



General Manager's Monthly Report



August 16, 2022
Activities for the Month of July 2022



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Message from the General Manager

Taking an introductory tour of facilities with staff and member agencies last year, I was struck by the vulnerability of communities connected to just a single source of water. Today, extended shortages of supplies from Northern California are putting a disproportionate strain on fully one-third of our service area where system connectivity is insufficient. This is not acceptable.

With increasing urgency over the past several months, Metropolitan and member agency staff have focused on identifying solutions for these communities. Their progress has been the focus of recent board presentations and is reflected this month in a proposed resolution affirming the District's commitment to regional reliability for all member agencies.

More than 200 ideas are in the mix as we explore long-term solutions for future reliability. In parallel, we are taking near-term, emergency actions to make as much water available to this area as possible. For example, we're upgrading several pump stations to help increase flows to the west side of our service area, and a combination of projects along the Inland Feeder are underway to enable water stored in Diamond Valley Lake to reach further into the east side of our service area.

Long-term reliability for all requires investments in infrastructure, storage and supply programs – local as well as imported supplies – and water use efficiency. Because a historic drought, turbocharged by the upheaval of our climate, does not abide by our planning horizon, we must simultaneously respond to an emergency while working to avoid a future emergency.

There's no quicker way to expand supply than by reducing demand, and our emergency measures are working. Southern California continues to respond to the call for conservation.

The Chairwoman and I met recently with Governor Newsom, who has been keenly watching our progress in reducing demand on the State Water Project. We discussed how to double down on conservation and the value of modernizing our data reporting, improving our analysis and broadening our communications. However, we also emphasized the need for lasting investments in supply and system infrastructure.

It will take a portfolio of strategies to secure long-term reliability that is shared equally by the members of Metropolitan. My staff and I are committed to this vision, our pencils are sharpened and our sleeves rolled up to get the job done.

We are one,

Adel



**“When the well is dry,
we learn the worth of
water.”**

- Benjamin Franklin



Strategic Priorities Update

The General Manager's Strategic Priorities guide actions in key areas of focus, investment, and transformation for Metropolitan.

Empower the workforce and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion

Build a safe, inclusive, and accountable workplace where all employees feel valued, respected, and able to meaningfully contribute to decisions about their work.

A neutral, independent EEO Office has been established. EEO executive leadership (Chief EEO Officer and Deputy Chief EEO Officer) has been hired and have submitted requisitions to initiate recruitments for the remaining budgeted EEO positions.

State audit EEO recommendations with a June deadline have been submitted to and accepted by the state auditor. Audit EEO recommendations with the October deadline are in various stages of implementation.

Metropolitan has partnered with the National Safety Council (NSC) to conduct an independent review of our safety program. Activities completed thus far include an All-Employee Safety Perception Survey, Safety Program Assessment, Focus Group and Individual Interviews, and On-Site Assessments. The NSC anticipates issuing its final report with recommendations on improving Metropolitan's safety program by the end of summer.

Prepare and support the workforce by expanding training and skill development and updating strategies to recruit and retain diverse talent at a time when Metropolitan's needs are evolving and employee expectations about the workplace are changing.

In July, 77 managers completed the Managing for Success in California in-person training program to develop skills and learn best practices for managing within the law. The Organizational Development & Training Unit launched its Metropolitan Management University, with its first session toward developing skills and core competencies.

Recruitment Unit is working with a consulting firm to review and update Metropolitan's recruitment strategies and practices.

Sustain Metropolitan's mission with a strengthened business model

Manage rate pressure on member agencies through attention to programmatic costs, organizational efficiencies and efforts to secure external funding for projects with broad and multi-purpose benefits.

External Affairs' Sacramento Office continues to pursue legislative support to increase what's in the proposed state budget for emergency drought projects and Pure Water Southern California.

Adapt to changing climate and water resources

Provide each member agency access to an equivalent level of water supply reliability through necessary adaptive implementation of the IRP findings.

The SWP-dependent area agencies continue to operate within the Emergency Water Conservation Program. Through July, the total use of SWP supplies by those agencies is more than 35 percent below what was originally expected without emergency conservation. Staff worked with the SWP-dependent agencies to develop a Call-to-Action that will be presented to the Board in August. Four projects to enhance near-term water supplies in response to the drought emergency are midway through design.

Negotiations continue with the Colorado River Basin states to achieve U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Touton's request to reduce use by 2–4 million acre-feet per year.

Advance the long-term reliability and resilience of the region's water sources through a One Water approach that recognizes the interconnected nature of imported and local supplies, meets both community and ecosystem needs, and adapts to a changing climate.

The Chief SRI Office (CSRIO) has filled two staff vacancies: a Sustainability Program Manager and Admin Assistant III. The office also includes an additional Senior Admin Analyst, two innovation staff, and is sharing a Senior Environmental Specialist with BDI.

The CSRIO is kicking off strategic planning this month where the team will start laying out the process for developing a district-wide Sustainability and Resiliency Strategy. ESG executed a professional services agreement to help update the Strategic Infrastructure Resilience Plan, including the Seismic Resilience Plan, with work expected to continue through 2023.

SRI kicked off the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Working Group with participants from throughout Metropolitan and started development of CAPDash, the dashboard that will be used to track and share progress.

ESG issued a notice-to-proceed to the contractor for a battery energy storage system at Weymouth.

In support of early delivery of Pure Water SC, staff prepared revised cost estimates to support the Cost of Service Analysis and rate study by Finance; they also prepared draft RFP to procure a Program Manager consultant by Q1 of 2023 and continued to coordinate with Member Agencies on potential purified water demands to start term sheets in early 2023.

A key milestone was achieved through the California Department of Water Resources releasing the public draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project, available for public review and comment through October 27, 2022. The federal Environmental Impact Statement is expected for public release in Fall 2022.

The Sites Reservoir committee approved the contracting strategy for the purpose of developing an overall project construction schedule and to support advancement of final design, coordinate with agencies, and establish a procurement approach.

As part of Landscape-scale Scenario Planning for Metropolitan's Delta Islands, input from a range of public interests and technical experts produced a consensus recommendation on selection criteria to be used for the second phase of the grant: planning potential actions and projects on Bouldin Island.

Protect public health, the regional economy, and Metropolitan's assets

Proactively identify, assess, and reduce potential vulnerabilities to Metropolitan's system, operations, and infrastructure.

Staff initiated preparation of an emergency exercise for the Seismic Resilience Water Supply Task Force. We are also 50 percent complete with Metropolitan's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan with a target board adoption date of July 2024.

Work to establish a Cybersecurity Operations Center continues at La Verne with system configuration about 60 percent complete. Staff continues to plan, test, and migrate systems as part of the data center modernization with equipment relocation planned for August.

Apply innovation, technology, and sustainable practices across project lifecycles (design, construction, operations, maintenance, and replacement).

Staff continues to look for new ways to incorporate innovation and sustainability into Metropolitan's daily operations. We are preparing an RFP for the document retention system, and the innovation team continues to evaluate vendors to address identified needs, such as the elimination of PFAs, chlorine alternatives, floating solar, and desalination.

Partner with interested parties and the communities we serve

Grow and deepen collaboration and relationships among member agencies, interested parties, and leaders on the issues most important to them and toward mutual and/or regional benefits.

As part of preliminary planning to advance community engagement and input in board policies, key staff completed Institute of Local Government TIERS Public Engagement Training.

Media Services staff completed training on the website's upgraded content management system. This is one of the last milestones before staff takes full control of the management of the webpage, including updates and revisions.

To help Metropolitan negotiate and prepare for a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), we entered into a contract with a PLA expert and released an RFP and received proposals for PLA Contract Administration.

Reach underserved communities and non-traditional interested parties to better understand their needs and ensure their inclusion in decision making.

The Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians hosted an introductory meeting between the Tribal Engagement Coalition and Metropolitan, focused on issues of the Bay Delta. Staff also met with the Gabrieleño/Tongva Band of Mission Indians and Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians—Kizh Nation to discuss Pure Water Southern California and learn about their interests and history in the region.

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 newly established Inventory Control (IC) Team from the Contracting Services Unit has been busy training staff and establishing new roles and procedures during the past few weeks. One of the IC Team's key responsibilities is to keep managers aware of what their staff has purchased during the previous week. The IC team generates the Material Account Distribution Detail Report (MADD). Every week, the team sends out the MADD report to managers for their review. Based on feedback from a manager reviewing the MADD report, the IC Team researched pricing on a warehouse item and saw an opportunity to obtain the product at a lower price. The IC Team manager tasked Shan Nalawangsa, Inventory Coordinator, to contact suppliers. A new supplier was identified with a lower cost resulting in projected savings of \$18,000 per year.

