and refreshments, they could join from the comfort of their own homes, wherever that may be – one attendee even joined from Germany! For future outreach events, Real Property Group will look into a hybrid approach, both in-person and online, to maintain this level of accessibility.



**"As someone who began their Metropolitan career as an intern, having a part in putting this outreach event together really hits home for me. I love that we've established this avenue to spread the word about Metropolitan career opportunities, and help students learn about how they can get involved and where to get started."**

**Noelle Vest,**  
**Real Estate Representative**





# Water Resources and Engineering



## Water Resource Management

### **GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency**

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

In April, staff submitted an updated SWP Schedule at a five percent allocation which included a request for health and safety supplies to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). This hybrid schedule conforms to DWR's updated Human Health and Safety Guidelines. DWR will incorporate this schedule into its planning studies.

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

Water Resource Management staff attended a three-day meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Work Group in St. George, Utah. The meeting included a tour of a potential new point-source salinity control project site at Pah Tempe Springs, which are natural saline hot springs that contribute approximately 100,000 tons of salt per year to the Virgin River (a tributary to the Colorado River). The meeting also included an update on the Paradox Valley Unit, a facility designed to remove high salinity flow from the Dolores River (which is also a tributary to the Colorado River) and sequester it below ground via deep well injection. The facility has been almost dormant since March 2019 because of seismic activity induced by the well. However, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) staff reported to the Work Group that a consultant recently completed the evaluation of a proposed six-month test of the well and found no technical problems with the test plan. The Work Group expects USBR to initiate the well test and restart deep well injection at less than full capacity within the next few months, once USBR management officially approves the test. Staff will continue to coordinate and monitor efforts on salinity control on the Colorado River to help reduce salt loads to Metropolitan's Colorado River supplies.

#### **Objective #8 Implement Local Resources Program**

Staff attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Pure Water Oceanside. Metropolitan partners with San Diego County Water Authority and the City of Oceanside to help fund Pure Water Oceanside through Metropolitan's Local Resources Program. In November 2019, the Metropolitan Board committed to providing up to \$42.7 million over 15 years for the Pure Water Oceanside project. Pure Water Oceanside will purify recycled water to create a new, local source of high-quality drinking water that is clean, safe, drought-proof and environmentally sound. The project will produce enough water to provide more than 30 percent of the city's water supply.

# Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)



**Pure Water Oceanside Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.**

Staff attended a ribbon cutting ceremony in the City of Beverly Hills for the restart of the Beverly Hills Desalter. The original desalter started operating in 2003, providing the city an additional source of potable water and reducing its dependence on imported water. The desalter was shut down in 2015 because of unforeseen changes in the groundwater quality. Beverly Hills recently completed new improvements and plant upgrades and began operation on April 27, 2022. The desalter will continue to provide up to 2,600 acre-feet per year (AFY) of recovered groundwater for potable use in the Beverly Hills service area. The desalter is part of Metropolitan's Local Resources Program, which helps Metropolitan increase local water supply for the region's benefit..



**Beverly Hills Desalter Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

## GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

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

The 2020 IRP Regional Needs Assessment was adopted unanimously by the Board on April 12, 2022. As the first component of the 2020 IRP's development, the Regional Needs Assessment analyzed potential gaps between the expected supplies and the forecasted demands across four IRP scenarios. It presents key technical findings in five broad categories and examines the effectiveness of generalized portfolio categories. The Regional Needs Assessment will frame and guide the establishment of more specific targets to maintain water reliability through 2045 and inform the Board on resource investment decisions. Completion of this report concludes the 2020 IRP Regional Needs Assessment phase. In the forthcoming One Water Implementation phase, portfolios of appropriate actions and investments will be advanced by identifying policies, programs, and projects which provide regional solutions to the IRP Regional Needs Assessment findings. A comprehensive adaptive management strategy will be developed in the One Water Implementation phase to guide these specific actions.

### **Objective #7 Participate in Federal, State and Local Water-Energy Nexus processes to support Metropolitan Energy Sustainability and Climate Action Plans**

Staff met with Enchanted Rock, a Houston-based company with an alternative to diesel-powered back-up generators. The company's natural gas-based technology has the potential to increase treatment plant back-up power reliability while reducing GHG emissions. Enchanted Rock's technology includes the ability to use renewable natural gas and can support also micro-grid implementation at water treatment facilities.

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

Staff participated in the 2022 AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference in Denver, Colorado. The conference brings together water sector organizations and professionals to discuss all aspects of resilient and efficient water management, including best practices for managing water resources, source water protection, sustainable utility planning, benefit/cost of water conservation, and alternative water sources including stormwater and reuse. Staff presented on research performed for Metropolitan by the Council for Watershed Health, which explored barriers and challenges for schools and school districts to access and use incentives for water-saving projects. Topics included case studies on successful school "greening" projects and the potential to leverage other benefits (energy efficiency, better utilization of outdoor spaces, stormwater permitting and flood mitigation, etc.) with good project design.

Staff participated in a panel discussion entitled: "Removing Barriers to Water Reuse in Food & Beverage Processing." The panel was convened and moderated by Aquacycl, a company headquartered in Escondido, Calif., that provides equipment and support for water reuse to several industries. The discussion included navigating regulatory barriers, cost-benefit approaches, and lessons learned from actual case studies. The panel included workers from water and wastewater utilities and private industries. The virtual discussion was the second of a series and nationally attended (see <https://blog.aquacycl.com/water-stewardship-and-reuse>).

## **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.**

Metropolitan staff continued collaboration with member agencies on a developing a pilot methodology for coordinating 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. Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22, signed on March 28, directs the State Water Resources Control Board to consider adopting emergency regulations to include a new requirement that urban water suppliers submit preliminary annual assessments to DWR no later than June 1. Submittal of the annual assessment 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.

On April 21, Metropolitan gave a briefing on regional imported water supply conditions and drought response actions and participated as an invited stakeholder in the fifth interactive online workshop of Western Municipal Water District's Drought Task Force. Drought Task Force members provide input for the development of Western Municipal Water District's Urban Water Management Plan and federal Drought Contingency Plan. The workshop topic on April 21 was a discussion of the key elements and conclusions to be presented in the Draft Drought Contingency Plan.

Staff participated in several CalDesal committee meetings in April. This included providing Metropolitan's input into CalDesal's legislative efforts on several State bills related to desalination and water infrastructure funding.

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

Staff provided a letter of support for a USBR WaterSmart grant application by the Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD). If awarded, USBR's grant would co-fund the development of TVMWD's Drought Contingency Plan.

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

Staff participated in California Water Data Consortium (Consortium) committee meetings in April. This included providing in-kind support for the Consortium's grant and fundraising activities. Tara Moran, the Consortium's Executive Director, also provided an update on Consortium activities at Metropolitan's Member Agency Managers meeting. Staff supported the Consortium in developing the April 1 presentation and related outreach.

### **Objective #7 Explore opportunities to leverage Metropolitan's SWP and Colorado River supplies and storage assets.**

Staff is coordinating with DWR to execute a long-term agreement for the movement of Diamond Valley Lake water to the Mills Treatment Plant (DVL to Mills). This operation has been ongoing since May 2021 and is currently operating under a one-year agreement with DWR because it uses DWR's Santa Ana Valley Pipeline. Staff is proposing an agreement that would expire along with the SWP contract (thru 2035 or thru 2085, when SWP extension is executed). This agreement will enable Metropolitan to convey water from DVL to Mills when there are operational needs. This operation is especially important in times of drought or other emergency affecting the East Branch of the SWP.



# Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

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

Metropolitan staff completed a study with Dr. Andrew Marx on the reversion rate of turf conversion projects. The work also looked at factors that could cause reversion such as the sale of the home. This study is a part of the ongoing analysis of the turf conversion program. Past evaluations of the turf conversion program have examined both the multiplier and the reversion affect. These studies help Metropolitan explore how turf conversion programs reduce water demand and how they can be more effective.

