



# General Manager's Monthly Report



**July 12, 2022**

**Activities for the Month of June 2022**



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# Message from the General Manager

Scrolling through the day's news feed can take a heavy emotional toll. It's filled with dire, unjust and seemingly intractable problems to worry about: more mass killings; the latest surge or strain of COVID; Supreme Court decisions; war and war-induced famine; economic woes; and a struggle over basic principles of democracy.

With so much feeling like crisis, how can the urgency of water conservation be heard—let alone its nuances understood?

Our communications team is working with Member Agencies to tackle this question, through creative storytelling, partnerships and trusted messengers.

One example is a partnership with TreePeople that we've just launched to promote water use efficiency. Through advertising, K-12 student engagement and more—including community events with Member Agencies, like one planned in San Fernando this month—we'll spotlight how to protect tree health amid watering restrictions.

Aristotle called character "the most effective means of persuasion." When a message comes from a trusted source, it's far more likely to be noticed and accepted. How do you keep your trees alive when you are letting your lawn die back? Whose advice will you follow if not TreePeople's?

But trusted spokespeople don't have to be experts or famous, they can be your neighbors. That's the concept behind our partnership with the Cool Cities programs in Irvine and Los Angeles, to support neighborhood leaders to spread water conservation information in their neighborhoods.

Research into our turf removal rebates affirms that neighbors are important role models. We found that turf removals using Metropolitan incentives inspired others nearby to convert their own grass without receiving the rebate. This "multiplier effect" more than doubled the value of Metropolitan's investment.

While we ask for emergency conservation measures, long-term gains are made when those practices become routine. Impact is greatest when calls to action come from trusted voices, are backed up by incentives or regulations, link to user friendly information, and become familiar sights among their neighbors and friends.

That's how conservation becomes a way of life, even when life around us may seem overwhelming.

We are one,

Adel



**“Speech belongs half to the speaker, half to the listener.”**

**- Michel de Montaigne,  
French Renaissance  
Philosopher**



# Executive Summary

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

## **Administrative Services**

The EForms Management Team successfully launched a new, substantially updated Eforms application that is more user-friendly, cyber-secure, and contains advanced features including tracking capability. The Business Management Team completed a Job Cross-Pollination Pilot Program, a resiliency initiative on the FY 21-22 GM Business Plan, giving staff an opportunity to further their professional development and in support of the section's succession planning.

## **Bay-Delta Initiatives**

Staff continued collaboration with the environmental organizations on the CSAMP Salmon Recovery Initiative. A series of workshops were held in June with interested parties to share stories on why each party cares or values salmon and translating these values into metrics that allow for evaluation of different salmon management actions. The next several months will be spent on the development and translation of these values into metrics. The project's purpose is to develop an effective and implementable strategy for recovering listed and non-listed salmonids in California's Central Valley while considering other social, ecological, and economic interests in the region. In June, the *San Francisco Estuary Magazine* published an article about the Reorienting to Salmon Recovery project that includes input from Metropolitan staff and other members of the project team (<https://archive.estuarynews.org/reorienting-to-salmon-recovery/>).

## **Chief Financial Officer**

On May 12, 2022, Fitch Ratings completed a detailed rating surveillance review and confirmed Metropolitan's senior lien bond rating at AA+, the subordinate lien bond rating at AA+, and the subordinate lien variable rate bonds at AA+/F1+. The surveillance review process incorporated the coordination and provision of responses to a wide array of questions related to Metropolitan's finances, operations, CIP, drought response and conservation programs. As of May 31, 2022, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.45 billion; in May 2022, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 22 trades. In May 2022, Treasury staff processed 1,109 disbursements by check, 23 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 115 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 86 receipts by check, 35 receipts by ACH, and 46 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

## **Colorado River**

In response to extended drought conditions on the Colorado River, the Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner testified before congress that between two and four million acre-feet of water use reductions are needed in the Colorado River Basin in 2023 to avoid reaching critical elevations in the system's reservoirs. She called on the Colorado River Basin States to develop a plan for those reductions, or the federal government would take action to protect critical infrastructure.

## **Engineering Services**

Two additional workshops were held in June with member agencies to continue the development of potential actions to improve supply reliability for the State Water Project dependent areas. The participants proposed eighty-six new ideas and discussed criteria to evaluate them collaboratively. Workshops are scheduled for July and August to continue the effort in advance of reporting the findings to the Board in September. A three-stage project is currently underway to upgrade the electrical system at the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant to comply with current codes and industry practice; improve plant reliability; and enhance worker safety. This month, construction of the Stage 2 improvements, which upgraded two-unit power centers and motor control centers that support critical process equipment, was completed ahead of schedule.

## **Environmental Planning**

EPS finalized an agreement with KLIR for implementation and support of an environmental permit management system. EPS partnered with Innovation staff, WaterSmart, and KLIR to fund development and implementation of a database to manage regulatory permits and associated information. The database will be used to centralize EPS' regulatory permit storage location and will streamline implementation and tracking of permit conditions and other requirements to ensure Metropolitan's compliance with the permits and minimize risk of violation.

## **External Affairs**

U.S. Dept. of Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Trujillo spoke at Metropolitan's executive committee meeting about drought conditions on the Colorado River and the urgent need for California and other Lower Basin states to work together to cut water use. (June 28)

## **Human Resources**

A majority of managers attended a new all day in person training called Managing for Success focused on legal requirements and best practices for managers.

## **Information Technology**

Continued efforts under the Security Operations Center (SOC) project to assess and remediate exposures and cyber threats throughout Metropolitan's networks. SOC design was awarded to MWA Architects with the expected design completion by August 1, 2022. Following the design phase, the construction/labor vendor is expected to be awarded by 8/20/22. Additional project details and updates are provided to executive management and the Board through cybersecurity briefings.

## **Real Property**

The Diamond Valley Lake Marina began their series of summer night fishing tournaments. Every Saturday through mid-September, two-person fishing teams come out for an evening of fishing on the lake. Prizes are handed out to the teams with the biggest fish, and the biggest bag for three fish. The tournaments are sponsored by fishing associations such as the National Bass West and the American Bass Anglers (ABA).

## **Security Management**

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) hosted a virtual Industry Day on June 21, 2022 to introduce its new Intelligence Community Public-Private Talent Exchange (PPTE) program to potential private sector partners. Metropolitan Security Management joined this exciting new partnership to create and foster productive opportunities for intelligence collaboration in protecting critical infrastructure.

## **Water Resource Management**

Metropolitan's Emergency Water Conservation Program began on June 1. This program was developed in response to the current drought emergency and targets a 35 percent reduction in use of water from the SWP system. As of June 30, all affected member agencies had reduced their use of SWP supplies and, as a group, were performing at the level needed to conserve this severely constrained supply.

## **Water System Operations**

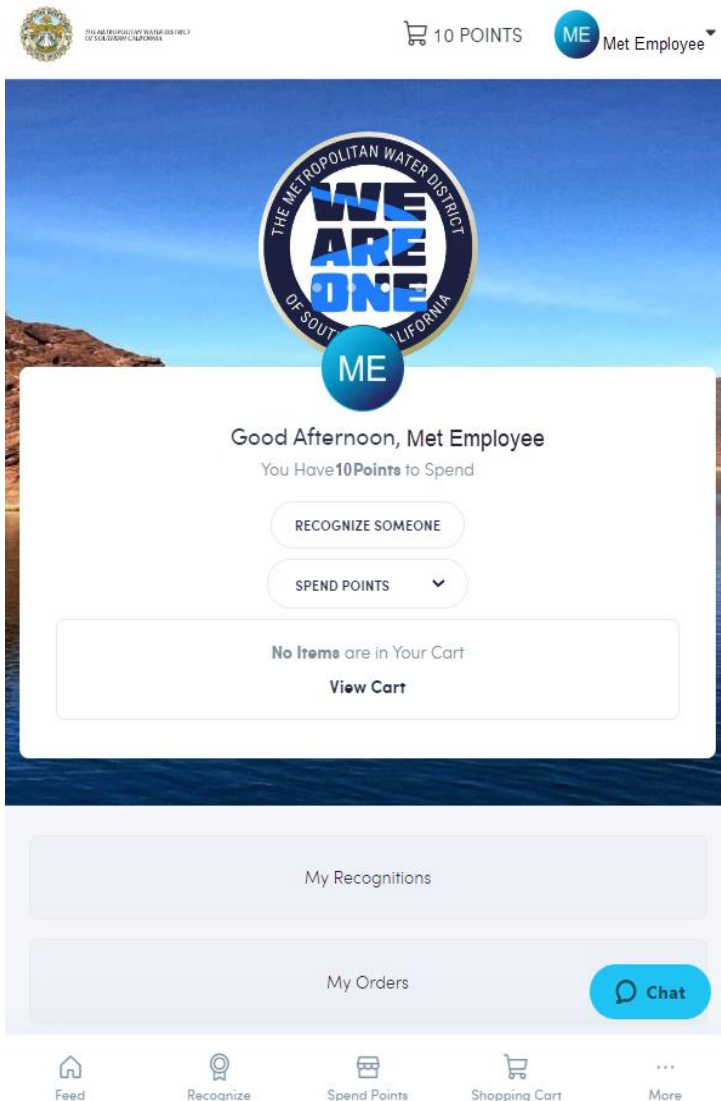
In recognition of National Safety Month, numerous Metropolitan field facilities held safety awareness events in June. Events included site-wide cleanups, safety award presentations, facility tours and technical workshops, vendor exhibits, staff luncheons, and many other creative and informative activities to celebrate safety. These events helped to further enhance our safety culture and reinforce the message that "Safety is Essential" to the work we do every day at Metropolitan.

# Upcoming Board Items

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

Month	Key Board Items
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report on Colorado River conditions and 500+ Plan Implementation</li><li>• Oral Report Briefing on Metropolitan Delta Island Activities</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><li>• Affirm Equity in Reliability and Resilience to Current State Water Project Dependent Areas</li><li>• Presentation on the General Manager’s Business Plan</li></ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review Draft Updated Bay Delta Policies in Board Information Letter</li><li>• Approve Project Labor Agreement Terms and Conditions and Authorize a Professional Services Agreement for PLA Administration</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>• Discuss Portfolio of Infrastructure and Supply Improvements to meet needs of Current SWP Dependent Areas</li></ul>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider Action on Updated Bay Delta Policies</li><li>• Update on Delta Conveyance Public Draft EIR and Comments</li><li>• Seek Board Action to Declare 651 Acres of Property in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties as Surplus Land and not necessary for Metropolitan’s use and Authorize Staff to Dispose of the Properties.</li></ul>





## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Metropolitan has a longstanding tradition of recognizing its employees who reach milestone work anniversaries including a biannual Service Awards luncheon that celebrated staff members who have reached 20 years of service and on each subsequent five-year increment of employment with the district. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the last Service Awards luncheon took place on September 26, 2019. Limitations imposed by the pandemic challenged Human Resources staff to seek an alternate solution that would celebrate employees as well as encourage interaction and recognition among staff. The result is MetRewards, a new and improved employee recognition platform that was launched on May 2, 2022. Cheers for Peers is a non-monetary component of the program that boosts employee engagement by giving employees the opportunity to recognize or simply give a virtual “high five” to their peers.

## IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

Recognizing staff members’ many contributions is critical to a sense of engagement and satisfaction, and there is value in feeling connected with colleagues across the organization. Cheers for Peers not only allows employees to recognize others for their contributions, but it also encourages celebration of their colleagues’ service milestones via a public feed where employees may respond with kudos or a simple emoji. The navigation of the platform is user-friendly, and encourages employees to use #hashtags when recognizing their peers. These messages and acknowledgments work as a reminder that all employees play a significant role in Metropolitan’s overall mission.

## MEMORABLE MOMENT

Human Resources staff volunteered to find the right employee recognition platform that would align with Metropolitan’s standards and commitment to positive employee recognition and branding. In addition to the Cheers for Peers capabilities, the MetRewards program gives employees the freedom to redeem points through an exhaustive online catalog. The goal of this employee recognition platform is to continuously encourage a culture of appreciation and recognition at Metropolitan.

**“Working on this implementation has been extremely rewarding. It truly was a team effort. We believe the ‘Cheers for Peers’ program has the ability to positively transform the work environment and encourage employee engagement due to its personalized approach of employee recognition.”**

***Isamar Munoz Marroquin,  
Human Resources Coordinator***



# Water Resources and Engineering



## Water Resource Management

### GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

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

Water Resource Management (WRM) staff participated in a stakeholder meeting associated with a modeling study of the long-range impacts of climate and land cover change on runoff in the Colorado River watershed. Investigators from Arizona State University are leading the study, which is funded jointly by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Investigators shared runoff results from model scenarios incorporating differing levels of climate-driven forest disturbance in the watershed. Results from the study will help improve understanding of the future of the Colorado River supplies.

Staff is monitoring ongoing Colorado River water supply conditions. At a recent hearing for the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Commissioner Touton stated that because of worsening conditions on the Colorado River, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) would be looking for 2 to 4 million acre-feet of additional conservation in calendar year 2023 to protect critical elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Commissioner Touton stated that she will work with the states over the next 60 days to develop a plan in advance of the August 24-month study; however, if a plan was not developed, USBR was prepared to take unilateral action to preserve critical elevations at both Lakes Powell and Mead.

### GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

**Objective #5 Support development of Regional Recycled Water Program (RRWP).**

Staff met with USBR on the new Large Scale Water Recycling program to better understand the program schedule and requirements. Program guidelines are anticipated to be released for public review later this summer. Staff provided a summary of the costs and benefits of the RRWP for Reclamation.

**Objective #6 Maintain and enhance groundwater production in Metropolitan's service area.**

Staff provided a support letter for the City of Long Beach Water Department's Bureau of Reclamation Fiscal Year 2023 Drought Resiliency Grant Program Application. The grant would be used to co-fund their New Well Project (project), which includes the development of new wells and related infrastructure. The project would improve management and delivery of local groundwater supplies by enhancing operational flexibility.

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

As part of the continued efforts to promote conservation and improve water use efficiency in Metropolitan's service area, staff participated in the following outreach activities:

- Staff participated on a panel entitled "New Perspectives on Water Efficiency" at the 2022 American Water Works Association Conference and Exposition (ACE22) in San Antonio, Texas. Staff presented on "Incentive Stacking," referring to additional funding provided by entities other than Metropolitan for Metropolitan's incentive programs. Metropolitan allows members and retail agencies to provide



- co-funding for rebates; recently, additional co-funding has been provided by utilities and even private corporations to enhance Metropolitan's incentives for certain projects. It is not unusual to see higher activity levels in the service areas where higher rebates were available; incentive stacking may be a useful tool during extreme water shortages.
- Staff participated in California Water Efficiency Partnership's (CalWEP) Peer-to-Peer conference in Sacramento, CA. Metropolitan is one of the sponsors of this conference. Staff presented on commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) programs currently in place that meet the proposed Conservation Framework CII Best Management Practice requirements. Staff was also part of a panel discussion called "Connect, Collaborate, Grow." This panel looked at ways CalWEP and Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) can better serve its water agency and business members to help improve regional conservation efforts.
  - Staff presented the keynote address at the 8th annual Los Angeles Better Buildings Challenge (LABBC) Innovation Award held at the Los Angeles Clean Tech Incubator. This keynote address focused on the importance of water to our service area.

On June 21, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced that Metropolitan's grant application for \$2 million dollars was approved. This funding will enhance Metropolitan's Public Agency Turf Replacement Program by raising the incentive available to public agency applicants from \$3 to \$4 per square foot.

## GM Strategic Priority #3: Innovation

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

Staff provided a recycled water legislation and regulation presentation to approximately 75 members of the Los Angeles WaterReuse Chapter. Staff highlighted draft legislation, regulations, and funding that may affect the development of new recycled water projects.

On June 1, Metropolitan began implementation of the Emergency Water Conservation Program (EWCP) to address severely limited water supplies available to member agencies that need SWP system water. Since June 1, the affected member agencies have responded, and demand reductions are tracking near the goal of reducing SWP use by 35 percent.

The Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment is a new annual State requirement that is part of the 2018 Conservation as a California Way of Life legislation and is related to adopted Water Shortage Contingency Plans. Because of special drought-related requirements from Governor Gavin Newsom's March 28 Executive Order N-7-22, Metropolitan submitted a preliminary draft of this year's assessment to DWR one month early. The final 2022 Annual Assessment is due by July 1.

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

Metropolitan will host the Southern California Salinity Coalition's 2022 Salinity Summit workshop at the Metropolitan headquarters on October 26. The workshop will feature updates on Coalition activities, discussions of how salinity impacts One Water implementation and panel discussions with RWQCB leadership. The workshop will also solicit

# Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

salinity management priorities from participants with targeted breakout sessions. Additional information including the draft agenda will be available later this summer.

Staff participated in three CalDesal committee meetings in June. CalDesal's activities include supporting AB 2016, which calls for studying the supply potential and impacts of desalination in California. CalDesal has been successful in advocating for beneficial amendments with the bill's author.

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

On June 6, Staff supported and participated in a California Water Data Consortium workshop on improving urban water data reporting. The workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders with the goal of identifying opportunities for improving state agency reporting requirements. The workshop also addressed a recent request for more frequent reporting of drought-related water use data to the SWRCB. Staff also participated in a Consortium's board meeting on June 7th.

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

Staff received final study deliverables for the Peer-2-Peer (P2P) Brine Management Partnership. The Partnership brought together 12 water utilities from across the United States with brine management challenges. Work included a global scan identifying almost 200 brine management technologies in several categories. The technologies ranged from those suitable for potable reuse brine applications as well as treatment technologies for salinity brine streams such as USBR's Paradox Valley Unit salinity control project. The P2P consultant generated a final list of 16 potential technologies to be considered by the study participants. Staff worked with its innovation consultants to schedule P2P meetings on drought management, safety practices, and other topics. This includes two in-person visits by staff from Singapore PUB. The first will be held on October 7 at the RRWP demonstration facility. A second meeting will be held on November 10, covering conservation, large diameter pipe lead detection, and distribution system water quality monitoring.

# Water Resources and Engineering

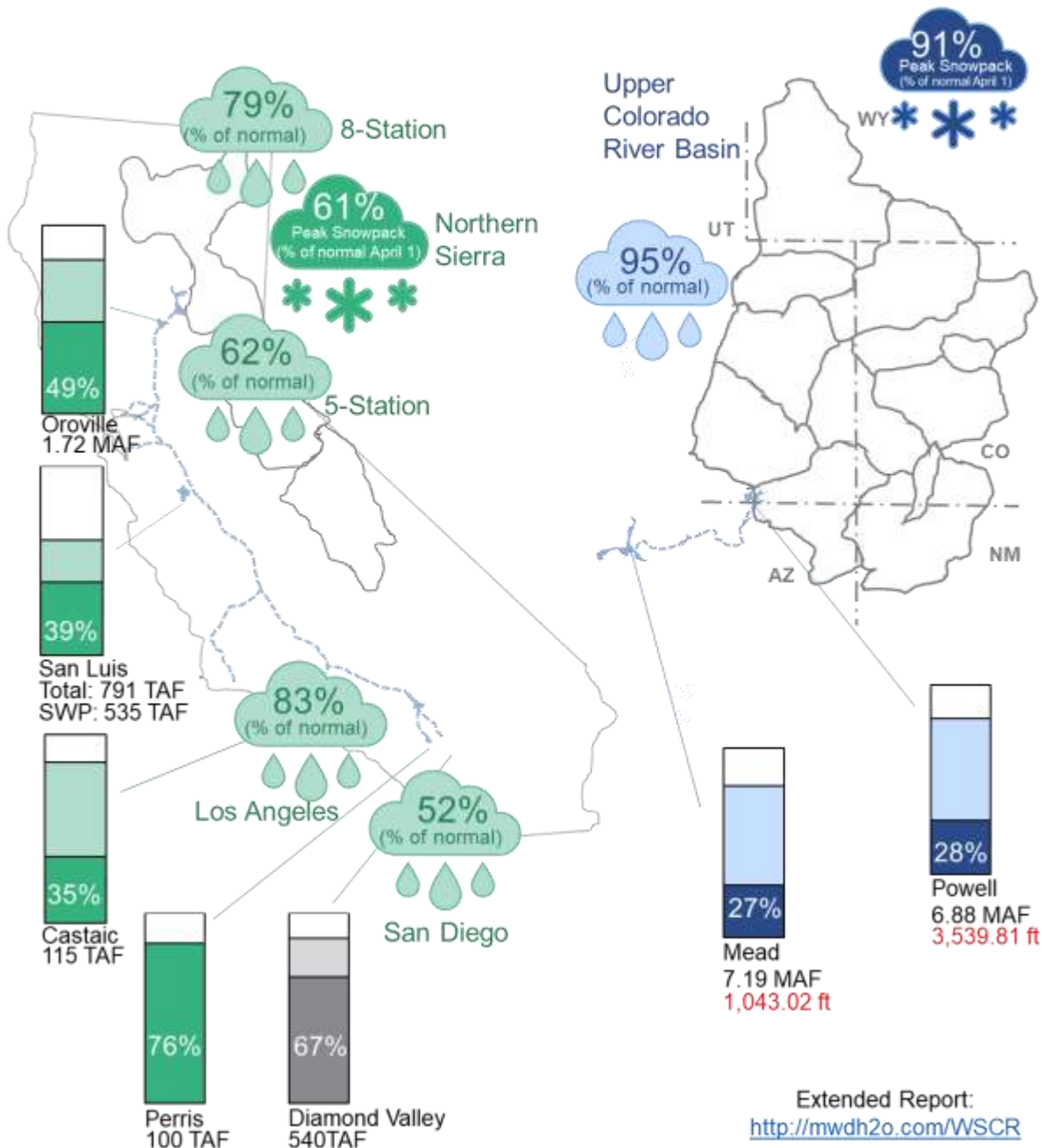
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## State Water Project Resources

SWP Table A – 5% - 95,575 AF

## Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions – 1,117,000 AF



As of June 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 June, staff continued collaboration with state and federal agencies to develop a monitoring program for steelhead populations within the San Joaquin Basin. Efforts in June focused on developing a list of directed science studies that are needed to develop an estimate of juvenile steelhead production.