Bay-Delta Initiatives

On July 27, the California Department of Water Resources released the public Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Delta Conveyance Project. The Draft EIR describes project alternatives, potential environmental impacts, and identifies mitigation measures to help avoid or minimize impacts. The Draft EIR is available for public review and comment through October 27, 2022.

Chief Financial Officer

In June 2022, the Treasury and Debt Management section developed and published a new investor relations platform, using a third-party vendor, BondLink, to enhance Metropolitan's financial transparency by improving the promotion and accessibility of key documents important to bond investors, including but not limited to official statements, investor presentations, and financial reports and policies.

Colorado River

Metropolitan continued to work with the Basin States and water agencies to develop a reservoir protection plan to address Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton's call for 2 to 4 million acre-feet of water diversion reductions from the Colorado River in 2023.

Engineering Services

Engineering is prioritizing and advancing projects to enhance water supply reliability in State Water Project dependent areas. Four projects are currently underway to allow direct delivery of water from DVL to the Rialto Pipeline through the Inland Feeder. This month, Engineering Services opened bids for three 84-inch valves, completed preliminary design for the Foothill pump station intertie, and continued final design of the other projects. Upcoming board actions for consultant support will accelerate projects to add a pump station on the Sepulveda Feeder and to line the north reach of the Sepulveda Feeder for this higher pressure service.

External Affairs

Metropolitan partnered with The Tree People to host a Tree Care & Water-Saving community workshop for 200 people in San Fernando. The event featured guest speakers, including GM Hagekhalil, Director Ortega, and San Fernando Mayor Mendoza. Metropolitan staff hosted an informational booth with water conservation tips, water education curriculum, California-friendly landscape resources, and rebate information. (July 16)

Human Resources

Employees reaching milestones of 20 or more years of MWD service were recognized with awards honoring their achievement. We thank each of them for their outstanding contributions to Metropolitan.

Information Technology

Collaborated with the Office of the General Manager to develop a tool to track the GM's Strategic Priorities. Our Business Applications Team created a custom SharePoint site utilizing Nintex forms and heavily customizing PowerBI to report and display the monthly status updates and lead summaries for each strategic priority.

Real Property

Valley-Wide Recreation hosted the West Zone Softball World Series at Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) Community Park. The tournament has been hosted at DVL several times over the past decade and draws hundreds of players and visitors to the DVL East Recreation Area.

Security Management

A new security software system controlling access control card readers and security video systems throughout Metropolitan's critical infrastructure is being rolled out.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

Kicked off the Climate Action Plan Working Group with participants from throughout the District and participated in the first meeting of the U.S. Water Alliance Utility GHG Reductions Cohort Peer Exchange Group with 9 other water utilities. The Innovation team hosted meet-ups with entrepreneurs who introduced various emerging technologies including PFAS elimination, organic alternatives to chlorine for water treatment, E.coli detection and elimination, and floating solar. Environmental Planning coordinated with LA County Sanitation Districts on reviews and analysis related to Pure Water Southern California.

Water Resource Management

WRM staff continued close coordination with DWR and the member agencies as the second month of the Emergency Water Conservation Program was completed. As a whole, the program is reducing use of Metropolitan's State Water Project supply by more than 35 percent from expected use.

Water System Operations

Metropolitan released its [Annual Drinking Water Quality Report](#) in July. The report summarizes 2021 monitoring results which show that Metropolitan's water quality is equal to or better than what is required by regulations to safeguard public health. This year's report also highlights Metropolitan's continued focus on source water protection, the Partnership for Safe Water program, measures taken to comply with new laboratory accreditation regulations, and our proactive approach to emerging contaminants.

Upcoming Board Items

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

Month	Key Board Items
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• Board Report on Initial Portfolio of Infrastructure and Supply Improvements to meet needs of Current SWP Dependent Areas• Consider Action on Updated Bay Delta Policies• Adopt Resolution directing Action to Reduce Irrigation of Non-functional Turf with Potable Water
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on Delta Conveyance Public Draft EIR and Comments• 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• Consider action to approve Project Labor Agreement Terms and Conditions and Authorize a Professional Services Agreement for PLA Administration• Nomination and Election for Board Chair for two-year term effective January 1, 2023
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nomination and Election for Board Secretary for two-year term effective January 1, 2023
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board Report of the Benefits of Various Project Portfolios for State Water Project Dependent Areas following IRP Testing



This is
**HOW
WE SAVE
WATER.**



Press conferences, TV commercials, freeway signs, rebate programs and community workshops are part of an expanded outreach during this year's historic drought



bewaterwise.com®

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

With three consecutive years of record-breaking drought and a declared water shortage emergency, the message is clear – climate change is here, and conservation must be a way of life. Metropolitan's External Affairs Group is developing new and innovative ways to use advertising, media and outreach to encourage all Southern Californians to save water.

IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

With new and innovative graphic design techniques, cutting-edge video production skills and script writing informed by research, External Affairs staff have pioneered a new and award-winning communications framework to reach diverse audiences throughout the district.

Our "This Is How We Save Water" Campaign features many Metropolitan employees sharing easy water-saving tips on billboards, digital and social media. So far, the summer campaign has over 400 million impressions.

In addition to traditional advertising platforms like television and radio, new approaches include designing a water-saving video game. We also recognize that not all advertising platforms have the capacity to reach some consumers, which is why we consistently seek to engage underserved audiences with effective and meaningful community-based approaches.

Using the power of TV, radio and newspapers, interviews and press conferences with GM Hagekhalil, Chairwoman Gray and other experts helped spread the message about the urgent need to save water. Partnerships with Caltrans on freeway signs have also amplified the drought and conservation messages.

MEMORABLE MOMENT

To supplement the water conservation advertising campaign, Metropolitan has forged meaningful partnerships with cities and regional organizations including a collaborative workshop with TreePeople and a recent press conference with the city of Pasadena to help educate Southern Californians on ways to save water outdoors and maintain a healthy urban canopy.

"Our media landscape is evolving. As communications professionals, we continue to navigate messaging challenges in creative and innovative ways."

Teresa Gonzalez Robertson,
Pr. Public Affairs Representative

Water Resources and Engineering

Water Resource Management

Ensure Reliable State Water Project (SWP)

Department of Water Resources (DWR) updated Metropolitan on the Sisk Dam Safety Modification Project and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the Oroville facilities. DWR has recently executed the contract for the preliminary work under Phase I of the Sisk Dam project, such as development of site access roads and quarry. DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) will schedule construction activities to minimize impact to water supply.

Support Capital Investment Program Planning

Staff continues to support the Capital Investment Program (CIP) office by reviewing minor capital projects (less than \$400,000), such as valve replacements on Sepulveda Feeder. This proposed project aims to maintain reliable deliveries on the western portion of Metropolitan's service area. Staff expects to execute this project during the planned shutdown of the Sepulveda Feeder to avoid additional disruptions.



Aerial view south of pipe stockpiled along open trench through Knollwood Golf Club

Photo caption: Aerial view of the construction of the Sepulveda Feeder through Knollwood Golf Club in Granada Hills. Photo taken January 31, 1969, by Metropolitan.

Maintain and Enhance Groundwater Production in Metropolitan's Service Area

Eastern Municipal Water District celebrated the start of operation of its Perris II Desalter, a groundwater recovery project funded by Metropolitan's Local Resources Program with a contract yield of 5,500 acre-feet per year.

Water Resources and Engineering

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Implement Regional Conservation Program

In an effort to increase awareness of the drought conditions in Southern California, staff participated in various outreach activities and interviews, including the following:

- Attended a live interview with KABC 7 News to share water efficiency tips and available rebates.
- Interview with the New York Times for a story on turf and the new social norm of replacing your lawn.
- Participated on a panel for the Los Angeles Better Building Challenge titled “Solutions for LA Buildings” with LADWP and Pacific institute.
- Participated on a panel for Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)’s Water Showcase alongside representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), and the City of Santa Rosa. The panel was titled “Home Water Makeovers: Solutions for all Budgets.”
- Highlighted Metropolitan programs that seek water efficiency in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors at a DWR workshop with 200 attendees.
- Led So Cal Gas’ Pro Landscape Class on Beautiful Gardens with Limited Watering. Approximately 40 attendees learned about Metropolitan’s conservation programs and how to keep landscapes beautiful during a drought.
- Chaired California Water Efficiency Partnership’s Program Committee meeting. Discussion items included current drought response and future deliverables for landscape, AMI, education, and CII sectors.