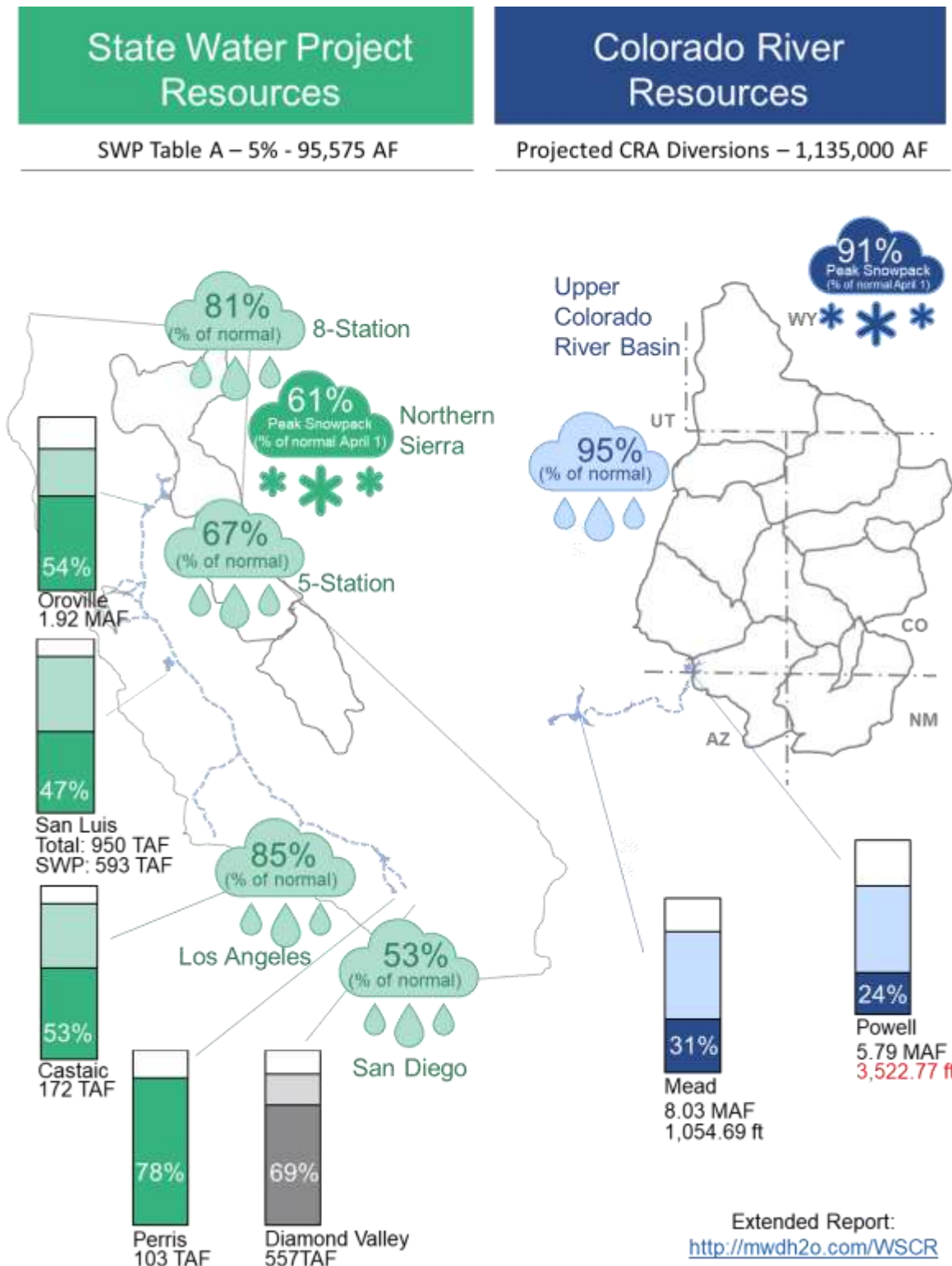
Staff initiated an additional turf conversion program study with Dr. Andrew Marx, calculating the amount of turf in Metropolitan's service area. The study focuses on the City of Santa Ana as a pilot and may serve to help identify land-use sectors containing non-functional turf. Dr Marx created a dashboard identifying a variety of turf categories that the end users can select on the basis of what they deem non-functional turf. If the pilot study proves successful, Metropolitan could develop dashboards for agencies throughout the entire service area.

## **Objective #9 Promote Metropolitan's technical capabilities and innovation efforts to advance the understanding of water resources management.**

Staff received a briefing on "predictive maintenance" best practices highlighting the approaches of Mekorot, Singapore PUB, Sydney Water, and the Orange County Water District. Booky Oren GWT, one of Metropolitan's Peer-2-Peer innovation consultants, provided the briefing.

# Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)



As of April 30, 2022

## Bay-Delta Initiatives

### Resiliency

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative groups called for in the 2019 Biological Opinions for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project, and in the 2020 Incidental Take Permit for long-term operation of the SWP, to address science needs and inform management and operation of the water projects. In April, staff continued collaboration with the state and federal agencies to develop conceptual models for steelhead that can inform development of a monitoring program and directed studies for steelhead populations within the San Joaquin Basin. Staff also worked with the Delta Coordination Group to implement an expert elicitation to evaluate the impacts of the Summer-Fall Habitat Actions on the occurrence of contaminants and their effects on Delta smelt and their prey. The results of the expert elicitation will be used in the Structured Decision-Making effort for 2022 to evaluate the North Delta Food Web Subsidy Action and the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gate Action.

### 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

During a Special Board of Directors meeting on April 8, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Board of Directors approved a resolution to extend virtual board and committee meetings pursuant to AB 361.

The regularly scheduled April 21 meeting of the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority was cancelled.

#### Sites Reservoir

At their April meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board and the Sites Reservoir Committee were presented an update to the Amendment 3 project agreement approval process (agencies approving continuation of funding for completion of planning process), including estimated participation levels. Current participants have all reported back and there is approximately 1,000 acre-feet of unsubscribed capacity. There is an approved “waiting list” for new participants who have submitted letters of interest before March 31. Sites Reservoir staff will reach out to current participants for interest in making voluntary reductions to accommodate increased U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) investment and “waiting list” capacity.

### Innovation

#### Science Activities

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team. In April, activity focused on discussion of a draft

CSAMP Progress Report and priorities for the next year. CSAMP also received briefings on the impacts of thiamine deficiency on Central Valley salmon and on the Delta Science Program's Science Action Agenda.

Staff continued collaboration with NGO environmental organizations and public water agencies on the CSAMP Salmon Recovery Initiative. In April, the project team continued presentations to interested parties throughout the Central Valley to make them aware of the project and ask for their participation in Phase 2 of the process. At the second large presentation, over 100 interested parties including tribal groups, conservation groups, water agencies, and state and federal agencies joined the meeting. The project team is now in the information collecting phase to collect information on existing projects to benefit salmon and potential habitat restoration. Phase 2 is focused on soliciting actions planned to aid in salmon recovery, and in phase 3, those actions will be analyzed to see which actions best achieve salmon recovery while meeting other objectives (e.g. cost, water supply, ag production, etc.).

Staff co-authored a scientific paper 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 Prop 1 grant with cost-share from Metropolitan. The paper published on March 30 in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology* ([Dietary Exposure to Bifenthrin and Fipronil Impacts Swimming Performance in Juvenile Chinook Salmon \(\*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha\*\) | Environmental Science & Technology \(acs.org\)](#)) evaluated the swimming performance of Chinook salmon exposed to environmentally relevant concentrations of two pesticides commonly used in the Central Valley. The study found that juvenile salmon exposed to the pesticides had significantly reduced swimming performance and had impacts to their metabolism. These types of effects may have significant impacts on juvenile salmon abilities to avoid predators and forage for food.

## **Delta Levee Stability and Monitoring Efforts**

Delta levee stability and monitoring efforts are ongoing with implementation of an instrumentation pilot on Metropolitan's Bouldin Island Pilot to evaluate the effectiveness of detecting real time changes in levee conditions. This type of capability could provide both long-term levee management benefit, as well as the ability to quickly assess conditions in the event of an earthquake in the region. Efforts also include the storage of real time data produced from the instrumentation network in a manner that can be easily accessed for evaluation.

## **Core Business Reliability**

On April 4, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approved in part the Temporary Urgency Change Petition that DWR and Reclamation jointly filed in March in response to critically dry conditions in the Bay-Delta watershed. The State Water Board Order allows temporary changes for Delta outflow and Delta salinity requirements during the April 1 to June 30, 2022, timeframe.



## Colorado River

### **Reclamation Takes Actions to Protect Lake Powell**

Following another dry winter, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) updated projections which showed that without proactive actions, there is now about a 1 in 4 chance that Lake Powell could fall below minimum powerpool in 2023. Reclamation met with the Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) (including Metropolitan) to explain that if the reservoir fell below elevation 3,490', not only would power no longer be generated at Glen Canyon Dam, but the City of Page Arizona and a portion of the Navajo Tribe would lose access to their water supply. Additionally, bypass tubes with limited operational experience would need to be operated, and the risk of infrastructure damage was of concern. To reduce the risks above, the Basin States (including Metropolitan) and Reclamation developed a proposal to increase releases from Flaming Gorge Reservoir by about 500,000 acre-feet (AF) over the next year and move that water to Lake Powell. Additionally, releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead would be reduced by 480,000 AF over the summer. These two actions would add about 1 million AF of water to Lake Powell, nearly eliminating the risk of falling below elevation 3,490 through 2023. As this proposal would reduce Lake Mead storage, starting this year and into the future, Reclamation will make tier determinations (e.g., shortages) as if the 480,000 AF had been released into Lake Mead. This accounting will make the proposal "operationally neutral" to the Lower Basin, and the same shortages would be implemented as if it were not implemented. The additional water in Lake Powell will be tracked, and in a future year, the water will be released back into Lake Mead. This action to protect Lake Powell, as well as last year's 500+ plan to protect Lake Mead, are designed to provide time for the Basin States, Reclamation, and interested stakeholders to develop new guidelines for the Colorado River, which will need to address the reduced flows in the Colorado River affected by climate change. That process is targeted to be completed by December of 2025.