Staff attended a Habitat Planning Workshop with representatives from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and others to discuss the status of proposed habitat restoration projects that can be constructed in the next three to five years. The purpose of the workshop was to identify projects that are ready for implementation and to identify barriers to implementation such as permitting, funding, equipment or staffing resources, so that the agencies can identify areas where they can help.

### Sustainability

#### Delta Conveyance

DWR is continuing to develop a public Draft Environmental Impact Report under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). 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 to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. DWR and USACE are planning to release draft environmental documents for public review in mid-2022.

Field activities under the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for soil investigations in the Delta, including cone penetration tests, soil borings, and geophysical surveys, restarted in May 2022 after a wet season break.

#### Joint Powers Authorities

During the June 16 regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors approved a resolution to extend virtual board and committee meetings pursuant to AB 361. The DCA Board adopted the proposed \$31.16 million budget for fiscal year 2022/23 by minute order. The work activities for fiscal year 2022/23 will focus on providing support to the DWR environmental planning and permitting efforts for the DCP, including continued implementation of field investigation programs. The DCA board also adopted a resolution to authorize the investment policy and the annual delegation to the DCA Treasurer for the fiscal year 2022/23.

The regularly scheduled June 16 meeting of the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority was cancelled.

#### Sites Reservoir

In their joint June meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board and the Sites Reservoir Committee authorized the Executive Director to submit the Project's 2023-2026 application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Short-Term Disturbance "Take" Permit for Geotechnical Activities.

## Innovation

### Science Activities

Staff participated in several tours of the Delta with the General Manager and non-governmental organization (NGO) leaders to discuss and share science priorities and identify opportunities for collaboration. Staff provided briefings on Bay-Delta science activities, management of the Delta islands, and proposed studies as part of the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In June, CAMT received a briefing on the Delta smelt entrainment studies and continued discussions on the CAMT monitoring assessment effort.

Staff continued collaboration with the environmental organizations on the CSAMP Salmon Recovery Initiative. A series of workshops were held in June with interested parties to share stories on why each party cares or values salmon and translating these values into metrics that allow for evaluation of different salmon management actions. Over 70 individuals participated in the workshops; these interested parties represented NGOs, tribal governments, agriculture, water, fishing industries, and state and federal resource agencies. The next several months will be spent on the development and translation of these values into metrics. The project's purpose is to develop an effective and implementable strategy for recovering listed and non-listed salmonids in California's Central Valley while considering other social, ecological, and economic interests in the region. In June, the *San Francisco Estuary Magazine* published an article about the Reorienting to Salmon Recovery project that includes input from Metropolitan staff and other members of the project team (<https://archive.estuarynews.org/reorienting-to-salmon-recovery/>).



## Colorado River

### **Reclamation Urges States to Develop Water Use Reduction Plan**

At the June 14 Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on Western Drought, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Commissioner Camille Touton identified the need for Colorado River Basin water users to reduce their use by two to four million acre-feet of water per year to address critical reservoir elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead, starting in 2023. The Commissioner said that the Department of the Interior (Interior) would be working with states, tribes, and others to reach a consensus by August 2022 about how to make these reductions. In response to questions from Senators, the Commissioner stated that the Interior has the authority to act unilaterally, if needed, and will protect the system if consensus cannot be reached.

Reclamation described the modeling they developed to show the need for additional water to address critical reservoir elevations in Lake Powell and Lake Mead, water that Reclamation is calling “Protection Volumes,” at the Getches-Wilkinson Conference in Boulder, Colorado. At that conference, Assistant Secretary for Water & Science Tanya Trujillo made remarks about conditions in the Colorado River reservoirs and the need for Protection Volumes starting in 2023.

Metropolitan staff is working with its Colorado River Basin States partners to explore options and strategies that could meet the Interior’s call for Protection Volumes by the August 2022 deadline, which would be in place starting next year. Staff will keep the Board informed as a plan is being pursued.

## 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. The contractor is currently installing the sewer line. Construction is 30 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in March 2023.
- **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 remote feed control from the SCADA system. Installation of the feed system is complete. The contractor is currently completing punch list items. Construction is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in July 2022.
- **Garvey Reservoir Erosion Improvements Areas 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11**—This project will install a permanent drainage system and erosion control features including drainage piping, concrete ditches, stem walls, flow detention, and dissipation structures. The contractor completed drainage and erosion improvements in Areas 7, 8, 10, and 11, as well as all connections through residents’ properties to city streets. Site grading, earthen berm compaction, and installation of new fences and curbs in Area 6 are in progress. Construction is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2022.
- **OC-88 Pump Station Chiller Replacement**—This project will replace three chiller units at the OC-88 Pump Station that provide cooling for the main pumps and electrical gear. Metropolitan’s Board awarded a construction contract in May 2022 and the Notice to Proceed was issued in June 2022. Construction is scheduled to be complete in May 2023.
- **La Verne Shops Building Completion—Stage 4**—This project will complete the La Verne Shops building improvements and install Metropolitan-furnished shop equipment. Metropolitan’s Board awarded a construction contract in May 2022, and the Notice to Proceed was issued in June 2022. Construction is expected to be completed in August 2024.
- **Etiwanda Pipeline Rehabilitation—Stage 3**—This project replaces delaminated mortar lining in 5.5 miles of pipeline with polyurethane lining. This project was conducted in three stages. Stages 1 and 2, which included polyurethane lining of 3 miles are complete. Stage 3 relines the remaining 2.5 miles of pipeline with polyurethane lining and includes installation of 1,300 feet of new internal steel pipe in areas with more extensive corrosion. Final design of Stage 3 work is complete, and award of a construction contract is planned in July 2022.

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

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

- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates the remaining 28 miles of PCCP segments within the Second Lower Feeder and will enhance delivery reliability to member agencies. Long-term rehabilitation of this pipeline is being staged over a period of 15 to 20 years, with multiple construction and procurement contracts. Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract in May 2022 for Reach 3A, and the Notice to Proceed was issued in June 2022. Reach 3A is located at the westernmost portion of the feeder, spanning 1.1 miles through the City of Rolling Hills Estates. Final design of the adjacent Reach 3B, a 3.7-mile-long portion of Second Lower Feeder that traverses the cities of Lomita, Los Angeles, and Torrance is 97 percent complete and scheduled to be complete in August 2022. Study efforts continue for Reach 9, an approximately 0.8-mile-long portion of the 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 62 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 August 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 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:

- **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 underway with expected deliveries in two shipments, in mid-2022 and early 2024. Construction is 9 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by March 2025. The contractor has mobilized at Intake Pumping Plant and has started excavation for electrical ductbanks and installation of electrical conduits.
- **CRA Conveyance Flow Sensor Installation**—This project installs 11 level gauging stations at remote sites along the CRA to measure water level. Final design is 10 percent complete and scheduled to be complete in October 2022.



**CRA Domestic Water Treatment Plant System Replacement**—Contractor staff excavate for pipe rack concrete supports at Intake Pump Plant

## **Treatment Plant Reliability Program**

This program was initiated to maintain reliability and improve the operating efficiency of Metropolitan’s water treatment plants through specific improvement projects. Recent activities include the following:

### **Jensen Plant**

- **Jensen Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2**—This three-stage project upgrades the electrical system with dual power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practice; improves plant reliability; and enhances worker safety. Stage 1 work is complete. Stage 2 improvements are currently underway and will upgrade Unit Power Centers 7 and 9 and their associated motor control centers (MCCs) to support critical process equipment. The contractor completed cutover of all existing loads to the new motor control centers and punch list items. Construction was completed on June 8, 2022.

### **Weymouth Plant**

- **Weymouth Basins 5–8 and Filter Building No.2 Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates major mechanical and structural components including the flocculation/sedimentation equipment, sludge pumps, baffle boards and walls, launders, inlet gates, and outlet drop gates. Seismic upgrades include structural modifications and concrete reinforcement of the basin walls and basin inlet channel. This project also replaces 127 high-performance and rubber-lined butterfly valves and their actuators in Filter Building No. 2 and hazardous material abatement in the treatment basins. The Board awarded a construction contract in May 2022. The Notice of Award was issued to the contractor on May 10, 2022. Construction is anticipated to be complete by May 2025.

## **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. The contractor is currently procuring and

installing additional cooling equipment for the electrical and audio visual/information technology rack rooms. Construction is 99 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in 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 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 98 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2022. The contractor completed security equipment installation on all floors; completed the testing and cutover to the new security system; and is continuing the Rotunda equipment installation. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. Design of Stage 3 improvements is complete and board award of a construction contract is planned for October 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 fire alarm system cutover on the first floor, is conducting testing on the fire alarm system on the two parking levels, and is currently working on the second, third, and fourth floors. Construction is 51 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2023.
- **SCADA System Upgrade Project**—This project will replace the control system at the Mills plant. This is the first step of upgrading Metropolitan’s entire control system, spanning the Colorado River Aqueduct, the five water treatment plants, and the conveyance and distribution system. Metropolitan’s Board approved two consulting agreements in April 2022 to implement the new control system at the Mills plant. Both consulting agreements have been fully executed. One remote terminal unit will be tested first as a pilot project, which is anticipated to be complete by January 2023. The full project at the Mills plant will be completed by January 2026.



**Headquarters Building Improvements**—Contractor cutting veneer for the barrier wall millwork at Stair 5



# Operations

## Water System Operations

### GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

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

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 141,521 acre-feet (AF) for June with an average of 4,717 AF per day, which was 265 AF per day higher than in May. Treated water deliveries increased by 885 AF from May for a total of 73,435 AF, or 52 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) continued operating at an eight-pump flow with a total of 103,447 AF pumped for the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,124 AF per day, totaling about 33,727 AF for the month, which accounted for approximately 24 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. The target SWP blend remained at zero percent for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

Staff held a small celebration to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant operations. The original dedication was held on June 23, 1972. The plant was initially designed to treat 400 million gallons of water a day (MGD) from the State Water Project. Today, the treatment capacity is 750 MGD, making it the second largest drinking water treatment plant in North America. Congratulations to all the dedicated staff who have helped keep the Jensen plant operating reliably and providing high quality water for the past five decades.



The Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant celebrated 50 years of providing safe and reliable water



**Staff attending the Jensen 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon**



**WSO Group Manager Brent Yamasaki speaking with staff at the Jensen 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon**

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

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

Metropolitan hosted its regular quarterly meeting with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water on June 28. Discussion topics included updates on regulatory matters and capital projects, domestic water systems at the desert pumping plants, and the Lake Perris seepage recovery project.

Staff participated in the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) virtual conference from May 31 to June 3. The conference provided information on optimizing laboratory testing and a workshop on documentation under the newly adopted ELAP/TNI (The NELAC Institute) regulation. The conference also provided attendees with annual training on laboratory ethics, which is required under the recently adopted regulations.