Metropolitan staff joined staff from Calleguas Municipal Water District and California American Water in a meeting with managers from Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited (Takeda), located in Thousand Oaks, California, to discuss short- and long-term water supply issues affecting Southern California. Takeda managers are keenly interested in meeting internal sustainability goals, as well as learning how to face potential water supply issues that could affect their manufacturing and other processes. Staff from all three agencies described the current situation, including Metropolitan’s Emergency Water Conservation program, and potential rebate and incentive programs that are available to Takeda.

Ensure Cost-Effective State Water Project Supplies

On July 1, 2022, Metropolitan received the 2023 Annual Charges for the State Water Project totaling \$805.43 million. This is an increase of \$20 million over the 2022 charges of \$523 million. Fixed charges are \$543 million, a net increase of \$20 million. This is due to a \$52 million increase in Operations and Maintenance charges mainly associated with the DWR’s 2023 plan to refill Castaic Reservoir. Offsetting this increase is a \$32 million decrease in Capital charges mainly because of a reduction in the Project Interest Rate and inclusion of Federal cost share for Delta habitat projects. Variable charges estimate that a 60 percent Table A allocation is \$263 million, and a \$67 million allocation is a 33 percent increase from 2022’s estimate. Actual variable charges will depend on the 2023 water supply. Staff discussed the increase with DWR. DWR sees a steep increase in the future market price of energy.

	2022	2023	Change
Fixed (Capital and Maintenance)	\$523M	\$543M	+ \$20M
Variable Energy	\$192M	\$263M	+ \$67M
Total	\$715M	\$806M	+ \$86M

Projected 2022-2023 fiscal year SWP charges are a net \$53 million under SWP budget. Projected variable charges are under the SWP budget due to the low water receipt. Projected fixed charges are \$30 million over budget. The main reason for the over budget fixed charges is DWR’s plan to restore Castaic Reservoir water levels to pre-drought levels. The credits are less than projected because of delays in the return of excess debt reserve.

Water Resources and Engineering

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	FY 2022 – 23 Budget	Actual and Projected	Actual Over/(Under) Budget
Fixed (Capital and Maintenance)	\$508M	\$538M	+ \$30M
Variable Energy	\$212M	\$116M	(\$95M)
Credits	(\$68M)	(\$55M)	\$12M
Total	\$652M	\$598M	(\$53M)

Collaborate with Member Agencies, Water Agencies and Associations, and Provide Leadership for Policy Development, Advocacy, Outreach and Education

Metropolitan continued 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, there has been a positive demand response across the SWP-dependent area. Overall, the affected Member Agencies continued to show reductions in purchases from Metropolitan compared with their historical levels, indicating consumer responsiveness with demand-cutting measures. Metropolitan continuously monitors performance to ensure that total SWP water usage stays within the available supplies.

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 related to State Water Shortage Contingency Plans that were prepared and submitted in July 2021. Metropolitan submitted its Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment to DWR on June 30, in compliance with the July 1 deadline.

Metropolitan staff participated as part of the team of trainers at the “Building Resilience to a Changing Climate” online training webinar hosted by the Water Utility Climate Alliance. This training is aimed at water sector professionals seeking technical training in uncertainty planning and decision support methods for use with changing climate science. The training, held from July 19 through-21, was the fifth of its kind that was held in multiple locations around the United States and the first to be held exclusively online.

Staff from Water Resource Management and External Affairs participated in CalDesal’s Executive, Regulatory, Outreach and Legislative committees in July. Staff supported CalDesal’s efforts with legislation related to desalination and salinity management, as well as initial planning for its Fall mixer and annual conference.

As part of its efforts in developing the California Water Plan (CWP) Update 2023, DWR hosted a virtual CWP Public Workshop #2 on July 11, 2022, on Climate Resiliency. The stakeholder workshop is a continuation of the first public workshop on Climate Change Adaptation held on May 4. The main goal of the workshop is to provide details on the science, tools, and processes that DWR has been developing and applying for climate resilience. DWR presented their ongoing work to support local and regional water resource-related climate adaptation efforts. Metropolitan’s continued coordination with DWR in this issue will help develop additional adaptation strategies to bolster SWP supplies.

On July 21, DWR hosted the CWP Public Workshop #3 focused on one of the main themes of Update 2023—Water Equity. In this workshop, DWR discussed how past CWP’s have addressed equity in water management and their current work plan and chapter outline for Update 2023. The goal of the Equity Chapter is to acknowledge long-

Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

standing and evident inequities in water management, identify ongoing efforts by the state and others to reduce those inequities, and recommend additional efforts needed to achieve equity in water management. DWR solicited input from workshop participants to better understand and address equity and presented their preliminary assessment on the lack of diversity and tribal involvement in policy decision making and representation at local boards. Several state agencies presented their current efforts to address equity in water management. The Department of Water Resources highlighted the state's work and recently developed resources to forward equity including 1) DWR public engagement process with local and Tribal communities relying on groundwater supplies as part of the Executive Drought Proclamation and 2) the various tools and technical assistance available within the California Strategic Growth Council's Resource Hub to help advance racial equality and address inequalities in underinvested communities. Moving forward, DWR scheduled several public workshops this summer before an October preview of the Draft CWP Update 2023.

Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program

Staff provided a letter in support of grant funding for the City of Torrance's Airport Stormwater Basin Project (Project). Torrance is applying for a Los Angeles Regional Safe, Clean Water FY 23-24 Program grant for the Project, which would capture stormwater from dense urban areas within Torrance and convey it to the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) in the City of Carson. LACSD would blend the stormwater with wastewater to support recycling at the JWPCP.

Promote Metropolitan's Technical Capabilities and Innovation Efforts to Advance the Understanding of Water Resources Management

Staff participated in two Peer-2-Peer innovation meetings in July. The first meeting was on Safety best management practices with the City of Chicago Water Department. The meeting included a presentation on Metropolitan's safety programs from Operations' Dan Guillory, our manager of Safety, as well as a presentation on Chicago's journey to improve its safety record. This included an overview of the cloud-based platform Chicago implemented to facilitate safety protocols and reporting. A second Peer-2-Peer meeting was held with Mekorot, the national water wholesale agency in Israel on distribution system water quality modeling. Engineering's Saurabh Shekhar and Brian Brenhaug presented on the development of Metropolitan's hydraulic model and its use for analyzing water quality parameters. This helped Mekorot staff, who are at the beginning stages of model development. Potential follow-up meetings with Mekorot will cover how Mekorot blends alternative new supplies such as seawater desalination into its existing distribution system.

Water Resources and Engineering

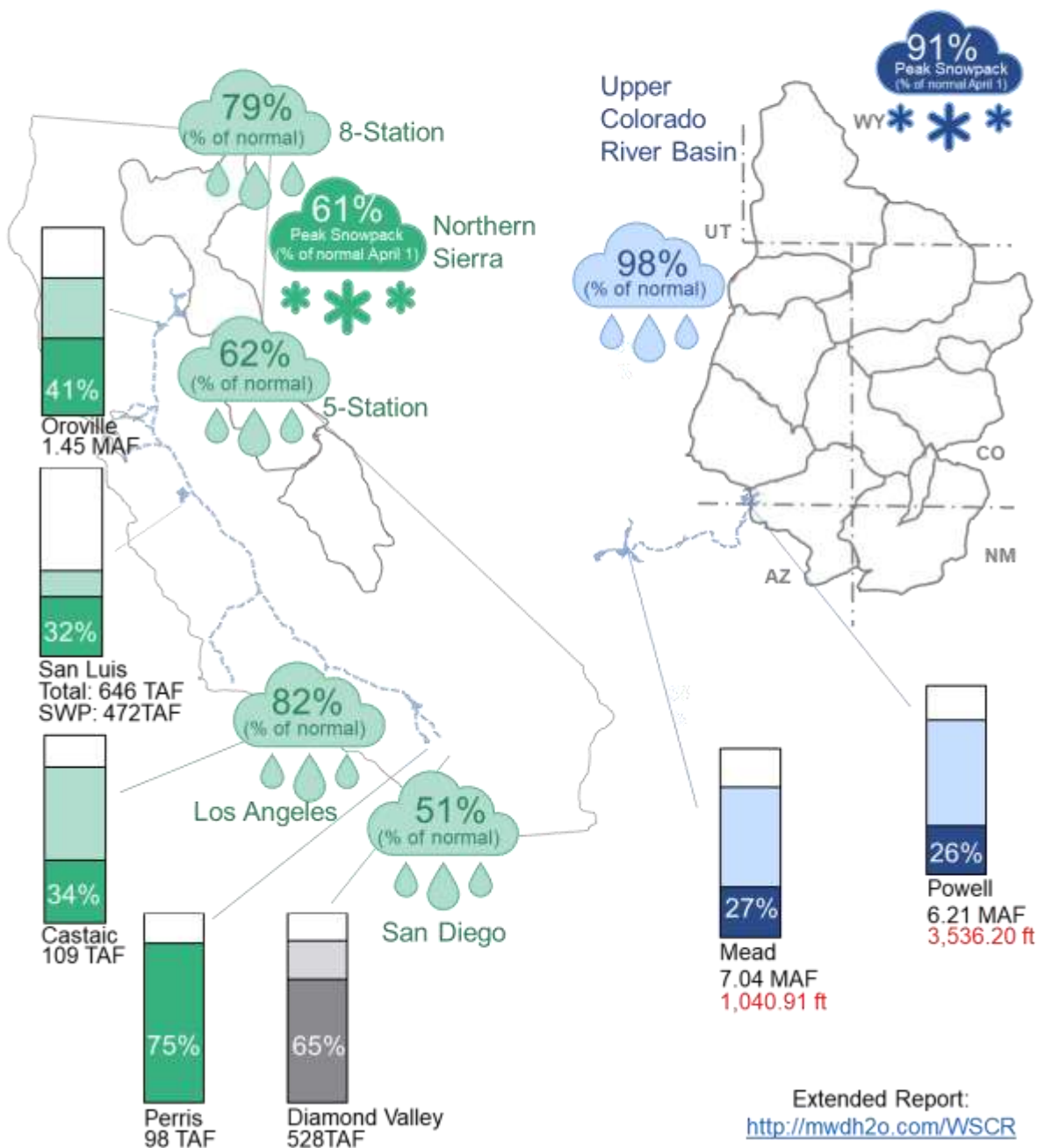
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State Water Project Resources