## 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 replacing the existing septic tank system with a wastewater collection system at Lake Mathews. The new wastewater system connects to a nearby off-site Western Municipal Water District main wastewater line. Construction is 7 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2023. The contractor has begun installing survey control and marking existing utilities.
- **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 is complete. A construction contract for the remaining third stage was awarded by the Board in 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 Feed 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 installation of the temporary feed system to keep Garvey Reservoir operational, while construction of the permanent feed system is ongoing. Demolition of the existing pumps was completed, and installation of electrical control panels is in progress. Construction is 75 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in July 2022.
- **La Verne Shops Improvement**—This project will modernize the La Verne shops in order to maintain Metropolitan's ability to refurbish major mechanical equipment and fabricate large-diameter pipe to support ongoing maintenance activities, capital projects, and to rapidly respond in the event of an emergency. Final design is complete, and a request to the Board for award of a construction contract is planned for May 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 58 percent complete. All three 48-inch conical plug valves have been delivered. Fabrication of seven 54-inch valves is in progress. Delivery of the first two 54-inch valves, expected in March 2022, has been rescheduled to May 2022, because of delays at the shipping port. The next five 54-inch valves will be delivered between September 2022 and July 2023. Fabrication of three remaining 54-inch valves is scheduled to start in 2022 and to be completed in late-2023.

## 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 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 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. The contractor has mobilized a field office at Intake pumping plant and is currently working on submittals for Metropolitan’s review. Construction is 8 percent complete is scheduled to be complete by March 2025.



## **Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Structure Rehabilitation**

Completed valve house weir monitoring pool and stair access upgrades

### **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, to improve plant reliability, and to enhance worker safety. Stage 1 work is complete. Stage 2 improvements are currently underway and 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 is continuing work at the motor control center that feeds the washwater return pumps and has completed commissioning of sludge vault valves and pumps. Construction is 98 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 in order to use new processes and/or technologies and improve facility safety and overall reliability. Recent activities include the following:

- **Headquarters Building Improvements**—This project provides seismic upgrades and other needed improvements to the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. Construction related to the original contract scope and the UVC air disinfection system are substantially complete. The contractor continues procurement and installation of additional cooling equipment for electrical and audio visual/information technology rack rooms. Because of the long lead time required to procure this equipment, the anticipated contract completion date is September 2022.
- **Headquarters Physical Security Upgrades**—This project implements comprehensive security upgrades for the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. These upgrades are consistent with federally recommended best practices for government buildings. This work has been prioritized and staged to minimize rework and impacts on day-to-day operations within the building. Stage 1 work is complete and provides enhanced security related to perimeter windows and doors. Stage 2 improvements are currently underway and 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 96 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by end of August 2022. The contractor has completed installation of security equipment on all floors along with testing and cutover to the new security system the rotunda equipment installation continues. 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 for September 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 fire alarm distributed antenna system and the Emergency Radio Responder System and is starting the fire alarm system cutover on the second floor. Construction is 46 percent complete, and the anticipated project completion date is being reassessed.



**Headquarters Building Improvements**  
Installation of turnstiles in lobby



## Water System Operations

### GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

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

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 126,867 acre-feet (AF) for April with an average of 4,229 AF per day, which was 344 AF per day higher than in March. Treated water deliveries decreased by 6,141 AF from March for a total of 69,400 AF, or 55 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) continued operating at an eight-pump flow with a total of 101,404 AF pumped for the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,473 AF per day, totaling about 44,195 AF for the month, which accounted for about 35 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. The target SWP blend remained at zero percent for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

As the drought continues, the Colorado River Aqueduct continues to move water at maximum capacity. Sandbags were placed at the Hinds pumping plant surge chamber to ensure that every drop of water makes it to the southern California region and our member agencies.



**Hinds pumping plant surge chamber at maximum CRA flow**

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

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during March 2022.

Following up on its sanitary survey last month, the California State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) conducted the second part of the survey at the Jensen plant on April 19. Accompanied by staff, the DDW inspectors visited the plant and reviewed operational documentation. DDW will issue a survey report that summarizes its findings and any recommendations.



**Division of Drinking Water completing the regulatory inspection of the Jensen plant**

On April 8, staff submitted quarterly disinfection byproduct monitoring reports to DDW. These compounds, which may be produced through the disinfection process needed to ensure safe drinking water, are monitored in Metropolitan's main distribution system and in the domestic water systems at the desert pumping plants. All locations were in compliance with regulatory requirements.

Staff attended the Chlorine Institute's 2022 Technical Symposium in New Orleans, Louisiana, to share the latest regulatory updates, technical innovations, sustainability measures, safety, and cyber security recommendations. Metropolitan's membership in the Chlorine Institute helps ensure continuous improvement in chlorine security, emergency preparedness, transportation, and maintaining Metropolitan's goal of zero releases and injuries.



**Metropolitan staff (seated) and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power staff (standing) attending the Chlorine Institute's 2022 Technical Symposium**

In preparation for all employees returning to work in-person, staff revised the “Protect Yourself and Others from COVID-19” signs to reflect face-covering/mask requirement changes. The signs are available for download through the IntraMet.



Revised “Protect Yourself and Others from COVID-19” signs

This month, the Water System Operations units with the strongest safety performance in 2021 were selected as the winners of the 2021 Safety Awards. The awards are based upon last year’s safety performance in several categories including safety training completion rates, safety committee meetings held, and recordable injury rates. Congratulations to these field units for their outstanding safety performance, and thanks to all employees for taking personal responsibility for safety!



2021 Safety Award Winners



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

Staff inspected newly-installed lighting and pallet rack systems in the former Orange County Conveyance and Distribution Team facility located at the Diemer plant site. This vacant building will be upgraded and repurposed to store critical equipment that will optimize maintenance and improve efficiency. This minor capital project will provide a much-needed centralized storage facility for large valves, meter cabinets, wire spools, and other items frequently used by Metropolitan field units in this area.



**Staff inspecting newly installed storage racks and lighting for the reassigned storage facility at the Diemer plant site**

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

Staff performed corrective maintenance and inspection of failed clarifier equipment in a sedimentation basin at the Diemer plant. The clarifier removes settled solids from the sedimentation basin as part of normal operations. After removing the basin from service and dewatering and cleaning the basin, staff identified a welded joint failure on the clarifier equipment's rake arm extension. Staff removed the rake arm extension, sent the equipment out for warranty repair, and inspected the remaining clarifier equipment. The repair did not affect the plant's ability to meet drinking water demands.



**Contractor and staff removing (left) and staging (right) the damaged section of the sedimentation basin clarifier at the Diemer plant**

Staff upgraded a manifold system needed to manage grey water collected from various floor drains at the Jensen plant. The manifold had been in operation for over 15 years and began to show deterioration from usage and age. With input from plant operators, a more robust system was designed with a new capability to make repairs while still being able to operate the system without interruption.



**Grey water manifold before (left) and after (right) upgrades at the Jensen plant**

Staff repaired a water leak on an eyewash station at the Skinner plant. Eyewash stations are located throughout the treatment plants and other facilities to provide emergency washdown in areas where exposure to chemicals could occur. The Skinner plant has over 140 fixed eyewash stations. Staff discovered a water leak on one of the stations that was below ground level. Staff made the necessary repairs, which included saw cutting to expose the leak and installing the finishing asphalt. As part of the repair, staff also improved the layout of the eyewash station to enhance accessibility.



**Eyewash station during (left) and after (right) repairs at the Skinner plant**

Staff began relocating workstations to a centralized office at the Weymouth plant. After nearly two years of working in micro-teams with separate reporting locations as part of the pandemic response, staff will now return to working in a centralized location. The Mechanical Team at the Weymouth plant consists of 15 mechanics that had been divided into five micro-teams to ensure necessary physical distancing. With changing protocols and improved COVID-19 conditions, staff will return to working together as one—a key component to the success of the team.



**Staff transporting desks from satellite offices (left) and moving desks (right) to a centralized location at the Weymouth plant**



Staff modified the controls and functionality of the variable frequency drives (VFDs) for six new portable generators. The VFDs will assist with dewatering operations that are regularly a part of pipeline shutdowns. Staff worked with a vendor and developed the control logic and modifications, while adding additional control devices, motor protection, and indicators to ensure reliable and consistent operation throughout Metropolitan. During a typical pipeline shutdown, generators from different areas are used and standardization ensures a higher level of safety and performance.



**Staff testing VFD and control wiring modifications**

Staff replaced two plug valves at the Covina blow-off structure located on the Middle Feeder. The existing plug valves were difficult to operate and due for replacement. The work included removing a section of perimeter block wall to gain safe access to the blow-off structure, removing the structure's concrete roof cover, and replacing the plug valves.



**Staff removing wall footing (left) and secondary blow-off valve (right) before replacement on the Middle Feeder**

This month, the La Verne Shops fabricated a 12-inch diameter repair spool for the Hollywood North Portal Bypass Structure to repair a small leak along the Santa Monica Feeder while minimizing operational disruption. The repair spool was designed, fabricated, coated, and installed in three days preventing a shutdown of the feeder.