In recognition of National Safety Month, numerous Metropolitan facilities held safety awareness events. As Metropolitan's largest field facility, a Safety Awareness Fair was held on June 9 for staff that report to the Weymouth plant and La Verne facilities. During the fair, approximately 300 employees were able to tour the different on-site facilities, visit vendor exhibits, participate in technical workshops, and attend a safety awards luncheon. Chairwoman Gloria Gray visited with staff and delivered the opening comments for the luncheon while Chief of Operations, Brent Yamasaki, attended several of the tours and provided the luncheon's closing remarks.



**Staff touring the Weymouth plant during the Safety Awareness Fair**



**Staff visiting a vendor exhibit during the Safety Awareness Fair at the Weymouth plant**

On June 14, a National Safety Month celebration was held at the Jensen plant. Staff provided safety and security presentations and performed a plant-wide cleanup which focused on general housekeeping for shop areas and utility vehicles. After the clean-up event, attendees participated in several fun activities that were capped off with a barbecue lunch to celebrate staff's commitment to safety.





**Safety Awareness event held at the Jensen plant**



**Plant manager, JR Rhoads, (left) and staff enjoying a barbecue lunch after a successful Safety Awareness event at the Jensen plant**

On June 15, the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center in Carson also hosted a safety fair. The event covered updates on site safety, refresher training for handling hazardous waste, and a general clean-up of the demonstration facility site.



**Staff inspecting and restocking supplies during the safety fair at the demonstration facility**

Several other creative and informative events were held throughout June at Metropolitan field facilities to celebrate National Safety Month. Awards were presented to operational units with the best safety performance over the past year. All of these events helped to reinforce the message that **Safety is Essential** to the work we do every day at Metropolitan.



**Plant Manager Ric Johnston receiving Best in Safety Communications Award for the Weymouth plant**





**Unit Manager Mehdi Jalali receiving Most Improved Safety Program Award for Construction Services**

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

On June 8, Water Quality and Engineering staff met with consultants to initiate the preliminary design for the Water Quality Building Improvement capital project. The project covers seismic improvements, building and HVAC upgrades, redesign of laboratory space to improve workflow and functionality, as well as potential building expansion to accommodate additional laboratory activities associated with increased monitoring of emerging contaminants, applied research, and anticipated new regulations.

**Objective #4 Optimize Maintenance.**

Staff completed a project to rebuild a pressure control globe valve at the San Gabriel Pressure Control Structure (PCS) on the Lower Feeder in the city of Norwalk. There are seven pressure relief lines and 11 pressure control lines at San Gabriel PCS. During routine maintenance of one of the control lines, staff identified leaking components on the regulating globe valve. Staff removed the line from service, rebuilt the globe valve in place with new components, and successfully returned the control line to service.



**Staff rebuilding a globe valve at the San Gabriel PCS on the Lower Feeder**

Work continued to address a leak discovered in April on the Upper Feeder pipeline in the city of Riverside where the pipeline spans the Santa Ana River along a truss bridge. A temporary repair is in place to allow continued operation of the feeder as staff are preparing for the long-term repair solution. Staff at the La Verne Shops continued work to fabricate a new carbon steel slip joint that will replace the damaged bellows expansion joint. Also this month, a contractor installed a four-inch flange and valve to the bottom of the Upper Feeder near the leak location while the feeder remained in operation. This new assembly will facilitate access for equipment when the expansion joint is replaced and eliminates the need to route equipment through an opening 700 feet away. Completing this work in advance will reduce the overall length of the shutdown, currently planned for late August or September, to replace the damaged expansion joint. Staff continue to demonstrate their dedication and creativity to respond to this emergency repair of a critical feeder delivering Colorado River water to the region during this record drought.



**Fabrication of new 36-inch accessway (left) and rolling of new slip joint ring (right) to facilitate leak repairs on the Upper Feeder**



**Staff welding new slip joint ring for Upper Feeder repairs**



**Fabrication of new 113-inch slip joint to replace leaky bellows joint on Upper Feeder**



**Contractor performing final hot tap of a flange and valve assembly on the Upper Feeder at the Santa Ana River bridge**



**Installed flange and valve assembly on the Upper Feeder at the Santa Ana River bridge**



Staff completed grading of the Lower Feeder patrol roads from the city of Corona to Lake Mathews. This work included minor erosion repairs, vegetation removal, and roadbed repairs to allow safe access and monitoring of Metropolitan's infrastructure.



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

The La Verne Shops manufactured eight new stainless-steel security gates for the ozone contactor rejection structures at the Weymouth plant to prevent unauthorized entry by trespassers. Staff manufactured and installed gates that will restrict access into four rejection structures tied to the local storm drain. These improvements will improve security and safety at the structures.



**Access opening without the gate (left) and with gates installed (right) at the Weymouth plant**

Staff built a pad and placed a cargo container at the Gene facility to allow for storage of critical components for the CRA system. Because of the remote location, renewal parts and materials are not readily accessible from local vendors. On-site storage of these materials is vital to continued CRA reliability.



**Staff placing a cargo container at the Gene facility for CRA material storage**

A pump unit was removed from service because of an issue with its oil system at Hinds pumping plant. While repairing the oil system, staff also found an electrical issue with the discharge valve. To facilitate the repair, custom components were fabricated as the original equipment components are no longer available from the manufacturer. Staff from multiple teams collaboratively repaired the unit and returned it to service.



**Staff repairing the discharge valve electrical components for the oil system at Hinds pumping plant**

Near constant maintenance is required to keep up with CRA flow demands during drought conditions. Staff performs sodium hypochlorite injections for quagga mussel and algae control, canal dragging and scraping, sand trap pumping, and regular patrolling to ensure the aqueduct continues to operate at maximum capacity.





**Staff dragging the Colorado River Aqueduct to maintain high flows during unprecedented drought conditions**

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

With continuing drought conditions, the CRA is expected to maintain a planned eight-pump flow through September 2022. Sufficient Resource Adequacy capacity to meet CRA pumping operational needs is forecast through September. Staff continue to monitor the cost and operational impacts of reduced hydropower generation and increased energy prices in the electricity and natural gas markets.

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

On May 24, Operations and Engineering staff met with representatives from the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management at the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), toured the EOC, and learned how Metropolitan coordinates with the county during disasters. Staff also reviewed how Metropolitan and the county can continue to collaborate on future emergency planning initiatives and communicate during an emergency.

In response to operational challenges following a failed filter backwash header at the Diemer plant, staff activated the Diemer Incident Command Post (ICP). Trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS), staff used a formal process for responding, tracking, and coordinating the actions following this emergency event. This allowed participants to ensure prioritization of tasks, consistency in messaging, and distribution of responsibilities. While many emergencies can be handled at a local level, the NIMS process allows larger events to be scaled up or down depending on the severity and size. Activation of the plant's ICP was an opportunity to practice the methods and skills learned in the NIMS training and ensure a safe and thorough response to the operational upset.



## **Staff activated the Incident Command Post at the Diemer plant**

On June 13, in coordination with the Emergency Operations Center at Eagle Rock, the Water Quality ICP conducted a tabletop exercise in response to a simulated source water contamination event. The exercise used the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Water Contaminant Information Tool and tested communication pathways during the simulated emergency.

### **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 May 2022.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from April 2021 through March 2022 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 594, 590, and 582 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Staff relocated and installed upstream and downstream elevation differential pressure cells at the 220th/Western Avenue and Oak Street Pressure Control Structures (PCS). These differential pressure transmitters are used by system operators to monitor pressure throughout the distribution system and control flow. The old sensors and valves were exhibiting signs of failure and did not provide reliable data. Staff installed new differential pressure cells, changed the leaking isolation ball valves to accurately calibrate the pressure sensors, and added drain lines where needed. These improvements corrected the issues and increased the equipment accuracy for more reliable operations.



**Before (left) and after (right) differential pressure cell replacement at Oak Street PCS**

Staff discovered water hammer damage to a backwash header pipeline that caused separation of the pipe and flooding within a filter pipe gallery at the Diemer plant. This damage was due to the failure and sudden closure of an individual filter backwash valve. Engineering and plant staff inspected the filter gallery and identified piping for two filters and a portion of the backwash header that required repair. To complete this repair, staff removed a portion of the pipe, installed a new flange and blind flange, replaced the failed backwash valve shear key, and reinstalled the valve actuator. Staff responded quickly and safely to complete this work and there were no interruptions to plant flows.



**Separation of the backwash piping and flooding in the filter gallery at the Diemer plant**



**Staff replacing the backwash valve shear key at the Diemer plant**



**Staff welding a new flange on the backwash header piping at the Diemer plant**

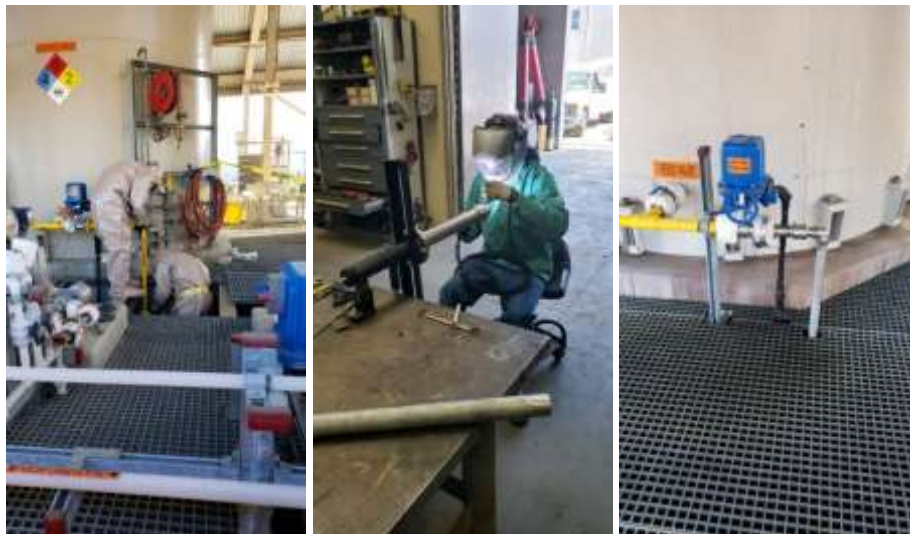
A significant amount of filter media was lost in 2021 at the Diemer plant because of severe air entrainment experienced on the Lower Feeder during higher flows. Filter media must be replaced to ensure optimal filter performance and to meet water quality objectives. Staff used a crane to lower one-ton bags of media into the filter bed. Each filter, on average, required approximately 20 tons of media to reach the proper levels. A total of 18 of the plant's 48 filters required additional media. Maintaining the filter media enables the plant to meet variable and peak operational conditions while ensuring system reliability and that water quality objectives are met.





**Staff using a crane to replenish filter media at the Diemer plant**

Staff completed emergency repairs to the sulfuric acid feed system at the Weymouth plant. During a routine inspection, a leak was detected on the chemical pump suction piping. Applying chemical response training, staff safely isolated and purged the affected piping. The original carbon steel piping was replaced with specialized stainless-steel piping to provide superior corrosion resistance against the sulfuric acid. Staff then fabricated and installed the replacement piping, allowing the system to be safely returned to service.