SWP Table A – 5% - 95,575 AF

Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions – 1,117,000 AF



As of July 31, 2022

Bay-Delta Initiatives

Delta Conveyance

On July 27, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the public Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) for public review and comment. Comments are due October 27, 2022. Members of the public and other interested parties can submit comments on the Draft EIR in the following ways:

- **Email:** deltaconveyancecomments@water.ca.gov
- **Online:** www.deltaconveyanceproject.com
- **U.S. Mail:** CA Department of Water Resources, Attn: Delta Conveyance Office, P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
- **Virtual Public Hearing:** Provide verbal public comment at a virtual public hearing. Access to the virtual public hearings will be available on the DWR website closer to each hearing date.
 - Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 - Thursday, September 22, 2022, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

DWR prepared the following fact sheets to help the public review and comment on the Draft EIR:

- [Delta Conveyance Project Overview and Update](#)
- [What is the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Conveyance Project? | ¿Cuál es el Borrador del Informe de Impacto Ambiental para el Proyecto de Agua a Través del Delta?](#)
- [Tips for Commenting on an EIR | Consejos para Comentar sobre un Informe de Impacto Ambiental](#)

These documents and other fact sheets and summary information, as well as the newly developed “Quick Questions Video Series” and “Deep Dive” videos, can be found on DWR’s Delta Conveyance Project website: <https://water.ca.gov/deltaconveyance>.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and is planning to release a draft EIS for public review later this year.

Joint Powers Authorities

During the July 15 Special 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.

For fiscal years 2022-2024, the DCA Board appointed Director Sarah Palmer, representing Alameda County Flood Control Zone 7 Water District, as President of the Board of Directors (BOD), Director Martin Milobar, representing Kern County Water Agency, as Vice President of the BOD, and Director Gary Martin, representing Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, as Secretary of the BOD. Since the DCA contracts with Metropolitan for Treasurer services, Katano Kasaine was reappointed as Treasurer of the BOD.

The regularly scheduled July 21 Delta Conveyance Finance Authority meeting was cancelled.

Sites Reservoir

In their July meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board (Authority Board) and the Sites Reservoir Committee (Reservoir Committee) authorized the Executive Director to submit the Biological Assessment to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for consultation under the federal Endangered Species Act covering construction and operations and submit the Operations Incidental Take Permit application to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under the State Endangered Species Act..

The Reservoir Committee recommended, and the Authority Board adopted the CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and adopted the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program for the 2022-2024 Sites Reservoir Geologic, Geophysical, and Geotechnical Investigations Project. The Authority Board also approved this Project and authorized the Executive Director to file all related notices and pay all related fees.

Science Activities

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In July, the CAMT and CSAMP Policy Group meetings focused on the CAMT Monitoring Assessment Project, which is divided into three tasks: (1) understanding the approaches and recommendations of previous and ongoing reviews of long-term monitoring programs, (2) articulating the objectives of CSAMP members with respect to monitoring, and (3) developing a process for the next phase of monitoring reviews and an implementation plan for recommendations. The July meetings focused on task 2 and included discussion of shared objectives for monitoring, areas of disagreement on monitoring needs, and the potential role for CSAMP in addressing monitoring recommendations and supporting meaningful science-policy engagement on monitoring.

Staff co-authored a scientific paper reporting on findings from a symposium that showcased practical applications of methods for detecting environmental DNA (eDNA) in the San Francisco Estuary to complement traditional monitoring and inform species management decisions in aquatic environments. The paper, “Environmental DNA Methods for Ecological Monitoring and Biodiversity Assessment in Estuaries” was published in the *Estuaries and Coasts* journal ([Environmental DNA Methods for Ecological Monitoring and Biodiversity Assessment in Estuaries \(springer.com\)](https://www.springer.com)). The proceedings paper includes findings from Metropolitan supported studies to develop eDNA detection methods in the San Francisco Estuary and recommendations for improving communication between eDNA researchers and natural resource managers.

Staff also co-authored a scientific paper in the *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* journal, titled “Considerations for the Development of a Juvenile Production Estimate for Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon” ([Considerations for the Development of a Juvenile Production Estimate for Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon \(escholarship.org\)](https://escholarship.org)). The paper reports on the outcomes of a workshop for managers, scientists, and stakeholders to develop a juvenile production estimate (JPE) for spring run, defined here as an annual forecast of the number of juvenile Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon that enter the Delta from the Sacramento Valley. The paper summarizes spring-run biology, monitoring, and emergent methods for assessment, and the guiding concepts identified by workshop participants necessary to develop a JPE for spring-run Chinook Salmon. The development of a JPE will support spring-run management actions, including evaluation of population status and management of water project operations issues such as entrainment of this species at water diversions.

Colorado River

Lower Basin State Discussions to Address Critical Reservoir Elevations

Since Commissioner Touton's June 14 statements identifying 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 Lower Basin States have been meeting to evaluate modeling and discuss approaches to meet the Commissioner's goal. The Department of the Interior (Interior) has been working with states, tribes, and others to reach a consensus about how to protect critical reservoir elevations by the time that the August 24-Month Study is issued in mid-August. The Commissioner has stated that Interior has the authority to act unilaterally, if needed, and will protect the system if consensus cannot be reached.

Engineering

Core Business Function – Execute Capital Investment Plan Projects

Engineering Services manages and executes projects within the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) to maintain infrastructure resiliency, ensure regulatory compliance, enhance sustainability, and provide flexibility in system operations to address uncertain water supply conditions.

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:

- **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. The 14-day system performance test is complete, and the new sodium hypochlorite feed system is in operation. Construction is 98 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 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 the city street. Site grading and earthen berm compaction in Area 6 are also complete. The contractor is currently installing new fences and curbs in Area 6. Construction is 97 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in September 2022.
- **Upgrades at Three Sepulveda Feeder Structures**—This project replaces deteriorated electrical components and makes other upgrades at three Sepulveda Feeder underground structures. Metropolitan issued the Notice-To-Proceed to the contractor on July 5, 2022. Construction is scheduled to be complete in July 2023.
- **Orange County Feeder Lining Repairs**—This project replaces the deteriorated internal lining along an 11-mile portion of the Orange County Feeder within the cities of Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, and Newport Beach. Rehabilitation is proceeding in three stages. Construction of Stages 1 and 2 are complete. A construction contract for the remaining third stage was awarded by the Board in April 2022. Notice-To-Proceed was issued in May to start the construction phase. The contractor is submitting required shop drawings and preparing for the upcoming shutdown in September 2022.
- **Casa Loma Siphon Seismic Upgrades**—This project will mitigate leaks associated with long-term ground subsidence and will improve seismic resilience of the siphon as it crosses the Casa Loma Fault. This project replaces approximately 1,200 feet of the Casa Loma Siphon Barrel No. 1 at a fault crossing using earthquake resistant ductile iron pipe (ERDIP) and welded steel pipe (WSP). Excavation for the new siphon barrel is approximately 60 percent complete, and ERDIP installation started in mid-July. Construction is approximately 45 percent complete, with final tie-in scheduled in February 2023.