**Welded repair spool (left) and coated spool and hardware packaged for delivery (right) to repair a small leak along the Santa Monica Feeder**

The CRA pumping plant circulating water pumps are regularly maintained to ensure a sufficient supply of cooling water to the large main pump units and the 230kV transformers. Water is pumped into an elevated tank and then gravity fed to cooling water manifolds and heat exchangers. The cooling water is continually needed to keep the equipment operating within normal operating tolerances.



**Staff replacing packing on a circulating water pump at a desert pumping plant**



CRA pumping plants use sand strainers to remove sand, silt, and debris from the cooling water system. Staff disassembled the sand strainer at the Eagle Mountain pumping plant to replace bushings and repair the strainer basket. Proper operation of the strainer prolongs the life of system piping and heat exchangers.



**Staff replacing bushings and repairing the strainer basket on a sand strainer at Eagle Mountain pumping plant**

Maintaining patrol roads along the CRA is a continuous effort. Regular vehicle traffic and storms degrade road conditions, making access to remote locations difficult. With the CRA operating at its maximum capacity, frequent patrols and visual inspection of the aqueduct are critical.



**Staff maintaining a patrol road near Hinds pumping plant**



**Bighorn sheep along a CRA patrol road**

On April 13, staff was notified of a leak on the Upper Feeder pipeline in the city of Riverside where the pipeline is supported by a truss bridge that spans the Santa Ana River. Operations and Engineering staff immediately investigated and found a small crack in a bellows expansion joint leaking less than five gallons per minute. Immediate actions included reducing flow in the Upper Feeder to decrease pressure and lessen the leak, while assessing repair options. Continuing deliveries of Colorado River water through the Upper Feeder was an important factor when determining repair plans, considering the region's severe drought condition. Staff worked around the clock over a



holiday weekend to quickly develop a plan for a partial repair that reduced the leak to a small weep, while ensuring the safety of staff working on the Upper Feeder bridge. Next, a short-term innovative repair, using a custom bracket and plate designed and fabricated in-house, was installed on April 21 and stopped the leak. Staff is continuing to monitor the integrity of the repair and is determining a recommended approach for a permanent repair and shutdown in the coming season. This event demonstrates staff's high level of dedication, creativity, and collaboration to respond to extreme and unexpected challenges that help ensure that Metropolitan continues to meet its mission of safe and reliable water deliveries.



**Bellows expansion joint previously installed by a contractor on Upper Feeder**



**Immediate repair to reduce leak on Upper Feeder bellows expansion joint**



**Repair bracket (left) and jacking plate (right) used to stop leak on Upper Feeder bellows expansion joint**

During a seven-day shutdown of the Middle Feeder, a six-mile portion of the feeder from the Weymouth plant to the Covina Pressure Control Structure (PCS) was removed from service. This allowed for planned corrective work at a chlorine injection structure, which is located within the Weymouth plant, and replacement of two 16-inch valves at the Covina PCS blow-off structure. Staff also replaced smaller pipeline shutoff valves and performed internal visual inspections along this portion of the feeder.



**Staff removing pipeline flange bolts (left) and studs (middle), and an access flange (right), to facilitate internal inspection of the Middle Feeder**

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

With continuing drought conditions, the CRA is expected to maintain its maximum eight-pump flow through September 2022. Under eight-pump flow conditions, a Resource Adequacy (RA) deficit of approximately 2 MW was anticipated in June 2022. However, Red Mountain Hydroelectric Plant's return to service in April provided approximately 4 MW of RA and eliminated the need to procure additional market RA for June—a savings of up to \$15,000.

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

On March 30, staff participated in a quarterly meeting of the California Utilities Emergency Association (CUEA) Board of Directors. CUEA consists of representatives from most public and private utilities in the state and coordinates the overall emergency response of utilities during emergencies at the state level. Additionally, staff contacted county emergency management agencies in Metropolitan's service area regarding collaboration on dam emergency action plans and local hazard mitigation planning. On April 14, staff also participated in the Cal OES Training, Exercising and EOC Credentialing Committee. This committee advises on various training and exercising programs in the state through the California Specialized Training Institute.

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

The State Water Project target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants and Lake Skinner was zero percent in March 2022.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from February 2021 through January 2022 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 575, 570, and 577 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

On February 23, a Union Pacific railcar derailed during transport of an empty fluorosilicic acid railcar from the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant (LAAFP). The train damaged the rail and switch that serves the LAAFP and Jensen plant. Union Pacific suspended rail service to both facilities until repairs were complete. To ensure a continued supply of chlorine for the Jensen plant, contingency plans were developed to deliver 17-ton chlorine trailers from Metropolitan's Chemical Unloading Facility (CUF) located over 100 miles away in Riverside County. Staff developed special operational procedures to handle this unprecedented delivery coordinating with the Los Angeles Fire Department and California Highway Patrol. On March 15, staff placed one chlorine trailer in service. On April 1, Union Pacific completed its repairs, which now allows continued rail service to the Jensen plant.

Staff began installing an ammonia analyzer in the water quality instrumentation building at the Weymouth plant. The analyzer is used for monitoring the plant effluent and can be easily switched from the Orange Counter Feeder to the Upper Feeder west sample line. This analyzer helps to ensure a proper disinfectant residual in the distribution system.





**Staff verifying instrument location for ammonia analyzer at the Weymouth plant**



**Ammonia analyzer mounted on water quality room instrument panel at the Weymouth plant**

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

Water reserves continued to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles, operational objectives, and the current 5 percent 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 April to conserve SWP use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in April. 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 seven vacant positions in March.

## **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 electrical apprentices attended a field training session at the Skinner plant's solar farm. The session covered installation, operation, and maintenance of solar panels and auxiliary equipment. The training also emphasized compliance with the National Electrical Code. This field training prepares apprentices

for their careers as journey electricians who may be called upon to support Metropolitan's existing and future solar facilities.

Safety and Technical Training staff delivered a recently updated Hydroelectric Onsite Operator course. This comprehensive two-week course addressed plant upgrades and trained journey-level employees to start, stop, and operate Metropolitan's 15 hydroelectric plants. The course included lecture, testing, and hands-on activities. Metropolitan operates hydroelectric plants to generate electricity and control pressure within the distribution system. The energy recovered helps offset system operational costs.



**Instructor training staff on the functions and operations of a turbine lubricating oil system (left) and turbine wicket gates and control system (right) at Temescal Hydroelectric Plant**

## **Objective #13 Ensure Accurate Billing Infrastructure.**

Staff replaced the metering cabinet for service connection SA-07, located on the East Orange County Feeder No. 2, after the cabinet had been struck by an automobile. Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) cabinets are used to collect and transmit data from water meters located throughout Metropolitan's service area. The work consisted of removing the damaged AMR cabinet base and repairing the electrical conduits and metering lines to restore the service connection.



**New cabinet base placement for service connection SA-07**



**Completed AMR cabinet repair for service connection SA-07**

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

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

On March 21, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) released a recommended notification level for perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) at 2 parts per trillion (2 ppt). PFHxS is the second most commonly detected PFAS in drinking water samples in California, though none have been detected in Metropolitan's supplies. Staff will continue to monitor whether the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) moves to adopt the proposed notification level.

On March 22, DDW posted an administrative draft for a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium at 0.010 mg/L (10 ppb). The detection limit for purposes of reporting (DLR) is 0.00005 mg/L (0.05 ppb). The anticipated compliance date for systems serving a population of 10,000 or more would be two years after the regulation takes effect. The draft regulations also include a compliance plan requirement for systems that demonstrate an MCL exceedance during required monitoring. Formal rulemaking is pending, but DDW is soliciting comments on this administrative draft by April 29, 2022. Staff are reviewing the proposal and coordinating with industry associations on potential comments to DDW.

On March 28, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order (EO N-7-22) asking Californians to limit summertime water use and directs the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt emergency water conservation regulations by May 25, 2022. The proposed regulations will require urban water suppliers that have adopted Water Shortage Contingency Plans to implement, at a minimum, a 20 percent water shortage response action (Level 2); and if the drought continues for another year, voluntary reductions of 30 percent (Level 3). The Executive Order directs the SWRCB to adopt emergency regulations banning irrigation of "non-functional turf" in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors. An exception is made to ensure the health of trees and other perennial non-turf plantings. Staff will closely monitor any regulatory updates by the SWRCB on water conservation practices affecting Metropolitan.

On March 29, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it will update the status of the MCL setting process for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and

perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) at the National Drinking Water Advisory Council to be held on April 19. According to the PFAS Strategic Roadmap, EPA intends to propose MCLs during fall of 2022 and publish final MCLs by the fall of 2023. Staff will monitor the outcomes of National Drinking Water Advisory Council meeting.