**Staff removing damaged piping (left) and fabricating new piping (center); and new piping installed (right) for a chemical feed system at the Weymouth plant**

Staff installed the electrical power and instrumentation cabling for an additional chlorinator that was not completed during the Chlorine System Upgrades capital project at the Weymouth plant. This additional unit is dedicated to the ozone open loop cooling water system. It will allow operators to reduce or eliminate potential biological growth inside the system components. Staff provided additional circuits from the new electrical panels and installed six additional SCADA and power cables totaling approximately 3,000 linear feet from the chlorinator room to the new electrical building for the chlorine system expansion.





**Staff installing SCADA cables (left) and power cables (right) for an additional chlorinator at the Weymouth plant**

Staff replaced the Module 3 filter influent channel drain valves (also called mud valves) at the Skinner plant. The filter influent channel delivers water from the sedimentation basin to the 18 individual filters as part of the treatment process. The mud valves are used for draining the filter influent channel and directing solids to the used washwater sump for cleaning. After many years of use, the mud valves began to corrode and required replacement. Staff removed the valves by chipping them out from the concrete, replacing, and mortaring in place.



**Corroded mud valve before (left) and after (right) replacement on Module 3 filter influent channel at the Skinner Plant**

Staff installed proximity sensors for the washwater reclamation plant flights and chains at the Skinner plant. The flights and chains are a slow-moving sweeper that prevents solids build-up in the reclamation plant. The flights and chains are submerged making it difficult for staff to determine whether everything is working properly. As a result, sensors are used to detect failures and to shut down the process when needed. Before the sensors were employed, solids would build up, requiring extensive repairs and cleaning after failures occurred. The new proximity sensors can also be serviced without dewatering the entire sedimentation basin, further improving maintenance efficiency.



**Staff installing proximity sensors for the washwater reclamation plant at the Skinner plant**

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

Water reserves continued to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles, operational objectives, and the current 5 percent State Water Project (SWP) allocation. Deliveries of SWP supplies were minimized to preserve SWP Carryover and Flexible Storage. Releases from DVL through PC-1 to connections on the Lakeview Pipeline, as well as the DVL to Mills plant operation, continued in June to conserve SWP use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in June. 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 #11 Prepare Employees for New Opportunities.**

The Water System Operations Apprentice and Technical Training Programs develop and train personnel to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, the Class of 2023 mechanical apprentices started machine shop. This class consists of classroom and practical instruction that covers precision grinding operations; drilling, reaming, honing, tolerances, finishes, and methods of machining efficiently; using jigs and fixtures; tool holders and tool holding for the lathe; and

single-point threading, using dies, rolling threads, and Acme threads. The apprentices will attend six class sessions this period between June and September.

An electrical apprentice and recent journey demonstrated the benefits gained from Metropolitan's Apprenticeship Program. Minimal guidance was provided in their successful installation of an industrial water pump drive at the Diemer plant. This work is expected to provide reliable service for many years to come.



**Electrical apprentice and journey installing a new variable frequency drive at the Diemer plant**

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

Staff completed the rehabilitation of service connection WB-06B on the Palos Verdes Feeder, which included the replacement of a flow meter, isolation valve, pipe spool piece, and couplings to restore the connection for continued service.



**Staff installing a new magnetic flow meter (left) and the meter installed (right) for service connection WB-06B on the Palos Verdes Feeder**

## GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

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

On June 15, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a pre-publication copy of interim updated health advisories for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS), as well as final health advisories for perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) and GenX. PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, and GenX are individual per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). EPA's health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. The interim health advisories for PFOA and PFOS are 0.004 parts per trillion (ppt) and 0.02 ppt, respectively, and are more than 10 to 100 times lower than the resolution of current analytical methods. The interim health advisories for PFOA and PFOS replace the 2016 health advisory set at 70 ppt either individually or collectively. The final health advisories for PFBS and GenX are 2,000 ppt and 10 ppt, respectively. EPA is already in the process of developing maximum contaminant levels for PFOA and PFOS. Staff will continue to monitor future regulatory updates for PFAS.

Staff attended the Microplastics Subcommittee of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council quarterly meeting on June 8 as part of ongoing tracking and support of the State Water Resources Control Board's efforts to comply with a legislative mandate to monitor microplastics in drinking water.

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

Activities at the Advanced Purification Center demonstration facility focused on pretesting in preparation for secondary membrane bioreactor (MBR) operations to purify primary treated wastewater. Staff intentionally damaged membranes in the MBR system to prepare for future challenge testing and continued microbial method development and analyses. The MBR system continued to achieve greater than the target 80 percent nitrogen removal. Staff also started up the reverse osmosis system and supported testing to investigate alternate configurations to optimize overall performance and boron removal. In addition, staff installed a new day tank to improve sodium hypochlorite feed reliability for the UV/advanced oxidation process for the upcoming testing phase.



Staff intentionally damaging MBR fibers for challenge testing (left) and reinstalling the MBR cassette (right) at the demonstration facility



On June 3, staff met with the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) to discuss revisions to the secondary MBR testing and monitoring plan and input from the Independent Science Advisory Panel based on results of tertiary MBR testing. The revised testing and monitoring plan will be submitted to DDW for final approval before the start of baseline testing this summer.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District toured the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center demonstration facility and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson. The tour, jointly led by Metropolitan and LACSD staff, provided key technical information to support the demonstration facility's SCAQMD permit application process. It also was an opportunity for staff to engage with SCAQMD and provide information on broader program elements that will help support future permitting needs for a full-scale advanced water treatment facility.



**SCAQMD staff touring the demonstration plant with Metropolitan and LACSD staff**

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

Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of about 8.6 megawatts or approximately 6,420 megawatt-hours, and slightly over \$382,070 in revenue, for the month of May 2022. Metropolitan's solar facilities totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity generated approximately 1,090 megawatt-hours in May 2022.

Metropolitan converted almost 400 small- to medium-sized commercial electric accounts to "green" rates. Of these locations, 308 are supplied with electric energy from Southern California Edison, and another 77 are supplied with energy from Clean Power Alliance, a Community Choice Aggregator. This represents over 12 million kilowatt-hours annually in electric usage, sufficient to power approximately 1,400 homes. The "green" rates will promote development of renewable resources and will result in a modest net cost savings for Metropolitan, of about \$25,000 per year.

A cross-functional subgroup of Metropolitan's Water-Energy Climate Sustainability team is working to identify technologies, projects, and strategies that will improve the operational flexibility, resiliency, and energy sustainability of the CRA transmission system and pumping load. The team has explored the use of microgrids, energy storage, small- and utility-scale renewable generation, and other strategies.

During the National Safety Month facility celebrations, employees had the opportunity to test various energy-efficient vehicles and equipment. "Ride and Drive" electric vehicle demonstrations were held where staff drove a



fully electric cargo van. Staff were also able to operate a mobile power station with a remote-controlled joystick—these portable units provide over 250 kWh of power and include a mobile charging platform. Testing new and innovative energy-efficient technologies is important as Metropolitan looks to transition towards a zero-emission fleet to meet state regulations and Metropolitan’s Climate Action Plan goals.



**Electric cargo van (left) and mobile power station (right) demonstrated at safety awareness events**

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

On June 13, staff participated in the Department of Water Resources’ quarterly Specific Project Committee meeting for the Municipal Water Quality Investigations (MWQI) Program. A key highlight was an update on the completion of the State Water Project 2021 Watershed Sanitary Survey, which was submitted to the Division of Drinking Water in June 2022.

The Municipal Water Quality Investigations (MWQI) program provides water quality monitoring, forecasting, and reporting to support the effective and efficient use of the State Water Project as a municipal water supply. It conducts scientific studies, provides early warning of changing conditions in source water quality, and provides data and knowledge to support operational decision-making. Metropolitan is one of the State Water Contractors that voluntarily funds the MWQI program and will chair the Specific Project Committee for fiscal year 2022/23, as well as help to plan and coordinate the annual MWQI meeting in October 2022.

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

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

Staff collaborated to develop a Safety Wheel which focuses on innovation through safety. The Safety Wheel helps staff quickly identify potential workplace hazards according to the type of work being performed and streamlines access to safety-related resources to facilitate safe maintenance practices. Ultimately, the goal is to reduce injuries and further enhance the safety culture at Metropolitan. To celebrate National Safety Month, large posters of the Safety Wheel were placed at several facilities. Staff is also working on a web-based version of the Safety Wheel for online access.



**Safety Wheel developed by staff to increase safety awareness**

Staff developed a dashboard for Flavor Profile Analysis (FPA), which assesses taste and aroma of Metropolitan's source and treated water to support operational processes, such as tier changes and blends, and to minimize taste and odor complaints. The dashboard simultaneously collects data from analysts, facilitating a collaborative process, and presents real-time preliminary results in an easily accessible format.



**Flavor Profile Analysis dashboard displays preliminary taste and odor results in real-time**

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

Mills plant staff visited the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP's) Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant to observe its chlorine transloading process. LADWP uses a re-compressor for its transloading process and staff are currently re-evaluating the application of a re-compressor at Metropolitan's Chemical Unloading Facility (CUF). The use of a re-compressor can result in reduced transloading time and less water consumption, leading to potential resource and cost savings which staff will be further analyzing.



**Staff discussing use of a re-compressor for chlorine transloading operations at LADWP's Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant**

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

Metropolitan was recognized by the Partnership for Safe Water for the performance of its treatment plants and distribution system. The Partnership encourages water utilities to conduct in-depth analyses of their treatment and distribution systems to optimize processes that achieve performance beyond regulatory levels. Metropolitan's Jensen plant was recognized with the Partnership's prestigious 10-Year Presidents Award, and the distribution system was recognized with the 5-Year Directors Award at the 2022 American Water Works Association Annual Conference in San Antonio.



**Water Treatment Manager Heather Collins (center) accepting a Partnership for Safe Water award from AWWA and USEPA representatives**

On June 23, staff volunteered as counselors and mentors for a San Diego-based charitable organization during their annual summer camp, Camp NAWIC, which is focused on introducing school-aged girls to careers in the trades. Metropolitan was a Gold Sponsor for the camp this year. The week-long camp introduces trade skills such as safety, electrical, carpentry, plumbing, equipment operation, and a team approach to completing tasks. Staff shared Apprenticeship Program information with campers and encouraged them to seek future trades opportunities with Metropolitan and the water industry. Staff frequently participate in efforts to increase awareness and diversity for the Apprenticeship Program.





**Staff serving as a camp counselor for a plumbing activity at Camp NAWIC**



**Campers completing trades-related projects**



Monthly Update as of:

6/30/2022

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<b><i>Colorado River Basin</i></b>		
Lake Powell	6,868,000	28%
Lake Mead	7,187,000	28%
<b><i>DWR</i></b>		
Lake Oroville	1,720,855	48%
Shasta Lake	1,777,105	39%
San Luis Total	790,899	39%
San Luis CDWR	535,242	50%
Castaic Lake	114,545	35%
Silverwood Lake	67,817	90%
Lake Perris	100,065	76%
<b><i>MWD</i></b>		
DVL	539,456	67%
Lake Mathews	133,168	73%
Lake Skinner	36,472	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.**

Continued efforts to upgrade older Windows servers to up-to-date versions to better support Metropolitan business and operational applications. Currently 101 Windows 2008 servers need to be evaluated because the operating system (OS) version is no longer supported by Microsoft outside of the Azure cloud environment. Of the 101 servers, 19 have been migrated to Azure with three servers still pending migration. In addition, the team has identified 51 servers that will be decommissioned because the servers are no longer in use or the application being upgraded is running on a different server. Subsequently, 28 servers are required to remain on-premise because of their technical requirements (i.e., latency, security) that negates the option of migration. These servers will be targeted for an OS upgrade or decommissioned after further evaluation.