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. Construction is scheduled to be complete in August 2023. 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 98 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 65 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.
- **Sepulveda Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates 35 miles of PCCP segments within the Sepulveda Feeder and will enhance delivery reliability to member agencies. Long-term rehabilitation of the Sepulveda Feeder will be staged over multiple years with multiple construction and procurement contracts. Final design of Reach 1 and Reach 2 are occurring simultaneously. Final design of Reach 1 is 60 percent complete and Reach 2 is 90 percent complete. Both are scheduled to be complete by February 2023. Preliminary design for the northern 20-mile reach of Sepulveda Feeder is being re-prioritized because of the West Area Water Supply Reliability Improvements, which prompted a detailed evaluation to ensure the potential pressure increase from the Westside Pump Stations project does not result in adverse impacts on Sepulveda Feeder.

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

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

- **Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement**—This project will install a new 54-inch fixed cone valve and actuator at the base of the dam, refurbish the existing valve house and a slide gate and upgrade all associated electrical systems and access ladders at the Copper Basin Reservoir. This project will also include the replacement of the access ladders at the Gene Wash Dam. Final design is 60 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in September 2023.
- **Cabazon Radial Gate**—This project replaces two radial gates and makes security, access, and safety improvements to the Cabazon Radial Gate Structure. Preliminary design is 5 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by September 2022.

Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

- **CRA Overhead Cranes**—This project consists of replacing five overhead bridge cranes and retrofitting the support structures within the pump bays located at all five of Metropolitan’s Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. The contractor is working on contract submittals and fabrication of the equipment. The contractor plans to mobilize at the Gene Pumping Plant next month for installation of the first overhead crane. Construction is seven percent complete. All work is scheduled to be completed by July 2023.



Garvey Reservoir Hypochlorite Feed System Replacement—Upgraded existing control systems and automatic process controls

Treatment Plant Reliability Program

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

Weymouth Plant

- **Weymouth 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. Other improvements included in this project are seismic upgrades of basin walls and inlet channel, abatement of hazardous materials in the basins, and replacement of filter valves and actuators in Filter Building No. 2. The contractor is currently preparing contract submittals. Construction is 2 percent complete and is scheduled 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 utilize 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 December 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

Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

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. The contractor completed security equipment installation on all floors; completed the testing and cutover to the new security system; and is continuing equipment installation in the rotunda. Construction of Stage 2 improvements is 99 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2022. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. Design of Stage 3 improvements is 99 percent complete and board award of a construction contract is planned for November 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 from the parking levels through the fifth floors and is currently working on the sixth through the eleventh floors. Construction is 55 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2023.
- **SCADA System Upgrade Project**—This project will gradually upgrade Metropolitan’s entire control system, spanning the Colorado River Aqueduct, the five water treatment plants, and the conveyance and distribution system. The Mills plant is the first facility that will have its control system replaced. One of the plant’s remote terminal units will be upgraded as a pilot effort to demonstrate the proposed technology and the consultant’s approach. The pilot project is anticipated to be complete by January 2023. The full system upgrade at the Mills plant is anticipated to be complete by January 2026.



Headquarters Building Improvements—Installing plywood countertop on security desk

Operations



Water System Operations

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 are set to complete midterm exams in machine shop. Once midterms are completed, apprentices begin working on milling operations. Upon completing the classroom sessions, apprentices will have the ability to machine parts in the field. Additionally, the Class of 2023 electrical apprentices completed their final exams on PLC Installation practices, editing, and troubleshooting as well as process controls, network systems, and SCADA integration. After completing final exams, apprentices move into the water treatment class to qualify for the Grade T2 exam.



Apprentice using a lathe to machine a taper



Apprentices working on lathes during lab session

Staff participated in hands-on training to improve the preventative maintenance program on the 480V circuit breakers at the Diemer plant. There are approximately 100 breakers to meet the industrial electrical needs throughout the plant. A vendor was brought in to provide training, which also establishes a strong relationship for future equipment and technical support.



Staff receiving training on equipment and maintenance procedures for a 480V circuit breaker at the Diemer plant

Staff applied to the California Air Resources Control Board's (CARB) CORE Voucher program to obtain partial funding for two all-electric mobile power stations (375 and 500 kilowatt-hour [kWh] units). If awarded, the vouchers would pay \$400 per kWh, or \$150,000 and \$200,000 respectively. A purchase order must be provided within three months of CARB approval.



Examples of the all-electric mobile power station basic version (left) and backhoe version with drill attachment (right)

Support the Pure Water Southern California Program

During July, staff began operating both membrane bioreactor (MBR) systems at the Pure Water Southern California demonstration plant after successfully replacing the membranes in late June. Both systems are showing improved turbidity removal compared with the previously used membranes, some of which were intentionally damaged for testing and method development. The MBR system continued to achieve greater than the target 80 percent nitrogen removal, consistently performing better than model projections. Staff also removed one reverse osmosis (RO) membrane vessel from service to optimize operations for secondary MBR performance testing.

Staff continued analyzing pretesting phase microbial samples from the demonstration plant influent and MBR filtrate, as well as characterizing MBR filtrate quality for various surrogates. Staff continue to complete corrective and preventative maintenance, including startup of chemical feed systems and resolving water quality instrumentation issues. Staff also performed major overhauls on instrumentation to improve RO system monitoring and control.



Staff installing new membranes in the bioreactors at the Pure Water Southern California demonstration plant

Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner

Because of the historically low State Water Project allocation and operational constraints on the conveyance and distribution system, Metropolitan's small hydroelectric plant fleet had negligible generation output in June. This condition is likely to persist until the Upper Feeder leak on the expansion joint at the Santa Ana River crossing is repaired in September 2022 and the minimum operating envelopes at the hydroelectric plants can be met for generation purposes.

Metropolitan's solar facilities, totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated approximately 1,177 megawatt-hours in June 2022.

Provide Reliable Water Deliveries

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 155,761 acre-feet (AF) for July with an average of 5,025 AF per day, which was 308 AF per day higher than in June. Treated water deliveries increased by 6,829 AF from June for a total of 80,264 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 106,752 AF pumped for the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,134 AF per day, totaling about 35,169 AF for the month, which accounted for approximately 23 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. The target SWP blend remained at zero percent for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

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 July to conserve SWP use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in July. 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.

Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation.

On June 23, staff participated in a workshop for Cal/OSHA's May 2022 draft Proposed Workplace Violence Prevention (§3343) Regulation. Under the draft regulation, employers would need to establish, implement, and maintain an effective Workplace Violence Prevention Program, similar to the requirements for an Injury Illness Prevention Program or COVID-19 Prevention Program. Staff will work with external health and safety organizations to develop comments on the latest draft and continue to monitor further updates to the draft regulation.

On July 7, the Division of Drinking Water proposed a Notification Level of 2 ng/L and Response Level of 20 ng/L for perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS). This chemical has not been detected in Metropolitan's source or treated water since PFAS monitoring began in 2017. Staff will continue to monitor any future updates with respect to PFAS in drinking water.

On July 12, the Board took a support, if amended, position on AB 2108: water policy; environmental justice; disadvantaged and tribal communities. The bill requires that one member of the State and Regional Boards be qualified in disadvantaged or tribal community issues. The bill also requires the state and regional boards to address environmental justice and social equity issues early in the permit and policy planning process. The bill's sponsor has agreed to take Metropolitan's amendments that address potential impacts to water rights for the State Water Project. Staff will track the implementation of AB 2108, if passed, by the state and regional boards.

Ensure Water Quality Compliance, Worker Safety, and Environmental Protection.

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during June 2022. For the first time since the start of the pandemic in 2020, the mobile safety shoe store visited the Desert facilities for in-person procurement of safety shoes. Staff also can obtain safety shoes from the online store.



Shoe Mobile visiting the Desert facilities

Staff successfully obtained an Emergency Variance from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to avoid non-compliance in the event a power outage causes an exceedance of the annual limit (200 hours) for the emergency generator engine at Metropolitan's Pleasants Peak telecommunications site. Staff will soon be presenting a case to the SCAQMD Hearing Board for a Regular Variance that allows permanent coverage through the end of the year.