On March 29, the DDW initiated a process to revise the notification and response levels for manganese. Similarly, SB 1124 (Archuleta) was amended on March 29 to require OEHHA to prepare a public health goal for manganese by July 1, 2023, followed by DDW setting notification or response levels by January 31, 2024, and a primary MCL thereafter. Currently, manganese has a notification level of 0.5 mg/L and response level of 5 mg/L (10 times the notification level). Manganese also has a secondary MCL of 0.05 mg/L. Staff will closely monitor the revisions to the manganese notification and response levels, and any potential primary MCL.

On March 30, SWRCB released an updated draft to the Construction General Permit (CGP). The CGP regulates stormwater discharges associated with construction activities disturbing one or more acres. The draft CGP incorporates new total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and a new requirement for passive treatment technology. Staff will attend the April 19 public workshop before determining whether Metropolitan will submit comments by the May 2, 2022 deadline. The draft CGP is scheduled for potential adoption on July 12, 2022.

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

Staff began startup of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center demonstration facility in Carson for secondary membrane bioreactor (MBR) operations, treating primary treated wastewater effluent from the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson. Staff supported seeding of the bioreactor with mixed liquor from Irvine Ranch Water District's Michelson Water Recycling Plant, an operational secondary MBR located in Irvine. Concurrent with biological seeding and startup, staff improved the MBR filtrate microbial sampling skid, continued consultant training on microbial sampling, and began collecting and analyzing pretesting phase microbial samples from the demonstration facility influent and MBR filtrate.

Staff continued to complete corrective and preventative maintenance, including repairing a faulty solenoid on an MBR filtrate valve actuator, sealing minor leaks on the MBR aerobic basin wall, and installing a portable flow meter for primary effluent flow monitoring into the demonstration facility.



**Staff repairing the MBR filtrate valve actuator at the demonstration facility**





**Staff installing a portable flow meter to confirm the primary effluent flowrate into the demonstration facility**



**Staff continue training on microbial sample collection for the next phase of testing at the demonstration facility**

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

Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of approximately 9.5 megawatts or just under 7,090 megawatt-hours, and about \$338,750 in revenue, for the month of March 2022. Metropolitan's solar facilities, totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated just over 960 megawatt-hours in March 2022.

A cross-functional sub-group of the Water-Energy Climate Sustainability (WECS) team is working to identify technology, projects, and strategies that will improve the operational flexibility and energy sustainability of the CRA Transmission System (CRATS) and CRA pumping load. The team has explored the use of microgrids, energy storage, small- and utility-scale renewable generation, and other energy management strategies.

## **Objective #6 Protect Source Water Quality.**

Metropolitan completed its 2022 update of the Colorado River Watershed Sanitary Survey and submitted the report to the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water on April 1. Completion of the report fulfills a regulatory requirement (California's Surface Water Treatment Rule) for public water systems to conduct a



comprehensive sanitary survey of its watersheds every five years. The sanitary survey identifies potential sources of watershed contamination, summarizes source and treated water quality data, evaluates Metropolitan's treatment plants and compliance with drinking water regulations, and recommends watershed management activities that will protect and improve source water quality. The sanitary survey also serves as a guiding document for Metropolitan's source water protection program.



**2022 update of the Colorado River Watershed Sanitary Survey**

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

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

Throughout April, staff participated in workshops to assist in prioritizing the research agenda for the Water Research Foundation, which is the nation's leading organization dedicated to advancing the science of water resources to better meet the evolving needs of subscribing organizations, the water sector, and drinking water consumers. Metropolitan is a subscriber to the Water Research Foundation.

On April 11–14, staff attended the American Water Works Association's California-Nevada Section Spring Conference in Anaheim. Attending such conferences ensures that staff have up-to-date technical information on a wide variety of relevant drinking water issues and can engage with water industry professionals and experts. Sessions and presentations covered updates on state and federal drinking water regulations, including California's adoption of new laboratory accreditation standards, occurrence and treatment of emerging contaminants like PFAS and microplastics, and water reuse processes.

# Operations

(continued)

Monthly Update as of:

4/30/2022

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<b><i>Colorado River Basin</i></b>		
Lake Powell	5,787,000	24%
Lake Mead	8,015,000	31%
<b><i>DWR</i></b>		
Lake Oroville	1,916,531	54%
Shasta Lake	1,808,211	40%
San Luis Total	950,045	47%
San Luis CDWR	593,055	56%
Castaic Lake	171,839	53%
Silverwood Lake	67,420	90%
Lake Perris	103,172	78%
<b><i>MWD</i></b>		
DVL	557,686	69%
Lake Mathews	130,512	72%
Lake Skinner	36,605	83%



Hoover Dam

## Information Technology

### GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

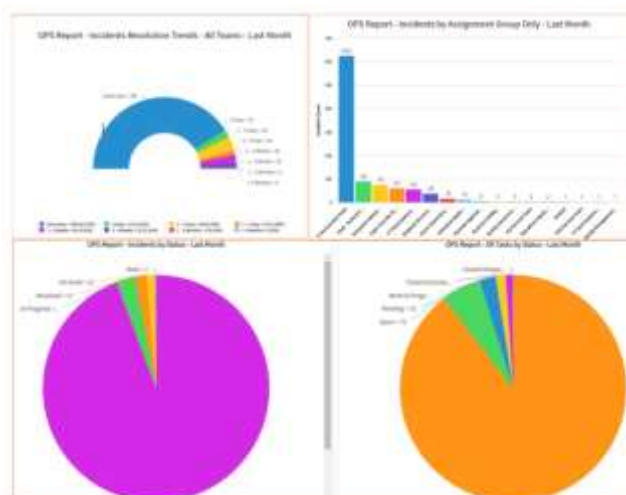
**Objective #2 Manage Information Technology Projects within the Capital Investment Plan to ensure reliability of IT Systems and Infrastructure.**

Metropolitan's data center modernization project provides enhanced operational uptime of data center processing to meet current and future capacity and reliability needs. The project team successfully conducted a migration on April 12 and is working on the next migration waves. This work is highly complex, presenting many technical and logistical challenges involving hardware, software, data, communication networks, and ancillary systems. A key focus for the team is to mitigate disruption to Metropolitan's day-to-day business operations. IT works closely with stakeholders to coordinate on the outage periods required for migration and keeps the business informed through timely communications.



**Objective #7 Enhance workforce productivity by simplifying access to business information and deploy technologies to support our customers in business decisions.**

IT staff continued to support the workforce in the transition of returning to work. Leveraging tools like our IT Service Management portal, users have been able to use the self-service option for submitting work requests and logging incidents. The team continues to strive for first call resolutions to better improve our customer service as demonstrated in the operational reporting dashboards pictured below.



## GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

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

Supported phase 1 of the physical security enhancement project at the headquarters' building by wiring equipment to the new security system platform. In addition, the IT Network Systems team provided critical network infrastructure to support new security features like the digital cameras and card readers to help strengthen Metropolitan's security posture.

## GM Strategic Priority #3: Innovation

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

Enhanced customer experience with the development of the Water Ordering System application. This application was designed to modernize the way in which member agencies can request flow changes. Before the development of this application, member agencies had to call the Eagle Rock operators and verbally request needed changes. This new water ordering application not only enables member agencies to electronically submit flow change requests directly through the app, but it also enables users to track the progress of their requests. These enhanced features will provide our member agencies a more streamlined way to have water delivered. Deployment of the application has begun with Long Beach, Foothill, Burbank, and Glendale. Further deployments will be scheduled in the coming weeks.



## Real Property

### GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

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

The 5th Annual Real Property Group Outreach event was hosted by staff to introduce college students, recent graduates, and professionals to public agencies and the right of way industry. The virtual event promoted an internship opportunity within Real Property and included industry panelists from Metropolitan. The event was successful in educating the audience on topics such as public agency real estate practices and the variety of career paths at Metropolitan.

Key International Right of Way Association-sponsored courses were completed as follows:

- C600 Environmental Awareness—Staff gained increased awareness of environmental laws, regulations, and associated regulatory agencies.
- C520 Special Topics in Replacement Housing—Staff gained knowledge on how to handle specialized situations encountered in replacement housing such as multiple occupants, incidental expenses, and partial-interest owner-occupants.

### GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

#### Objective #2 Provide right-of-way planning, valuation, and real property acquisition support services for the sustainability and reliability of both imported and regional water supplies, and protection of water rights.

Approximately 591 acres in the Palo Verde Valley region was acquired from a private owner in support of Colorado River water supply reliability.

### 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.

An entry permit has been issued to Southern California Gas Company (SCG) for construction laydown and staging purposes comprising 1.3 acres of land within the Sepulveda Feeder right-of-way in West Los Angeles adjacent to Interstate Highway 405. The one-year permit is an integral component to SCG completing its gas line improvements as part of the CPUC mandated Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan.

New tenants have been secured for Holland and Webb Tracts in the Bay Delta. One-year leases have been executed to occupy all of Metropolitan's land at Holland Tract (3,007 acres) and to occupy the entire Webb Tract (5,497 acres). Both tenants' agricultural activities on the properties will entail grazing and agricultural activities that will be consistent with current water conservation and land management objectives.