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

Staff is preparing for User Acceptance Testing on the Real Property Business System. The new and upgraded system is a cloud-based solution that will improve staff's ability to manage a host of real property management transactions associated with Metropolitan's existing 200,000 plus acres, the land and rights acquisition requirements of Metropolitan's CIP, and the disposition of surplus properties. The system will be integrated with Metropolitan's existing systems for geographic information, document management, and financial accounting systems for payables, receivables, and government reporting requirements.

## GM Strategic Priority #3: Innovation

**Objective #5 Support External Affairs on the mwdh2o.com web redesign project to enhance usability, provide optimized search engine capabilities, and integrate with social media and mobile functions.**

Mwdh2o.com is now running the latest version of the content management tool, Umbraco. This system will prove effective in the engagement of more Metropolitan staff in keeping the content up to date on the company's main public-facing website. Staff in External Affairs and IT have started the training for the content management system.

The website has already garnered prestigious recognition. Mwdh2o.com was honored with the 26th Annual Webby Awards in Websites and Mobile Sites—Best Data Visualization. The Webby Awards experienced a record-breaking 14,300 entries from 70 countries around the world. Our peers in this category include NASA, CNN, Google, and IKEA. The International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences grants Honoree status to only the top 20 percent of all work entered.

There is a tremendous amount of information to disseminate to the public, especially with the unprecedented, extended drought we have been facing. A new drought section is being launched on the website. The website will continue to be the tool that informs the public of all the latest developments relating to water in Southern California for many years to come.



## Real Property

### GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

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

An extension to the 30-year right-of-way grant/temporary use permit from the Bureau of Land Management in San Diego County was executed for an additional ten years, terminating December 31, 2051. The permit provides Metropolitan access to construct, operate, and maintain the San Diego Pipeline Nos. 4 and 5, and allows use of the access road to and from the pipelines.

**Objective #2 Foster staff training and development. SR/WA Study session and SR/WA exam scheduled for this month.**

Staff completed the following:

- International Right of Way 68<sup>th</sup> Annual International Education Conference:
  - o Puzzling Properties: Overcoming Challenging Acquisitions
  - o Boundary and Title Problems: Mitigating Their Impact on Route Design
  - o An Aging Workforce in a Niche ROW Industry: How Prepared Are You?
  - o Read the Deed: Why Title Reports Matter
  - o What's the Big Deal About Invasive Species?
- International Right of Way Association-sponsored courses:
  - o C102 Elevating Your Ethical Awareness. This course is intended to help resolve ethics and compliance issues by providing the information, tools, and resources necessary to make good decisions and serve our customers in the utmost ethical manner while striving to fulfill Metropolitan's mission.
  - o C800 Principles of Real Estate Law. This course is designed to build on the basics of real estate law and to assist right-of-way agents, property managers, and others in collaborating with property owners and attorneys. This introductory-level course provides novice employees dealing with real estate issues with basic right-of-way information and experienced employees with a broader perspective on legal issues and applicable law.
  - o C900 Principles of Real Estate Engineering. This course teaches how to use engineering tools and gain basic skills in reading and interpreting information contained on engineering plans.

### 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.**

Acquired entry permits from Southern California Edison in Bellflower, Downey, Irwindale, Lakewood, Pico Rivera, and Whittier to conduct environmental observational surveys for one month through July 2 in support of the environmental planning phase of Pure Water Southern California (previously known as the Regional Recycled Water Program).



All six entry permits were renewed for an additional two months through September 2, 2022. These surveys will provide information Metropolitan needs to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

## **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.**

License agreements have been executed with the United States Navy for the use of portions of Metropolitan's fee-owned land at the Eagle Mountain airstrip and in Blythe. The site in Blythe is encumbered with a lease with HayDay Farms, and HayDay is a co-licensor and signatory on the license. The two sites will be used for up to six days as part of the United States Marine Corps realistic urban training exercises.

A six-month permit has been executed with First 5 LA for vehicle parking at Metropolitan's headquarters facility. The parking is for up to 40, First 5 LA employees during normal business hours.

Amendment No. 5 has been processed for the United States Navy to extend its use of the Morris Reservoir premises for an additional five years. Environmental monitoring wells located at the premises are tracking hazardous materials from prior military activities in this region. Prolonged negotiations regarding federal remediation obligations are continuing with Metropolitan, county, state and United States Navy representatives.

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

Facility staff completed work to prepare the Diamond Valley Lake Visitor Center office space for the WSO Apprenticeship Training Team. The work included new paint, carpet, lighting upgrades, and thorough cleaning.



The Diamond Valley Lake Marina began their series of summer night fishing tournaments. Every Saturday through mid-September, two-person fishing teams come out for an evening of fishing on the lake. Prizes are awarded to the teams with the biggest fish, and the biggest bag for three fish. The tournaments are sponsored by fishing associations such as the National Bass West and the American Bass Anglers (ABA).



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

The Eastern Region Facilities Management team is responsible for providing decent, safe, and sanitary housing for employee residents. During this reporting period, 37 work orders were completed. Some of the resident requests that were completed include replacement weatherstripping, installation of security doors, tree-trimming, and a replacement water heater.

## 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.

#### Upper Feeder Santa Ana River Bridge Emergency Repairs

- Completed environmental construction monitoring for emergency repair activities on the expansion joint.
- Prepared Clean Water Act Section 404 emergency permit notification for upcoming shutdown and emergency repair.

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

- Environmental Planning managers attended the Metropolitan Management Forum and Managing for Success in California training session.

### 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.

- Reviewed Draft Public Involvement Plan for the Regional Recycled Water Program.
- Finalized the Cultural Resources Report for the San Gabriel Tower and Improvements Project.
- Finalized the project description for the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (IS/NOP) for the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant Program Environmental Impact Report.

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

#### Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Conducted a prescribed burn in cooperation with CalFire on approximately 83 acres south of Cajalco Road.
- Continued weed abatement throughout the Reserve.

#### Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Conducted late season rare plant survey for Parry's spineflower at Diamond Valley Lake.
- Initiated seasonal mowing of approximately 50 acres for habitat maintenance.
- Continued weed abatement and invasive Stinknet removal.

- Re-opened the Alamos Schoolhouse Reserve interpretive center to the general public two days a week after its being closed because of the COVID pandemic.

## Upper Salt Creek Preserve

- Coordinated the completion of post-Stowe fire restoration effort.
- Conducted sensitive species and nesting bird surveys to ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Codes for protection of migratory birds

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

## Climate Action Plan

- Began the process to amend the professional services agreement for CAP implementation; the amendment authorizes additional funding and extends the agreement duration.

## GM Strategic Priority #3 Innovation

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

- Completed an agreement with KLIR for support of environmental permit management database.

**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.**

- Continued monthly meetings with Department of Water Resources (DWR), Desert Water Agency, and Coachella Valley Water District on the Lake Perris Seepage Recovery project.

## 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. Colorado River Aqueduct Conveyance System Flow Sensors Installation Project
  2. Foothill Hydroelectric Plant Seismic Upgrades
  3. Headquarters Fire Sprinkler Level P1 Replacement
  4. Jensen Wash Water Reclamation Plant 2 Flocculator Rehabilitation
  5. Jensen Control Room Wildfire Smoke Control
  6. Live Oak Reservoir Cathodic Protection
  7. Mills Maintenance Building Roof Replacement
  8. Perris Valley Pipeline Rehabilitation
  9. Rainbow Tunnel Concrete Repairs-San Diego Pipeline 1 and 2



10. San Diego Canal Liner Repairs
  11. Skinner Ozone Contactors 1 and 2 Influent Channel Concrete Repairs
  12. West Orange County Feeder Blowoff Drain Line Rehabilitation
  13. Weymouth Water Quality Lab Rehabilitation
  14. Weymouth Administration Building Seismic Upgrades
- Provided construction phase support for:
    1. La Verne Maintenance Shops
    2. Orange County Feeder Relining, Reach 3, 4, 4A
    3. Western San Bernardino Right of Way and Infrastructure Protection Program (RWIPP)
    4. Weymouth Basins 5–8 Rehabilitation
    5. Weymouth La Verne Shops, Phase 4 Upgrades

## **Water System Operations**

- Provided CEQA analysis and environmental planning support for the following O&M activities:
  1. Gene Village Corral
  2. Rialto Feeder Routine Grading Maintenance
  3. Sepulveda Feeder Shutdown 2022
  4. Telecommunications Conduit at Diamond Valley Lake Marina
  5. Upper Feeder Routine Grading Maintenance
- Provided environmental support for planned water deliveries at service connections USG-03 and CENB-36.

## **External Environmental Document Reviews**

- Reviewed 20 CEQA notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.

## **Legislative Reviews**

- Provided legislative analysis on updated SB 1392 (steelhead trout fishing restoration report card).

## **Real Property Support**

- Provided CEQA analysis and determinations for five real property agreements.
- Provided CEQA analysis and determination for a San Diego County Water Authority annexation request.

## Security

### GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

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

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) hosted a virtual Industry Day on June 21, 2022 to introduce its new Intelligence Community Public-Private Talent Exchange (PPTE) program to potential private sector partners. Metropolitan Security Management joined this exciting new partnership to create and foster productive opportunities for intelligence collaboration in protecting critical infrastructure.

Attendees received an overview of the program followed by a description of focus areas as well as opportunities to meet program managers and ask questions. For the inaugural effort, government and industry partners collaborated in the following critical focus areas, each championed by an Intelligence Community leader:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Data Management
- Economic Security and Financial Intelligence
- Human Capital
- Space

The PPTE program should provide a wide range of perspectives and diverse problem-solving approaches for the challenges facing our system and return valuable firsthand experience from other stakeholders facing similar mission challenges.

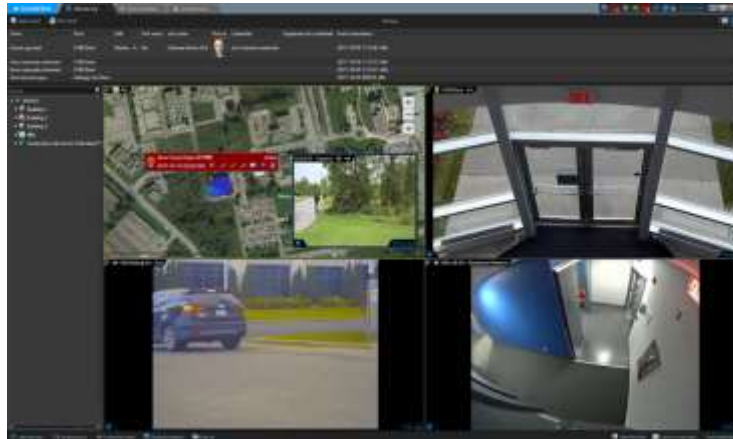


**Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) hosted a virtual Industry Day**

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

Four Metropolitan staff members, from three different teams, successfully received Genetec Security Center 5.10 system certification after attending an intense week of virtual software administrator training. The new Genetec software, which is replacing the 20-year, end-of-life, legacy system, will be able to seamlessly integrate both electronic access control and security video systems into one open, non-proprietary platform.