On July 11, Metropolitan's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report was released. The report summarizes the results of required monitoring in calendar year 2021, showing that Metropolitan's water quality is equal to or better than what is required by regulations to safeguard public health. This year's report also highlights Metropolitan's continued focus on source water protection, the Partnership for Safe Water program, measures taken at the Water Quality Lab to comply with new laboratory accreditation regulations, and our proactive approach to emerging contaminants. The report has been provided to member agencies and is available [here](#) as well as on Metropolitan's website.



Metropolitan's 2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

For the Desert facilities with dual water systems, cross-connection shutdown tests of the potable and non-potable water systems are required every four years for regulatory compliance. Water Quality staff successfully conducted the 2022 shutdown tests for all five pumping plants and submitted the test reports to the Division of Drinking Water and the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino at the end of June.

Similar to other locations within Metropolitan, Desert facilities generate a small amount of hazardous waste which needs to be closely monitored and properly stored and disposed of in order to meet regulations and Metropolitan policies. Staff, trained in the proper handling and storage of these materials through annual certifications, coordinate removal using certified hazardous waste removal contractors.



Staff staging material to store in the designated hazardous materials area

Actively Engage in Capital Project Planning and Execution

Staff installed, tested, and commissioned new alum and polymer pumps, along with a chemical injection manifold and piping at the Mills plant. Work on this critical process required multidisciplinary craft personnel participating in the design, procurement, and installation. Staff sourced readily available components and added double-walled chemical injection piping, thereby reducing potential downtime and chemical leaks, respectively.



Chemical injection manifold improvements at the Mills plant



New chemical pump control panel at the Mills plant

Staff completed a capital project on the Santa Monica Feeder at the Sunset Pressure Relief Structure. Work involved rehabilitating a pilot rack assembly, including pilot control valves, frame, manifold piping, tubing, isolation valves, and drain system. The newly-machined pilot control valve bodies were supplied by the La Verne Shops. Staff also replaced sensing lines that feed the pilot control valves and the 8-inch globe valves. Hydraulically-operated valves are activated when pressure in the pipeline exceeds the rated capacity and discharges into a local storm drain, thereby decreasing pressure and protecting the reliability of the distribution system.



Refurbished pilot valve system on the Santa Monica Feeder at the Sunset Pressure Relief Structure

During July, several meetings were held to discuss required functions, activities, specialized equipment, and space requirements in support of the Water Quality Laboratory seismic retrofit and building improvement capital project. The meetings focused on different user groups within the Water Quality Section and involved managers, project engineers, and the design consultants. The goal of this project is to ensure that Metropolitan has a seismically resilient, state-of-the-art laboratory to meet all regulatory compliance monitoring requirements, support treatment development and optimization, and provide applied research facilities to address emerging water quality issues.

Optimize Maintenance

Transformer oil samples are taken annually for dissolved gas analysis at the Skinner plant. Transformers are used to provide power to critical equipment throughout the plant. Transformer oil contains small amounts of dissolved combustible gases and additional gases form when an abnormal condition exists, often attributed to a fault. Staff measure the concentration of a gas in transformer oil to determine the cause and severity of the event, and whether the transformer is reliable. This predictive measure ensures that the Skinner plant continues to operate reliably.



Staff taking an oil sample from a 4,160V transformer at the Skinner plant

Over 60 miles of the 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct are open canal. With these long open stretches, the canal is susceptible to vegetation growth and debris intrusion from high winds across the desert. Trash racks help protect the pump plants but as algae and debris build up, water in the canal can slow and elevations rise. Regular maintenance is needed to keep these racks clean, which improves flow along the canal while also protecting smaller sub-systems within the plants such as the circulating water pumps.



Staff cleaning trash racks at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

To perform most repairs on a CRA main pump unit, high-voltage switching operations are used to identify and isolate potential hazards. Staff follow clearance procedures from Metropolitan's System Operating Orders Manual to protect personnel from hydraulic, mechanical, pneumatic, electrical, or chemical hazards. Staff use specialized arc flash clothing and personal protective equipment to provide sufficient protection to safely perform high-voltage electrical work.



Staff wearing an arc flash suit while racking out 6.9kV electrical circuit breakers

CRA main pump unit discharge valves facilitate safe operation of the CRA pumps. The discharge valve remains closed when starting up a unit, which reduces the torque and load on the motor. When shutting a unit down, the discharge valve closes before power is removed to ensure that the unit does not spin backwards from the rush of water coming back down delivery lines. Proper maintenance of the unit components is critical to continued CRA reliability.



Staff troubleshooting a CRA main pump unit discharge valve pressure governor

Over time, lubrication oil can pick up particulates which can be detrimental to long-term equipment operation. To maintain oil quality and equipment reliability, the CRA pumping plants use several techniques and filtration methods to combat contamination. These efforts include routine oil sampling, inline filtering, centrifuging, and using external filtration equipment.



A lube oil sump tank before (left) and after (right) cleaning at Iron Mountain pumping plant

Staff completed grading of the Rialto Feeder patrol roads in the city of La Verne starting from the Etiwanda hydroelectric plant. This work included minor erosion, 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 Rialto Feeder

Staff installed a new electrical duct bank and wiring at the Palos Verdes Reservoir lower bypass spill relief structures to bring reliable power for dewatering, level alarms, and new remote monitoring equipment.



Staff encasing new electric duct bank with concrete (left) and installing new conduit on the lower structure (right) at the Palos Verdes Reservoir

The La Verne Shops continued fabrication of a replacement expansion joint to address a leak discovered on a bellows joint on the Upper Feeder pipeline where it spans the Santa Ana River along a truss bridge in the city of Riverside. The new joint and accompanying components, engineered and manufactured by Metropolitan, will be ready for installation by an outside contractor later this summer to replace the damaged bellows expansion joint.



Fit testing of the manufactured slip joint for repairs on the Upper Feeder



Rolled compression ring segments (left) and fabricated 36-inch spool assembly (right) for Upper Feeder repairs

Manage the Power System

Given the continuing drought conditions, the CRA is expected to maintain a planned eight-pump flow through September 2022. Sufficient Resource Adequacy (RA) capacity to meet CRA pumping operational needs is forecast through September.

Staff continues to monitor the cost and operational impacts of reduced hydropower generation at Hoover Dam and continued turbulence in the electricity and natural gas markets. After spiking in early 2022 following the invasion of

the Ukraine and subsequent disruption of energy markets worldwide, natural gas and electricity prices in the western US markets have trended downwards, which has resulted in reduced energy costs forecast for the CRA for 2022.

A Request for Offers (RFO) for the output of nine of Metropolitan's small hydroelectric plants was issued in June. The RFO requested bids on energy output (kilowatt-hours), Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), and Resource Adequacy capacity (kilowatt-months). Eight offers from six potential counterparties were received. Staff are reviewing the offers and will notify the successful bidder(s), as appropriate. A September board action is scheduled to approve the successful bidder(s) for a new contract that would be effective October 1, 2022.

On July 19, Hoover Dam experienced an electrical transformer failure. The explosion and fire were captured by several bystanders and reported by multiple media outlets. This failure initially caused an outage of two generator units; however, the single damaged unit was isolated allowing the second unit to be returned to service the following day. The US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) is assessing damages of the failed unit, which will be out of service indefinitely pending repairs. This generation unit is nominally rated at 130 MW but was recently derated to 73 MW because of low Lake Mead water levels. Loss of this generator unit will reduce Metropolitan's allocation of Hoover power by about 10 MW, requiring Metropolitan to procure additional supplemental energy and Resource Adequacy capacity to maintain planned CRA pumping levels. This outage is expected to increase Metropolitan's CRA energy and capacity costs by over \$2 million during the remainder of 2022 but will not affect planned CRA pumping operations. Staff is closely coordinating with USBR to understand the cause of the failure and the repair schedule.



Electrical transformer fire affecting generator units at Hoover Dam (*photo credit: USBR*)



USBR fire crews responding to an electrical transformer fire at Hoover Dam *(photo credit: USBR)*

Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response

July 7, staff met with representatives from the Orange County Fire Authority, Orange County Sheriff's Department, and city of Yorba Linda, to kick off planning for a joint emergency response exercise. This exercise will be happening in fall 2022 and will focus on multiple agencies responding to a simulated emergency at the Diemer plant. Metropolitan continues to reach out to our community partners to prepare for future emergencies.

Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution

The State Water Project (SWP) target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants and Lake Skinner was zero percent in July. A small amount of flow from Silverwood Lake was temporarily needed to supplement demand in the Weymouth and Jensen service areas, because of the Upper Feeder flow limitation to minimize a leak at the Santa Ana River bridge.