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

The Diamond Valley Lake Marina Concessionaire has purchased ten additional pontoon boats to refresh and expand the boat rental fleet. This purchase fulfills part of a broader capital commitment from the concessionaire that was



secured through a new board-approved agreement in August of 2021. The new boats were delivered to the marina parking lot where they will be fully assembled and made available for rent.



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

Staff has successfully completed 73 work orders for this reporting period. Of the completed work orders, 18 work orders were tenant-requested.

Desert Facilities Maintenance Team onboarded two additional Metropolitan temp employees who will be assisting with the added responsibilities of maintaining the swimming pools and other Desert recreational areas. The transition of responsibilities for the recreational areas from WSO to Real Property is scheduled to occur in May 2022.

## 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 Projects

- Preparing technical studies in support of the Mitigated Negative Declarations for the Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Road Rehabilitation and Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Housing projects.

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

**Staff attended/completed the following trainings/conferences:**

- Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's Envision professional certification
- CEQA 202: Standards of Review, hosted by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference
- Managing Hybrid Teams (Metropolitan training)

### 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

- Coordinated with California Department of Water Resources, Coachella Valley Water District, and Desert Water Agency regarding technical studies and the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

#### Perris Valley Pipeline Project

- Coordinated with Legal to determine the need for additional CEQA documentation based on revised soil disposal methods.
- Visited the March Air Reserve Base Advisory Center to learn about PFAS/PFOA treatment methods.

#### Regional Recycled Water Program (RRWP)

- Toured the Albert Robles Center (ARC) for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning. Staff will incorporate information received to support a proposed Innovation Community Center for RRWP (see photo).
- Visited and assessed the proposed alignments within the city of Carson with public outreach consultants.
- Initiated surveys for biological resources, including coastal California gnatcatcher, and transportation.



**ARC tour group consisting of Engineering Services Group, External Affairs, and Environmental Planning Section staff**

**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**

- Coordinated with Cal Fire to prepare for planned prescribed burns, including mapping to protect coastal sage scrub areas.
- Treated 13 acres of invasive species, including Stinknet, with herbicide.

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

- Environmental education interpreter created new activities for children and worked with volunteers to plant a wildflower garden at the Alamos Schoolhouse.
- Conducted rare plant surveys and updated rare species GIS occurrence data.
- Conducted spring quarterly survey of reptile coverboard arrays at Tualota Hills and Rawson Creek locations.
- Prepared for upcoming prescribed burns.
- Deployed cowbird traps on the reserve, which will be open until September.
- Conducted weed abatement in Lake Skinner Equestrian Trail Horse Camp and vegetation management units.
- Continued use of wildlife cameras to observe species, including deer, coyotes, and bobcats (see photo).



**Bobcat captured by wildlife camera in the reserve**

**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.**

- Finalized CAP, Final Program EIR (PEIR), and associated CEQA documentation.
- Prepared May Board letter and presentation to certify Final PEIR and adopt the CAP.

## **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**

- Incorporated feedback from Department of Conservation staff site visit into draft Reclamation Plan and associated CEQA documentation.

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

- Developed environmental analysis template for Real Property requests requiring environmental/CEQA review.

**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 to provide consistent and expedited regulatory review and Streambed Alteration Agreement issuance for capital and O&M projects.



## 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 2.4kV Electrical Rehabilitation
  2. Cabazon Radial Gate Replacement
  3. Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Housing Upgrade
  4. CRA Delivery Line Rehabilitation
  5. Copper Basin Access Road and Discharge Valve Repair
  6. Foothill Hydroelectric Plant Seismic Upgrades
  7. Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation
  8. Gene Communication Systems Upgrades
  9. Headquarters P1 Fire Sprinkler Repairs
  10. Jensen Admin Building Entrance GFRC Panels
  11. Jensen Plant Bull Creek Discharge Bubbler Vegetation Maintenance
  12. Mills Plant Maintenance Building Roof Replacement
  13. Perris Valley Pipeline Rehabilitation
  14. Red Mountain and San Dimas Power Plants New Canopy and Generator Installation
  15. San Diego Pipeline 1 and 2 Rainbow Tunnel Concrete Repairs
  16. Sepulveda Feeder Stray Current Drain Stations 653+10 and 726+50 Rehabilitation
  17. Upper Feeder Blowoff Rehabilitation
  18. Weymouth Plant Administration Building Seismic Upgrades
  19. Weymouth Plant Battery Energy Storage System
  20. Weymouth Plant Natural Gas System Improvements
- Provided construction phase support for:
  1. CRA Mile 12 Flow Monitoring Station Upgrades
  2. CRA Overhead Cranes
  3. CRA Domestic Water Treatment System Replacement
  4. Cholla Wash Conduit Lining
  5. Garvey Reservoir Drainage Improvements
  6. Gene Wash Discharge Valve Rehabilitation
  7. Live Oak Reservoir Asphalt Upgrades
  8. Red Mountain and San Dimas Power Plants New Canopy and Generator Installation
  9. Western San Bernardino Right-of-Way Infrastructure Protection Program Stage 1

### Water System Operations

- Provided CEQA analysis and environmental planning support for the following O&M activities:
  1. San Diego Canal Algae Piping Bypass
  2. Block illegal access and dumping at Tin Mine Road (Lake Mathews)
  3. Rialto Feeder routine maintenance activities

- Notified U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and received the Clean Water Act Section 404 emergency authorization to address an exposed segment of the Foothill Feeder.

## **Bay Delta Initiatives**

- Reviewed sections of Administrative Draft EIR for the Delta Conveyance Project and attended coordination meetings with agencies for regulatory permitting efforts.

## **External Affairs**

- Provided legislative analysis on:
  1. AB 2160—Coastal resources: coastal development permits: fees
  2. AB 2858—Fish and Wildlife: safe harbor agreements
  3. AB 2966 (Rivas)—Conservation Easements: forest lands California Conservation Corps
  4. AB 2858 (Dahle)—Fish and Wildlife: safe harbor agreement
  5. AB 2610 (Friedman)—Fire Prevention and Wildlife Conservation Act
  6. AB 2578 (Cunningham)—Climate Strategy: carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration
  7. AB 2949 (Garcia)—Natural and Working Lands Resilience Act of 2022
  8. AB 2944 (Petri-Norris)—Greenhouse Gases: carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration, amended
  9. AB 1640 (Ward)—Regional Climate Networks, amended
  10. AB 1676 (Burke)—Greenhouse Gases: carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration, amended
  11. AB 1644 (Burke)—Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: California Jobs Act, amended
  12. SB 852 (Dodd)—Climate Resilient Districts: formation, funding mechanisms, amended
  13. SB 989 (Hertzberg)—Climate Change Preparedness, Resiliency, and Jobs for Communities Program, amended
  14. SB 1392—Fish and Wildlife: steelhead trout: fishing report-restoration card
  15. SB 1404—Updated Bill: California Environmental Quality Act: oak woodlands
  16. California Endangered Species Act Listing of Southern California Steelhead Trout
  17. Proposed federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act Incidental Take Authorization

## **External Environmental Document Reviews**

- Reviewed 13 CEQA notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.

## **Real Property Support**

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

## Security

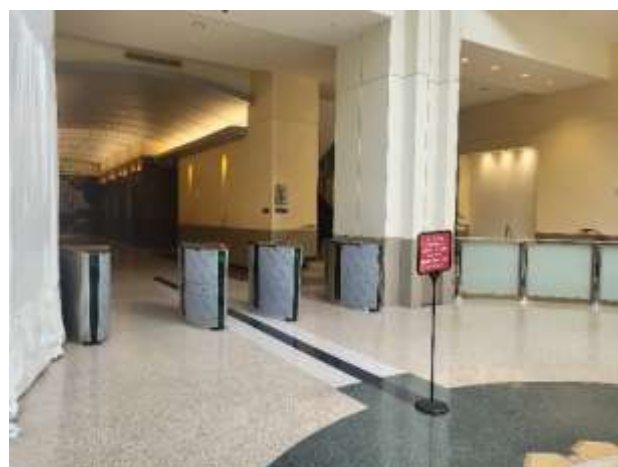
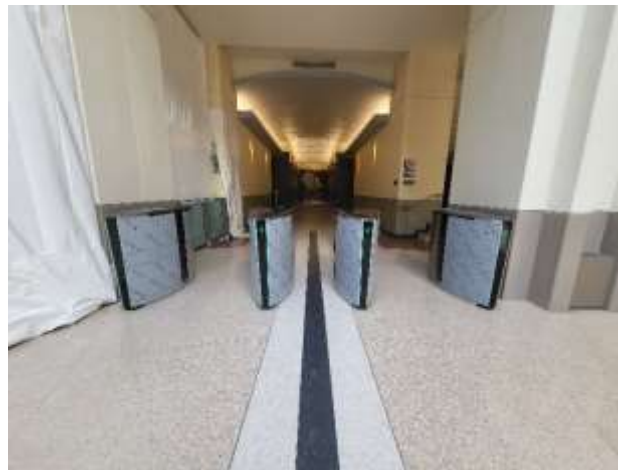
### **GM Strategic Priority #2: Improve Security and Emergency Response**

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

To ensure the safety and security of employees, guests, and vendors inside the building, it is critical to keep unauthorized entry at bay. Turnstiles, physical access control devices designed to restrict access to one authorized person at a time, are considered security best practice for areas with high traffic. Only entrants with the correct and approved credentials will be allowed access.