Security Specialists were also trained in how to operate and use the system to protect Metropolitan's infrastructure well into the future. Over the next two years, new digital cameras will replace old analog video cameras throughout Metropolitan, enhancing both operational applications (systems process and safety) and security.



**The new Genetec Security Center 5.10 system will augment both security and operations**

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

Metropolitan Security Team management and the local Security Specialist participated in the first-ever Weymouth Safety Field Day by hosting a presentation on protecting critical infrastructure. The presentation focused on Metropolitan's long history, from the 1930s through the present, of protecting valuable drinking water facilities, critical assets, and key resources.

Attendees were shown many real-world crime events and how Metropolitan has defended facilities against catalytic converter and metal theft, trespassing, illegal dumping, vandalism, workplace violence, and other street crimes that need to be addressed as precursors to broader potential loss events.

Crime trends were discussed, as well as low-cost protective options the Security Team has implemented to mitigate risks associated with criminal trends.



**Security asset protection presentation during Weymouth Safety Field Day**

# Finance and Administration

## Finance



### **CFO Strategic Priority: Maintain Strong Financial Position**

**Provide timely and discerning financial analyses, planning, and management to ensure that forecasted revenues are sufficient to meet planned expenses and provide a prudent level of reserves consistent with board policy.**

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

In May the Board approved a resolution to continue Metropolitan's Water Standby Charge for fiscal year 2022/23.

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

The Risk Management Unit completed 47 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 55 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.**

- Participated in meetings for the Hazard Mitigation core planning team in an effort develop a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with FEMA's grant funding requirements.
- Continued facilitating tabletop exercises and Business Continuity plan updates, with a special focus on cyberattack planning.
- Collaborated with the Fusion Business Continuity Management software vendor on system and plan template enhancements.

### **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 May 2022 totaled 141.3 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 2.9 TAF higher than the budget of 138.4 TAF and translate to \$138.8 million in revenues for May 2022, which were \$7.5 million higher than budget of \$131.3 million.



# Finance and Administration

(continued)

- Year-to-date water transactions through May 2022 were 1,505.9 TAF, which was 52.9 TAF higher than the budget of 1,453.0 TAF. Year-to-date water revenues through May 2022 were \$1,383.4 million, which were \$46.7 million higher than the budget of \$1,336.7 million.
- In May 2022, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,500 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$8,200 in discounts.

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

On May 12, 2022, Fitch Ratings completed a detailed rating surveillance review and confirmed Metropolitan's senior lien bond rating at AA+, the subordinate lien bond rating at AA+, and the subordinate lien variable rate bonds at AA+/F1+. The surveillance review process incorporated the coordination and provision of responses to a wide array of questions related to Metropolitan's finances, operations, CIP, drought response, and conservation programs.

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

As of May 31, 2022, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.45 billion; in May 2022, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 22 trades.

In May 2022, Treasury staff processed 1,109 disbursements by check, 23 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 115 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 86 receipts by check, 35 receipts by ACH, and 46 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

## Administrative Services

Administrative Services provides a range of services including contracting, inventory management, warehousing, reprographics, technical writing, grant management, record management, EForms management, Enterprise Content Management, and administration of Metropolitan's Rideshare Program.

### Core Business: Business Process

Advance value-added business process improvements to increase effectiveness and efficiency while striving for innovation, flexibility, and integration with technology.

#### Performance Measure(s)

1. Manage Administrative Services' operating and maintenance costs ≤ board-approved budgets in a fiscally responsible manner.
2. Ensure customer satisfaction, quality of work and on-time completion of work requests.
3. Identify opportunities to improve and enhance business processes.

**Objective #3 Innovation – Use technology and best practices to implement innovative solutions in business processes to improve the customer and end user's experience**

#### **Action(s):**

1. Replace outdated E-Forms application with a more intelligent and mobile ready technology  
The EForms Management Team successfully launched a new, substantially updated Eforms application that's more user-friendly, cyber-secure, and contains advanced features including tracking capability.

### Accomplishments

During the month of June, the Professional Services Contracting Team staff completed the following important acquisitions:

- **Request for Qualification (RFQ) 1303 for IT On-Call Services** in multiple categories. Metropolitan received forty-eight (48) statements of qualifications, one of the largest respondent pools on record, requiring significant coordination between IT and Contracting Services to complete all agreements.
- **Request for Proposal (RFP) 1306 for Pre-stressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Program (PCCP) and Pipeline Rehabilitation Projects Construction Management** to provide onsite/offsite Construction Manager support to the PCCP program and related construction projects.
- **Request for Proposal (RFP) 1302 – Jensen Solids Mechanical Dewatering Facility**, a project to provide a new dewatering facility to provide solids handling at the Jensen treatment plant. The RFP award ensures specialized engineering services for the new facility.

The Business Management Team completed a Job Cross-Pollination Pilot Program, a resiliency initiative on the FY 21-22 GM Business Plan, giving staff an opportunity to further their professional development and in support of the Section's succession planning. Based on their interests, the program provided an opportunity for Administrative Services staff to

# Finance and Administration

(continued)

topically learn about another functional area within the Section. Program leaders Mimi Chan and Jeannette Correa worked through challenges stemming from teleworking schedules and pulled together a great program. The program survey revealed that staff had high interest in learning more about budget from section budget coordinator, Mimi Chan. The program consisted of three one-hour sessions each focusing on budget types, budget coordinators, and budget development. Per a post-program survey, the next topic will be Procurement and Investment Recovery.

## 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 a virtual webinar on Managing for a Team Culture of Psychological Safety for 28 managers in the Water System Operations Group's Water Treatment Section.

In June, 147 managers completed the Managing for Success in California in-person training program to develop skills and learn best practices for managing employees within the law.

This month, 1,430 Metropolitan employees attended virtually facilitated classes, including Resiliency, Agreement Administration, Unintentional Bias, iExpense, and Personal Security Awareness.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online, e-learning content platform, was used for classes, including topics on Building Rapport, Enhancing Productivity, Effective Note Taking, Mindfulness and Inclusion, Bluebeam Tips and Tricks, Answering Tough Questions as a Leader, and Speaking Confidently.

**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 June. Recruitment received no new staffing requisitions, resulting in 185 positions currently in recruitment.

The HR Group Manager continued to work with the board search committee to continue with the process for the General Auditor recruitment.

### GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

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

The Organizational Development and Training Unit attended Lake Matthews' Construction Services Safety Day to provide information on employees' training resources (professional development, team building, tuition reimbursement, etc.).

**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 career development and progression, communication skills, and stress management.

### 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 worked with IT and payroll to start the implementation of the annual cost of living adjustment for a majority of employees.



HRIS staff partnered with IT staff to continue planning the next update of the MyHR system, which is scheduled to begin in July.

## **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.**

The Business Support Team planned, organized, and coordinated a “Managing Stress” wellness webinar. The live webcast, held on June 22, 2022, was hosted by Kaiser Permanente. The stress webinar identified sources of stress, its effects on the mind and body, and how constantly activating the “fight or flight” response can lead to burnout and health problems. Employees learned strategies to build resilience and were invited to create a personal stress-reducing action plan to build healthy coping habits. There were 68 Metropolitan employees in attendance.

In May, the Board approved a new three-year contract with AFSCME Local 1902, which will run through December 31, 2024. Discussions with MAPA and ACE are taking place which would likewise extend the terms of those two agreements through December 31, 2024.

Negotiations continue with the SUPS on a successor MOU. Staff will continue to brief the OP&T Committee on the status of those talks.

The Human Resources Group partnered with and supported the new SRI, EEO, and DE&I offices in establishing their organizations and providing historical information.

## **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.**

Human Resources continued efforts to review hiring, promotion, and Employee Relations procedures to address concerns raised in the State Audit Report and to ensure that any revisions meet the deadlines outlined in the State Audit Report.

The Benefits Unit, in coordination with Legal, provided redlined versions of the 401(k) and 457(b) Plan Documents with required changes to implement provisions based on the passage of the SECURE and CARES Act. The redlined versions were shared with all the bargaining unit presidents. New Plan Documents are required to implement plan enhancements, including 401(k) and 457(b) ROTH options.

Benefits coordinated the Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC) quarterly meeting focused on reviewing 401(k) and 457(b) investment performance, fund line-up, plan stats and updates, new and pending legislation, and participant outreach and education to ensure that optimal benefits are provided and fiduciary obligations are met as a Plan Sponsor and employer.

The Benefits Unit is currently administering 2022 COVID-19 Leaves through September 30, 2022. As of May, 174 leaves have been approved.

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

# Finance and Administration

(continued)

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 June:

- Coordinated four medical medvan visits (DMV, respirator exams and hearing tests) at Jensen and Diemer
- Arranged 25 medical evaluations (pre-employment, DMV, medical surveillance, and resumption of the vanpool program)
- Coordinated three random drug tests
- Addressed 30 accommodation issues, referrals, and follow ups with Shaw Consulting Group

HR Metrics	June 2021	June 2022	Prior Month May 2022
<b>Headcount</b>			
Regular Employees	1,806	1,762	1,760
Temporary Employees	30	37	39
Interns	3	2	2
Recurrents	20	18	18
Annuitants	16	19	18

	June 2022	May 2022
<b>Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)</b>	185	197
<b>Number of New Staffing Requisitions</b>	0	6
	June 2022	May 2022
<b>Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress</b>	8	9
<b>Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits</b>	1	0
<b>Number of New Job Audit Requests</b>	0	0

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 20/21 Totals</u>	<u>June 2022</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	74	7	82
Temporary Employees	30	3	36
Interns	3	0	4
<b>Internal Promotions</b>	60	4	70
<b>Management Requested Promotions</b>	149	10	152
<b>Retirements/Separations (regular employees)</b>	78	6	127
<b>Employee-Requested Transfers</b>	20	1	15

# Finance and Administration

(continued)

## Departures

Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Reason	Group
Lee	James	Team Mgr-IT Client Systems Spt	4/23/2022	Retirement	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GROUP
Shelby	Dennis	Survey and Mapping Tech IV	4/19/2022	Retirement	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP
Hall	Russell	Sr System Operator	5/4/2022	Retirement	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
Roland	Steven	O&M Tech IV	5/6/2022	Retirement	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
Yan	William	IT System Administrator I	5/27/2022	Separated	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GROUP
Takeguchi	Stacie	Team Mgr-Facility Planning	5/14/2022	Separated	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP

# External Affairs



## External Affairs

### Highlights

GM Hagekhalil, Directors Abdo, Luna, Repenning and Sutley, AGM Zinke, SRI Officer Crosson, and Metropolitan staff attended the annual Heal the Bay Bring Back the Beach event. Director Quinn is the new CEO of the organization. (June 2)