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 SWP and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 594, 590, and 582 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Operations

(continued)

Monthly Update as of:

7/31/2022

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	6,210,000	26%
Lake Mead	7,040,000	27%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	1,453,733	41%
Shasta Lake	1,683,193	37%
San Luis Total	646,456	32%
San Luis CDWR	472,086	44%
Castaic Lake	109,292	34%
Silverwood Lake	68,085	91%
Lake Perris	98,011	75%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	528,804	65%
Lake Mathews	117,547	65%
Lake Skinner	37,759	86%



Hoover Dam

Information Technology

Project Highlights

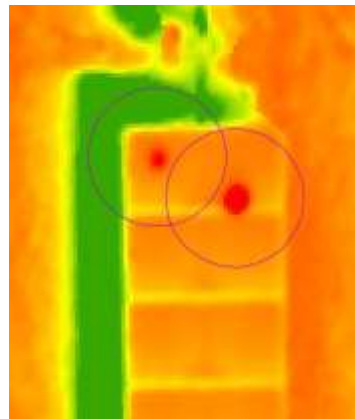
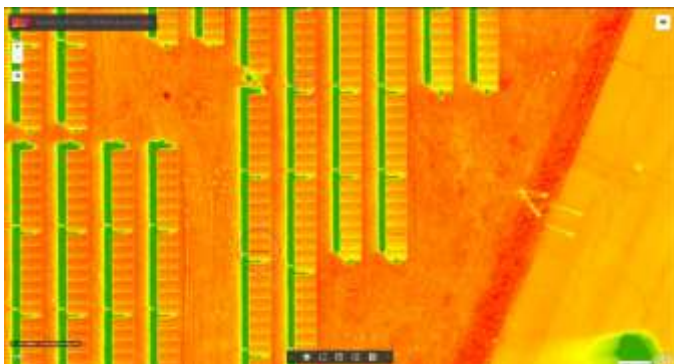
MaxQuickLoad Application

The Operations Applications team deployed the MaxQuickLoad application, which has standardized and optimized bulk data entry processes for Maximo. Before using MaxQuickLoad, bulk data entry tasks such as updating manager information after retirements or creating new assets were performed manually via Maximo's user interface or by using custom back-end SQL statements. These manual methods were very inefficient and caused data integrity concerns. Implementing MaxQuickLoad has reduced the manual entry processes mentioned above from an average of 8 hours to about 20 minutes per request, ensuring data integrity by using Maximo's Integration Framework and providing audit trails. Designed with end users in mind, MaxQuickLoad has an intuitive interface to make the system easy to use. Data validation is also automated and performed early in the loading process, allowing users to correct problems before uploading to ensure quality maintenance management data.

Detecting Solar Farm Thermal Anomalies Using UAV Remote Sensing Data & GIS Technology

Thermography is a widely used method of assessing the health of solar panels. Solar panels and solar cells, when properly working, convert the sun's radiant energy into electricity. When they are not working properly, not converting the sun's radiant energy into electricity, the solar cells get hotter than their surrounding solar cells.

To detect these anomalies, our drone team has been flying their thermal camera over the solar farms, capturing thermal imagery in a pattern that overlaps the previous image by approximately 75 percent. This imagery is then stitched together, and a thermal georeferenced image is created. Using an ArcGIS WebApp that was developed in house, the image is then used to document the anomalies for further review.



Real Property

Project Highlights

Staff Training and Development.

Completed OneNote 2016 Essential Training to create, edit, and save digital notes for organizational purposes.

Metropolitan was awarded “Government Employer of the Year” by the International Right of Way Association (IRWA). The IRWA is a global, member-led organization of right of way professionals that promotes career growth through education and credentialing opportunities. It recognizes organizations that demonstrate commitment to staff professional development in the right-of-way industry—Metropolitan is a two-time recipient of this award at the local chapter level, this being the first recognition at the national level. Winning this award is a testament to staff’s pledge to workforce excellence and professional development.

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

Acquired two permanent easements from two separate property owners in the city of Monterey Park. These easements grant Metropolitan access rights onto their residential property to construct, operate, maintain, repair, replace, and modify its permanent drainage pipeline at Garvey Reservoir,

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 eight entry permits from Southern California Edison in the cities of La Puente, Cerritos, Norwalk, City of Industry, Santa Fe Springs, Duarte, and South El Monte. The permits allow Metropolitan to conduct observational surveys for two months through September 2022 in support of the environmental planning phase of Pure Water Southern California. These surveys will provide information Metropolitan needs to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Acquired a six-month temporary access permit from the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) to conduct surveys for the environmental planning phase of Pure Water Southern California. The environmental surveys will be conducted in LACFCD rights of way along the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers, between the cities of Carson and Pico Rivera to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

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

Four new leases were executed to replace existing leases with COXCO, LLC and HayDay Farms Venture, LLC for agricultural purposes in the Palo Verde region. All four leases have a commencement date of July 1, 2022, at new higher rental rates consistent with recent market appraisal. The leases include water conservation, fallowing, and innovative farming incentives for the tenants to align their farming practices with Metropolitan’s priorities. The COXCO lease comprises 2,353 gross acres of land with an initial term of 9.5 years and two options to extend the term for four years per option. Three separate leases were executed with HayDay comprising 2,464, 5,441 and 7,867 gross acres of land with initial terms of 11.5 years and one option to extend the term for six years.

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

Valley-Wide Recreation hosted the West Zone Softball World Series at Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) Community Park. The tournament, which has been hosted at DVL several times over the past decade, draws hundreds of players and visitors to the DVL East Recreation Area.



Staff completed work to replace several sections of sidewalk at the DVL Visitor Center facility. Repairs were required because of tripping hazards posed by the raised sections.



District Housing Maintenance and Management.

Staff worked with a contractor to replace a walkway for in-town employee housing, eliminating a tripping hazard



The Desert Housing Maintenance Team completed 40 work orders this reporting period. Eight of these work orders were Tenant Requested Work Orders. Examples of the Tenant Requested Work Orders include the repair or replacement of an air conditioning unit, window blinds, electrical outlets, and an irrigation line.

Staff completed pre-occupancy work on three desert houses for this reporting period. These preparations consisted of maintenance repairs to each of these houses to bring them up to decent, safe, and sanitary standards for staff that recently moved to the desert. The maintenance repairs for the houses and yard included but were not limited to removal of all abandoned tenant items, touchup painting, installation of new lighting, deep cleaning, weed abatement and trash collection, and assessment and repair of the electrical system.

Real Property staff in conjunction with Business Outreach hosted a desert contractor outreach event in Lake Havasu on July 13. This event, attended by many local trade contractors, gave Metropolitan the opportunity to explain Metropolitan's mission.

Real Property staff hosted townhall meetings at each of the employee villages. The purpose of the meetings was to provide updates on housing and recreation management, desert housing and property improvement projects, and to listen to resident feedback. The meeting participation was approximately 70 percent.

Security

Emergency Response

An initial kickoff meeting was held at the Diemer water treatment plant to plan for a future full-scale emergency exercise. Attendees included:

- Metropolitan staff from Diemer, Emergency Management, and Security
- Orange County Fire Authority
- Orange County Sheriff's Department
- City of Yorba Linda

As members of the Design team, Security staff planned side-by-side with internal and external representatives to integrate security objectives into the exercise scope.



Security staff integrating security objectives into the exercise scope

Finance and Administration



Finance

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.

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

The Risk Management Unit completed 27 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 63 risk assessments on contracts, including professional service agreements, construction contracts, entry permits, special events, and film permits.

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.

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.
- Participated in meetings with the Fusion business continuity management software consultant to implement system and plan enhancements.
- Drafted an online survey for Metropolitan management to collect feedback and lessons learned from COVID-19.

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.

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 June 2022 totaled 139.9 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 7.1 TAF lower than the budget of 147.0 TAF and translate to \$131.7 million in revenues for June 2022, which were \$23.2 million lower than budget of \$154.9 million.

- Year-to-date water transactions through June 2022 were 1,645.8 TAF, which was 45.8 TAF higher than the budget of 1,600.0 TAF. Year-to-date water revenues through June 2022 were \$1,515.1 million, which were \$23.5 million higher than the budget of \$1,491.6 million.
- In June 2022, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,200 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$9,500 in discounts.

Manage investor relations to ensure clear communications, accuracy of information, and integrity.

In June 2022, the Treasury and Debt Management section developed and published a new investor relations platform, using a third-party vendor, BondLink, to enhance Metropolitan's financial transparency by improving the promotion and accessibility of key documents important to bond investors, including but not limited to official statements, investor presentations, and financial reports and policies.

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.