As part of the Metropolitan Headquarters Building security upgrade project, new turnstiles were installed in the lobby area leading to the main building's elevators bank. A person entering a security turnstile presents credentials (an ID badge) to a reader attached to the turnstile. If the person is authorized, the turnstile will unlock, allowing passage through the turnstile, and then lock again immediately afterward until the next person's credentials are authorized.

Turnstiles visually deter intrusion attempt and work alongside our security officers to ensure that only authorized entrants are allowed in the building.



**Newly-installed turnstiles located in Union Station Headquarters Building**

## Objective #3 Improve Employee Readiness for All Hazards Emergencies

Metropolitan Security staff were notified during evening hours of a pipe leak on the Upper Feeder located in Jurupa Valley in Riverside County. This particular exposed pipe section spanned the Santa Ana River, and unsheltered individuals or possible encampments were located within the affected downstream area.

Security staff immediately mobilized and took the following steps to ensure that individuals could relocate to a safer location:

- Contacted individuals inhabiting the location
- Notified Riverside Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)
- Coordinated efforts with Jurupa Valley Code Enforcement
- Updated Metropolitan internal stakeholders on public safety efforts
- Rapidly printed and posted warning notifications, in both English and Spanish, within 72 hours



Warning notifications posted





## 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 March the Finance & Insurance Committee held Budget Workshops #3 and #4 to respond to board requests for more information and discuss the Proposed Biennial Budget, including the following:

- 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
- Cost of Service Report

Also in March at the Finance & Insurance Committee, the board held a combined public hearing regarding the following:

- 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
- 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 57 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 52 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.**

- Cyberattack continuity planning discussions took place to identify workarounds for the possible temporary unavailability of Metropolitan computers.

- Conducted the quarterly Business Continuity Steering Committee meeting. Topics discussed included cyber security planning as well as progress made on program deliverables.
- 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 March 2022 totaled 118.7 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which were 3.1 TAF higher than the budget of 115.6 TAF and translate to \$115.3 million in revenues for March 2022, which were \$8.9 million higher than the \$106.4 million budget.
- Year-to-date water transactions through March 2022 were 1,231.1 TAF, which were 51.8 TAF higher than the budget of 1,179.3 TAF. Year-to-date water revenues through March 2022 were \$1,118.1 million, which were \$39.4 million higher than the budget of \$1,078.7 million.
- In March 2022, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,700 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$7,600 in discounts.

**Objective #3 Manage investor relations to ensure clear communications, accuracy of information, and integrity.**

The Debt Management working group on the Appendix A update expanded its review process to include broader constituency within the organization. Reviewed Appendix E first draft from consultant regarding socio-economic factors for the six-county region covered by Metropolitan.

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

As of March 31, 2022, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.37 billion; for the month of March 2022, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 12 trades.

During the month of March 2022, Treasury staff processed 1,159 disbursements by check, 25 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 129 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 92 receipts by check, 29 receipts by ACH, and 57 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

## Administrative Services

### CORE BUSINESS – Business Processes

#### Objective #2 Sustainability

Rideshare staff is currently reviewing all submitted surveys and correcting any errors. Also, we are contacting the managers of staff who have not submitted the mandatory survey to remind their staff to submit. The due date of survey is May 11.

#### Accomplishments

Professional Services Contracting staff completed Request for Proposals (RFP) 1307 – Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Negotiation. The purpose of this highly visible and integral acquisition is to support Metropolitan’s effort to begin the process of negotiating a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) on construction contracts. A PLA is a collective bargaining agreement between the contractors and local unions that prevents work stoppages during construction, ensures the supply of highly trained craft workers to projects, enforces payment of prevailing wages, binds participants to a dispute resolution process, supports the development of crafts through apprenticeship programs, encourages participation by minorities, women, and other underrepresented demographics, and provides for hiring workers from local labor pools. One of the first steps in implementing a PLA is to have an agreement negotiated and developed with the trade unions. The next steps for contracting staff will be to negotiate and execute an agreement with the successful respondent, Parsons Constructors Inc.

## 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 facilitated webinars on Supporting a Culture of Psychological Safety to promote inclusivity, effective team learning, and productivity. Approximately 35 Metropolitan employees attended.

In April, 477 Metropolitan employees attended virtually facilitated classes, including Communicating Effectively in a Fast Paced World, Effective Presentations, Time Management, Resume Writing, Personal Security Awareness, and Using Email Effectively.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online, e-learning content platform, was used for classes, including topics on Preventing Harassment in the Workplace; Turning Weaknesses into Strengths; Persuading Others; Learning to Control Your Attention; Adopting the Habits of Elite Performers; and Communicating with Diplomacy & Trust.

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

Recruitment successfully filled 12 positions for the month of April. Recruitment received 11 new staffing requisitions, resulting in 201 positions currently in recruitment.

The recruitment of the Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer concluded with a final candidate selected and scheduled to start in May.

Continuing the Expert Training Series at the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council, Kuma Roberts, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer at Arrowhead Consulting, presented "Culture Competence," which explains how to change culture in an organization.

### GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

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

Based on changing COVID protocols, teleworking employees reported to regular work sites one day a week for the month of April. At the end of April, the number of days increased to two days a week. This hybrid work environment provides employees flexibility and less commute time while supporting employee development, collaboration, and teamwork.

**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 conflict resolution, innovative teamwork, and management of hybrid teams.



## 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 researched options for an online total compensation statement and was able to determine that the current MyHR system has the functionality. This online solution will be implemented later this year to replace the paper version.

HRIS staff reviewed and tested an improved MyPerformance e-form focused on workflow and process for the upcoming MyPerformance common evaluation review period.

## 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 the month of April, a tentative agreement was reached with AFSCME Local 1902 on a new three-year MOU extension, consistent with parameters approved by the Board's OP&T Committee. OP&T was briefed on the negotiations on April 11, and AFSCME is preparing to have the tentative agreement ratified by its membership.

Negotiations also continue with the Supervisors Association on a successor MOU. The status of those talks was also shared with the OP&T Committee.

## 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.**

Benefits Unit, in coordination with Payroll, HRIS, and IT, implemented the new 2022 COVID Leave policy which was signed into law on February 9, 2022, under Senate Bill 114 (SB 114). SB 114 will remain in effect through September 30, 2022. As of March, Benefits Unit has approved 114 leaves.

Benefits Unit worked in conjunction with Empower Retirement and Metropolitan's Legal staff to fully automate and outsource the IRS Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) process to Empower Retirement effective April 1, 2022.

Benefits Unit coordinated the Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC) quarterly meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2022. The DCAC is made up of one representative from each Bargaining Unit, Executive Management, Human Resources staff, and Finance staff. DCAC is assigned with the role of reviewing 401(k) and 457(b) investment performance, fund lineup, plan stats and updates, new and pending legislation, and participant outreach and education to ensure that optimal benefits are provided and fiduciary obligations as a Plan Sponsor and employer are met.

In April, eight new Workers' Compensation claims were received. Seven employees remain off work because of an industrial injury or illness. This reflects Metropolitan's effort to accommodate injured workers, while enabling them to be productive and on the job.

# Finance and Administration

(continued)

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

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

- Coordinated four Medical medvan visits (DMV, respirator exams and hearing tests) to Gene Camp, Iron Mountain, Eagle Mountain, and Hinds Pumping Plant
- Arranged eight medical evaluations (Pre-employment, DMV, and medical surveillance)
- Coordinated one random drug test
- Addressed 30 Accommodation issues, including referrals to Shaw Consulting Group

HR Metrics	June 2021	April 2022	Prior Month March 2022
<b>Headcount</b>			
Regular Employees	1,806	1,753	1,744
Temporary Employees	30	38	36
Interns	3	2	2
Recurrents	20	18	19
Annuitants	16	16	15

	April 2022	March 2022
<b>Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)</b>	201	202
<b>Number of New Staffing Requisitions</b>	11	19
	April 2022	March 2022
<b>Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress</b>	9	9
<b>Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits</b>	0	1
<b>Number of New Job Audit Requests</b>	0	1

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 20/21 Totals</u>	<u>April 2022</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	74	11	64
Temporary Employees	30	5	29
Interns	3	0	4
<b>Internal Promotions</b>	60	7	62
<b>Management Requested Promotions</b>	149	6	118
<b>Retirements/Separations (regular employees)</b>	78	3	117
<b>Employee-Requested Transfers</b>	20	1	10

# Finance and Administration

(continued)

## Departures

Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Reason	Group
Brennan	James	Instrumnt&Cntrl Tech III	3/2/2022	Retirement	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
Rogers	Barbara	Pr Admin Analyst	2/23/2022	Retirement	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP
Williamson	Dora	Admin Assistant I	3/2/2022	Retirement	REAL PROPERTY

# External Affairs



## External Affairs

GM Hagekhalil joined with Governor Newsom, Natural Resources Secretary Crowfoot and other state, federal, and local water leaders to announce an agreement on a set of Voluntary Agreements to provide additional water flows for the environment and new habitat in the Sacramento Delta. Water agencies, including Metropolitan, will now bring the plans to their boards for review.