GM Hagekhalil received the "Service Above Self Award" at the Los Angeles Beirut Sister Cities Committee event which Metropolitan sponsored. (June 4)



*SIR Officer Crosson, Mayor Garcetti, Heal the Bay CEO and MWD Director Quinn and GM Hagekhalil at Heal the Bay Event*



GM Hagekhalil spoke at the Groundwater Resources 2022 Forum to share one-water solutions for water Sustainability. (June 8)

Metropolitan hosted the BizFed Institute's Water & Climate Resiliency Forum. Chairwoman Gray and GM Hagekhalil spoke at the event along with Directors Ortega and Sutley. (June 17)

Chairwoman Gray, GM Hagekhalil, SRI Officer Crosson, and Group Manager Coffey spoke on behalf of Metropolitan at the VerdeXchange conference, which focused on climate infrastructure investments for the water, energy, and other sectors. Directors Goldberg, Repenning, and Sutley were also featured speakers at the event (June 19)



*Chairwoman Gray, WRCOG Exec Committee Chair Spiegel, WMWD Board member Rizv and MWD Director Dennstedt, WMWD*

GM Hagekhalil was the keynote speaker at the California Water Environment Association conference and shared his One Water vision to an audience of clean water pretreatment professionals. (June 22)

Metropolitan sponsored and Chairwoman Gray and Director Dennstedt and staff attended the Western Riverside Council of Governments General Assembly with 800 community leaders and elected officials. (June 23)

Chairwoman Gray was honored by the Los Angeles County Business Federation with the “Business Makes LA County Work” Award for her leadership at Metropolitan. The event recognized businesses, nonprofits, elected officials and appointed officials in each LA County Supervisorial District. (June 24)

U.S. Dept. of Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Trujillo spoke at Metropolitan’s executive committee meeting about drought conditions on the Colorado River and the urgent need for California and other Lower Basin states to work together to cut water use. (June 28)



## Legislative Services

### Local

In addition to regularly scheduled government affairs meetings, Metropolitan staff participated in 68 webinars and meetings with chambers of commerce, business organizations, and community events on water-specific topics. At many of these events, staff made presentations on current drought conditions and conservation programs.

### State

Metropolitan staff are monitoring bills in the Legislature to help water agencies accelerate the design and construction of water infrastructure projects: AB 1845 (Calderon, D-Whittier), a Metropolitan-sponsored bill, will benefit emergency drought mitigation projects and the Regional Recycled Water Program. SB 991 (Newman, D-Fullerton) would authorize local water and wastewater agencies to use progressive design build on projects totaling more than \$5 million.

Metropolitan and the California Municipal Utilities Association are working to amend our co-sponsored CEC legislation SB 230 (Portantino, D-La Cañada Flintridge) to allow the State Water Board to build on their existing CEC program with a focus on drinking water and to establish a Science Advisory Panel if needed.

Metropolitan was a lead witness with ACWA on their sponsored bill AB 2142 (Gabriel, D-Encino) bill to exempt turf replacement rebates from personal and corporate income tax.

Work continues to push for funding in the state budget or trailer bills to support the drought emergency projects, the Regional Recycled Water Program, and the region’s water infrastructure priorities.

### Federal

Metropolitan staff helped secure a letter from Representatives Napolitano, Huffman, Grijalva, and Lee, the House sponsors of the large-scale recycled water bill, to the Bureau of Reclamation asking that the program be set up this summer and issue its first grants for planning and design work in October.

Reclamation Commissioner Touton testified at a Senate Natural Resources Committee hearing on Western Drought that Colorado River water users need to conserve an additional 2–4 million acre-feet per year starting in 2023 to protect critical elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. (June 14)

The House passed its version of the Water Resources and Development Act of 2022, H.R. 7776. Metropolitan supports this bill.



## Media and Communications

### Media Activities and Interviews

- COO Upadhyay was interviewed on the Rebuild SoCal podcast, California Water Crisis, and discussed water reuse, the many benefits of recycled water, and conservation efforts.
- Coordinated tour of Pure Water Southern California for Arizona Republic reporter and photographer, followed by interview with Water Resource Management Group Manager Coffey
- Arranged interview with KABC-TV Channel 7 and GM Hagekhalil on meeting with Gov. Newsom and Metropolitan's conservation plans
- Set up interview with FOX 11's News In Depth show with GM Hagekhalil on drought and water restrictions
- Coordinated interview with Circle of Blue reporter Brett Walton and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp on the role of the Colorado River in Metropolitan's water supplies
- Arranged tour of Pure Water Southern California for Colorado-based National Public Radio reporter Alex Hager, followed by interviews with Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp and GM Hagekhalil
- Set up interview with Wall Street Journal reporter Jim Carlton and Water Resource Management's Goldman regarding turf replacement program
- Coordinated interview with KNX-AM 1070's producer James Tuck and Water Resource Management's Polyzos regarding emergency drought restrictions
- Arranged interview with CBS radio (national) and Water Resource Management's Polyzos regarding emergency drought restrictions
- Set up Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager Arakawa's participation on KPCC's AirTalk on discuss Sites Reservoir
- Coordinated Spanish-language interview with Univision's Jaime Garcia and External Affairs' Cetina on new water use requirements
- Arranged Spanish-language interview with Telemundo's Luis Zaragoza and External Affairs' Cetina on new water regulations
- Set up interview with CBS News and GM Hagekhalil on new drought restrictions
- Coordinated interview with LA Times reporter Jon Healey and External Affairs' Moss on how parents can engage kids on drought and conservation activities
- Arranged interview with Fox Weather and Water Resource Management's Polyzos on drought restrictions
- Set up interview with CalMatters reporter Rachel Becker and Bay-Delta Initiatives' Arakawa regarding the Delta Conveyance Project
- Coordinated interview with WaterWorld Magazine and Water Resource Management's Tilkian regarding Metropolitan's conservation incentives
- Arranged interview with CNN en espanol on drought restrictions



- Arranged participation of Group Manager Coffey for a Los Angeles Chamber press conference with business and water leaders on current drought conditions and water conservation. (June 15)
- Coordinated podcast interview with Rebuild SoCal Partnership and EO Officer/AGM Upadhyay on Pure Water Southern California
- Set up interview between Associated Press reporter Kathleen Ronayne and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp on the Colorado River Compact
- Arranged interview with Politico reporter Lara Korte and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp about Bureau of Reclamation's recent call for states to cut usage of the Colorado River
- Coordinated interview with NewsNation regarding Colorado River and Reclamation's call for cuts in use



*WRM Group Manager Coffey speaking at LA Chamber press conference*



*TV Interviews Promoting Conservation, Rebates and Bewaterwise.com*

- Arranged interview with Los Angeles Times reporter Haley Smith and WRM's Coffey on member agency response to emergency drought restrictions
- Set up interviews on outdoor conservation as part of paid TV news integrations with KABC-TV Channel 7, KTLA-TV Channel 5, Telemundo-TV 52, and KNBC-TV Channel 4

## Press releases

- Emergency Drought Restrictions Effective June 1
- Statement from GM Hagekhalil on statewide conservation numbers
- Statement from GM Hagekhalil on State water board's emergency conservation regulations
- Statement from GM Hagekhalil on Governor's call for conservation compliance
- Metropolitan Chairwoman and GM signing Equity in Infrastructure pledge
- Joint Release with LA County Sanitation District on new name Pure Water Southern California for recycled water project.

## Creative Design

- Continued conservation advertising campaign featuring Metropolitan and member agency representatives, which drove more than 80,000 visits to bewaterwise.com, with a reach of nearly 10 million people and 27 million impressions
- Completed in-house commercial for television broadcast to promote regional water conservation, which will be translated into five languages
- Produced a new design direction for State Water Project-dependent member agencies that elevates the seriousness of the drought message
- New flight of multi-lingual advertising includes Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Armenian
- Created tribute video to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Jensen Treatment Plant



Tagalog Digital Conservation Ad, New Tip-Based Assets, and Social Media posts celebrating Juneteenth and Pride Month

## Social Media

- Commemorated Juneteenth with posts with quotes from Chairwoman Gray and BEA President Holmes
- Celebrated Pride Month, including posts about the formation of new Pride @Metropolitan employee resource group and the importance of LGBTQIA+ visibility
- Shared statements on June 1 start of Emergency Conservation Program restrictions, declining conditions on the Colorado River, and the state's progress on conservation

## Website

- Completed major upgrade to mwdh2o.com website's content management system, which will provide an enhanced Google web search as well as additional usability.
- Posted progress dashboards in response to the State Audit and Shaw Law Group workplace assessments.
- Received nearly 270,000 page views on bewaterwise.com with the newly created How We Save Water page as the most visited page; more than 88 percent of all incoming traffic were new users.

## Public Outreach and Member Services

### Regional Recycled Water Program

Staff provided briefings and tours of the Advanced Demonstration Facility to Council for Watershed Health (June 2); Central Basin Municipal Water District (June 6); San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (June 10); AWWA (June 14); Fernandeno Tatavium Band of Mission Indians (June 21); American Indian Chamber of Commerce (June 21); Los Angeles Basin section of CWEA (June 22); CalAsian Chamber of Commerce (June 22); West Basin Municipal Water District (June 23); Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (June 27).

Staff made presentations to the Carson City Council (June 8) and to the cities of Lakewood (June 22) and Long Beach (June 23) regarding the proposed Pure Water Southern California pipeline alignment.

### Construction/Maintenance Outreach

Updated staff of LA City Councilmember Buscaino on future Second Lower Feeder construction (June 15)

### Member Agency Support

- Meeting with member agency PIOs on drought and conservation communications (June 1 and June 27)
- Meeting with member agency managers to discuss drought response and Upper Feeder repair (June 3)
- Inspection trip to the State Water Project and Delta (June 7-8)
- Tour of La Verne shops and warehouse store for SDCWA staff (June 28)
- Inspection trip of State Water Project East Branch facilities (June 29)

## Education and Community Relations

### Education and Community Relations

During the 2021–22 school year, Education staff virtually interacted with 18,400 teachers, students, and parents through online virtual tours, scouting programs, and customized ZOOM presentations.

Metropolitan staff attended an event for the Chino Hills High School 2022 Solar Cup Team, sponsored by Inland Empire Utilities Agency. In attendance were Representative Kim (CA-39), Senator Newman (D-Fullerton), and San Bernardino County Supervisor Hagman. (June 14)



*City of Chino Hills Solar Cup Presentation*

In partnership with the Department of Water Resources, Water Education Foundation, and the Water Replenishment District, Metropolitan staff participated in a teacher training workshop on water conservation

## Community Partnering and Sponsorship Program

The Community Partnership Program (CPP) approved the following sponsorships:

- Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation Watershed Table Interactive Learning
- Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Splash into Summer Water Festival
- Trabuco Canyon Water District Water Awareness Days
- Oceanographic Teaching Stations, 2022 Keep it Green, Keep it Clean
- Southern California Chinese-American Environmental Association Youth Environmental Summer Camp
- The Samburu Project 2022 #DoItForWater



Metropolitan's Mission is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

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