Chairwoman Gray, GM Hagekhalil, and Executive Legislative Representative Viatella met with Governor Newsom to discuss Metropolitan's response to worsening drought conditions and a request for \$552 million in one-time state funding for drought emergency projects and the Regional Recycled Water Program. (April 20)

GM Hagekhalil participated in Access Sacramento, which included meetings with legislators, Attorney General Bonta, Secretary of State Weber, and other state officials. The advocacy agenda included Metropolitan's priorities to seek state funding for drought emergency projects and the Regional Recycled Water Program, and sponsored legislation to allow alternative procurement processes to expedite public works projects and to establish a science-based approach to Constituents of Emergency Concern. (April 19–20)

Responding to extreme drought conditions facing Southern California communities that are dependent on State Water Project supplies, Metropolitan's Board adopted an Emergency Conservation Program to reduce water use and minimize consumption of human health and safety water. The board action was communicated to the public with a well-attended press conference and interviews with TV, radio, and print media that were viewed an estimated 25 million times.





## Legislative Services

### Federal

GM Hagekhalil and staff met virtually with officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to discuss funding opportunities for conservation programs. Metropolitan staff will continue this dialogue with Biden administration officials as funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is released. (April 13).

### State

The State Auditor issued its report on Metropolitan's handling of EEO complaints, hiring practices, the Ethics office, worker safety program, and desert housing, and the report will be presented to a Joint Legislative Audit Committee in late June. Work is already underway to implement the recommendations. Progress will be reported to the Board, the employees, and on a website dashboard.

The LA/OC Building and Construction Trades, Rebuild SoCal, and Civic Alliance, a coalition of business groups, water agencies, and environmental NGOs have expressed support for State funding for the Regional Recycled Water Program, emergency drought mitigation projects, and member agency projects.

Metropolitan's sponsored bill AB 1845 (Calderon, D-Pico Rivera) that would authorize alternative delivery methods for the design and construction of the RRWP and emergency drought mitigation projects passed out of Assembly Local Government Committee and will be heard in the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee.

A similar bill, SB 991 (Newman, D-Fullerton), would also allow design build procurement methods to accelerate water infrastructure projects.

Other legislation of interest to Metropolitan includes SB 832 (Dodd, D-Napa) that allows diverters to use evapotranspiration to meet State Water Board monitoring and reporting requirements, AB 1313 (Bloom, D-Santa Monica) that would require the Judicial Council to set up an education and training program to support judges involved in water cases, and three new PFAS-related bills that are consistent with board policy to protect source water quality.

### Local

GM Hagekhalil spoke to Inland Action members about the water supply outlook and how Metropolitan's One Water planning and advocacy efforts support the region's water resiliency. (April 19)

WRM Group Manager Coffey addressed the Riverside County Water Task Force and spoke on drought conditions and Metropolitan's actions. (April 22)

WSO Assistant Group Manager Chaudhuri participated as a panel speaker at the Greater Ontario Business Council's Politics & Pancakes event, providing information on Metropolitan's water systems operations. (April 29)

Staff met with district staff of four Congressional, three state Senate, and six Assembly offices to discuss the emergency drought response actions adopted by the Metropolitan Board to reduce demands and preserve supplies in the SWP-dependent portions of the service area.

In addition to regularly scheduled government affairs meetings and monitoring regional meetings, Metropolitan staff participated in 73 webinars, virtual meetings, and events on water-specific topics with local chambers of commerce, community organizations, and water agencies throughout the region.

## Media and Communications

Arranged interview between KABC-TV 7 and GM Hagekhalil regarding State Water Project allocation and drought.

Set up interview between Nevada Independent reporter Daniel Rothberg and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp about Colorado River and Department of Interior letter regarding releases from Lake Powell.

Coordinated interview with New York Magazine reporter Kyle Paoletta and GM Hagekhalil regarding the Colorado River, working with basin partners, and the next round of negotiations.

Arranged interview with Spectrum News reporter Jo Kwon, Water Use Efficiency's Guerro, and homeowner Elsa Ayala for a feature on how to save water at home.

Coordinated interview between KABC-TV 7 and Water Use Efficiency's Goldman on what people can do to save water outdoors, including turf replacement.

Set up interview with Telemundo and Govt Affairs Representative Cetina on drought and water saving tips.

Arranged interview with San Fernando Sun reporter Mike Terry and GM Hagekhalil on climate change, mega-drought, and water supplies.

Coordinated interview between Water Education Foundation writer Nick Cahill and COO Upadhyay about Regional Recycled Water Program.

Set up interview between USC Annenberg Radio Reporter Wilko Martínez-Cachero and Water Resource Management's Polyzos regarding drought and water supply conditions.

## Press releases

- Board adoption of two-year budget and 5 percent annual rate increases
- Statement from General Manager Hagekhalil on Governor's executive order on drought
- Naming of Liz Crosson as Metropolitan's first Chief Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Officer
- Naming of Jonaura Wisdom as Metropolitan's first EEO Officer
- Board adoption of Emergency Drought Program to Preserve Metropolitan's Supplies in the State Water Project-Dependent Areas
- Naming of Liji Thomas as Metropolitan's first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer

## Conservation Campaign

Completed conservation advertising transition/bridge campaign, produced entirely in-house, using social media and digital marketing.

Partnered with Department of Water Resources to feature the state's Save our Water campaign creative on digital media placements and sponsored news stories directing audiences to [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com) for information on how to conserve.



Developed and launched "How We Save Water" spring/summer advertising campaign, featuring real consumers offering their personal approach to saving water. Developed a new landing page featuring everyday water-saving tips and rebate information. Met with member agency PIOs to preview research findings, advertising campaign assets and get input on messaging and media buy strategies.



Placed mini billboards in 105 grocery stores promoting water conservation. Locations include Vons and Albertsons within underserved areas and also include popular Latino grocery stores with Spanish-language messaging.

## Website

Received more than 100,000 visits to the [mwdh2o.com](http://mwdh2o.com) website and added a new homepage feature story about the annual achievement report along with numerous updates to the drought page.

Generated 68,000 visits to [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com), with the turf replacement page being the most visited page.

Refreshed MWD Innovates microsite with the first annual Innovation Report and video.

## Social Media



Wrapped up Women's History Month on social media platforms with a tribute to Chairwoman Gray, featuring highlights of several community leaders and elected officials.

Posted strong conservation content including reminders not to water lawns for at least 48 hours after a rainstorm, which resulted in some of the highest organic engagement on Twitter.

Received more than 4.3 million impressions for the conservation advertising bridge campaign, reaching about 2 million Southern Californians.

## Public Outreach and Member Services

Outreach activities for the Regional Recycled Water Program:

- Met with Rebuild SoCal Partnership (April 4)
- Led tour of Advanced Purification Center with Director Camacho and guests (April 5)
- Hosted a booth at Carson Earth Day event that attracted hundreds of visitors (April 9)
- Met with City of Carson staff to discuss potential recycled water conveyance system (April 13)
- Led tour with Carson City Commissioners (April 14) and Carson Coalition (April 21)
- Chaired WaterReuse California Communications Collaborative Group Meeting (April 21)
- Led tour for Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' Virtual Earth Day Event (April 23)
- Provided presentations to 12 more organizations including chambers of commerce and community-based organizations.



*Director Camacho and guests touring the Advanced Purification Center in Carson*

## Education and Community Relations

Metropolitan staff interacted with more than 1,100 teachers, students, and parents through virtual tours, scouting programs, and customized class presentations.

## Community Partnering and Sponsorship Program

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

- Niguel Botanical Preserve Earth Day Festival
- Sustainable Claremont Earth Day Celebration
- City of Monrovia Water Conservation/Drought Outreach Project
- Orange County Water District Children's Water Education Festival
- Western Municipal Water District Inland Empire Landscape Contest

## Business Outreach and Innovation

Staff participated in the following events:

- American Water Works Association CA-NV spring conference, "Sustainable Water through the Millennium: Leading, Education, Serving" (April 12)
- Blythe Chamber of Commerce Palo Verde Valley Opportunities workshop (April 13)
- American Indian Chamber of Commerce advisory board meeting (April 14)
- Diversity Professional Magazine's Women of Color Small Business Awards Program (April 24)
- San Diego CONNECT innovation Five-Ten-Thirty symposium (April 28)





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.

700 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
General Information (213) 217-6000  
[www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com) [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)

General Manager: Adel Hagekhail  
Office of the GM (213) 217-6139  
[OfficeoftheGeneralManager@mwdh2o.com](mailto:OfficeoftheGeneralManager@mwdh2o.com)