New Short-Term Credit Facility. On June 3, 2022, Metropolitan executed a \$225,000,000, Note Purchase and Continuing Covenants Agreement, with Wells Fargo Bank. At current bond ratings, Metropolitan may borrow on a tax-exempt or taxable basis, at rates equal to 80 percent of the daily SOFR index rate plus 26 basis points (0.26 percent), for a tax-exempt borrowing, or the daily SOFR index rate plus 28 basis points (0.28 percent), for a taxable borrowing. SOFR stands for the Secured Overnight Financing Rate, a short-term interest rate index that is intended to replace the U.S. Dollar Interbank Loan Rate (LIBOR) as the primary index for short-term financing contracts.

On June 29, 2022, Metropolitan drew on the Wells Agreement and borrowed \$35,645,000, on a tax-exempt basis, to fund outstanding subordinate lien revenue bonds. The draw was repaid on July 7, 2022, from the proceeds of Metropolitan's, \$279,570,000, Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, 2022 Series A. The fee for the first draw was \$11,367, at an effective interest rate of 1.44 percent.

Credit Ratings Implementation Process. In June 2022, Metropolitan staff prepared several bond disclosure documents, including some that were presented to the Board and Ad Hoc Committee, in preparation of bond transactions that would occur in July. In addition, Metropolitan presented our financial and other critical information to representatives of Moody's and Standard & Poor's to discuss Metropolitan's credit fundamentals and various bond transaction structures.

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

As of June 30, 2022, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.54 billion; in June 2022, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 10 trades.

In June 2022, Treasury staff processed 1,201 disbursements by check, 18 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 150 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 77 receipts by check, 31 receipts by ACH, and 45 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

Administrative Services

Accomplishments

The newly established Inventory Control (IC) Team from the Contracting Services Unit has been busy training staff and establishing new roles and procedures during the past few weeks. One of the IC Team's key responsibilities is to keep managers aware of what their staff has purchased during the previous week. The IC team generates the Material Account Distribution Detail Report (MADD). Every week, the team sends out the MADD report to managers for their review.

Based on feedback from a manager reviewing the MADD report, the IC Team researched pricing on a warehouse item and saw an opportunity to obtain the product at a lower price. The IC Team manager tasked Shan Nalawangsa, Inventory Coordinator, to contact suppliers. A new supplier was identified with a lower cost, resulting in projected savings of \$18,000 per year.



To recognize and celebrate National Safety Awareness Month, Metropolitan's F.E. Weymouth plant hosted a Safety Awareness Event and Vendor Fair on June 9, 2022. To support this initiative, the Warehouse Team was tasked by plant management to invite a variety of suppliers and vendors whose products support safe operations. The team secured participation from multiple suppliers to showcase new and emerging safety products, tools, and other related items to over 200 plant staff and visitors! With its full agenda of department tours, supplier demonstrations, a safety award ceremony, keynote speakers, and a delicious hot lunch, the event was a complete success.



Finance and Administration

(continued)



On June 23, 2022, the Jensen treatment plant celebrated its 50th anniversary. Imaging Services took great pride in supporting the celebration by printing three professional grade banners for display at the entrance and inside the facility.



Human Resources

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

In July, 622 Metropolitan employees attended virtually facilitated classes, including Preventing Workplace Harassment; Ethics & Data Integrity; Drug & Alcohol Awareness; and Contract Administration.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online, e-learning content platform, was used for classes, including such topics as Communication Tips, Learning DocuSign, OneNote, Project Management, and Learning about Carbon & Our Planet.

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

Recruitment successfully filled 13 positions for the month of July. Recruitment received two new staffing requisitions resulting in 174 positions currently in recruitment.

The HR Group Manager continued to work with the Board search committee in the recruitment process for the General Auditor position.

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

Employees that reached service milestones of 20 years or more were provided a tribute piece recognizing their years of service. This is in lieu of the semi-annual service award luncheon which has been postponed because of the COVID pandemic.

HR Core Business: Provide Excellent Human Resources Services

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

Negotiations continue with the SUPS on a successor MOU. Staff will continue to brief the Organization, Personnel, and Technology (OP&T) Committee on the status of those talks.

The Benefits Unit is working with Metropolitan's broker, CalPERS, and various health providers on contract renewals, rates, and plan changes for Open Enrollment. Benefits will be launching seven webinars for the months of August and September.

The Benefits Unit is also working with Empower Retirement in launching a New Participant Website Experience for Metropolitan's custom website, www.mwdplans.com. Empower hosted two webinars for employees to attend on July 20, 2022. The website went live on August 2, 2022.

The Business Support Team planned, organized, and coordinated a "Food & Mood" wellness webinar. The live webcast was held on July 27, 2022 and hosted by Kaiser Permanente. The webinar introduced employees to several strategies to tune into the body and mind and identify self-care practices that will bring more balance to the way they eat and their mood.

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

Finance and Administration

(continued)

HR Core Business: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations

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 any revisions meet the deadlines outlined in the State Audit Report.

The Benefits Unit is currently administering 2022 COVID-19 Leaves through September 30, 2022. As of July, 281 leaves have been approved.

In July, five new Workers' Compensation claims were received. Nine 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.

In addition, staff is collaborating with other Metropolitan stakeholders to implement a new Incident Reporting and Case Management System designed by Vantiv 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 July:

- Coordinated two medical medvan visits (DMV, respirator exams, and hearing tests) at La Verne and Lake Mathews
- Arranged twenty medical evaluations (Pre-employment, DMV, medical surveillance, vanpool program restarted)
- Coordinated two random drug tests
- Addressed thirty-five Accommodation issues, referrals, and follow ups with Shaw Consulting Group

HR Metrics	June 2021	July 2022	Prior Month June 2022
Headcount			
Regular Employees	1,881	1,766	1,762
Temporary Employees	32	39	37
Interns	5	2	2
Recurrents	20	18	18
Annuitants	16	19	19

	July 2022	June 2022
Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	174	185
Number of New Staffing Requisitions	2	0
	July 2022	June 2022
Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress	6	8
Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits	2	1
Number of New Job Audit Requests	0	0

Finance and Administration

(continued)

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 21/22 Totals</u>	<u>July 2022</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	82	4	4
Temporary Employees	36	0	0
Interns	4	0	0
Internal Promotions	70	4	4
Management Requested Promotions	152	5	5
Retirements/Separations (regular employees)	127	2	2
Employee-Requested Transfers	15	1	1

Departures

Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Reason	Group
Dun	Martin	Sr Buyer	6/4/2022	Retirement	ADMINISTRATION GROUP
Riss	Gerald	General Auditor	6/2/2022	Retirement	OFFICE OF THE GENERAL AUDITOR

External Affairs



External Affairs

Highlights

Chairwoman Gray and GM Hagekhalil signed the Equity in Infrastructure pledge to bring greater equity to construction and contracting activities for critical public infrastructure. The program is a nationwide effort to provide more opportunities to historically underserved communities and underutilized companies.

Vice-Chair Kurtz and Metropolitan staff participated in a press event with California Natural Resources Secretary Crowfoot and city of Pasadena officials at Sheldon Reservoir. The event highlighted state and local drought response actions, including turf replacement rebates and other conservation programs for residents, businesses, and public agencies. (July 7)

GM Hagekhalil and Metropolitan staff met with the Tribal Engagement Coalition at the Shingle Springs Rancheria in Placerville to discuss opportunities for improved dialogue on water management issues and projects. (July 13)

Metropolitan partnered with The Tree People to host a Tree Care & Water-Saving community workshop for 200 people in San Fernando. The event featured guest speakers, including GM Hagekhalil, Director Ortega, and San Fernando Mayor Mendoza. Metropolitan staff hosted an informational booth with water conservation tips, water education curriculum, California-friendly landscape resources, and rebate information. (July 16)

GM Hagekhalil was a featured speaker at the National Association of Clean Water Agencies where he spoke on Creating a More Sustainable Path Forward for Clean Water Investment. (July 26)

Chairwoman Gray and GM Hagekhalil met with Governor Newsom to be briefed on the state's drought actions and to share progress by Metropolitan and its member agencies to save water. (July 29)

AGM Upadhyay provided an update to the Special Districts Association of Riverside County on the water supply outlook and how Metropolitan's One Water vision supports the region's water resiliency. (July 29)



Vice-Chair Kurtz joins Secretary Crowfoot and Pasadena officials to promote outdoor water



A new drought dashboard is available for the public to track water use in the State Water Project-dependent member agencies that are under the district's Emergency Water Conservation Program. The dashboard features a weekly accounting of cumulative water use for the SWP-dependent agencies as well as a monthly breakdown of water use by individual agency.

Legislative Services

Federal

GM Hagekhalil testified before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife in support of H.R. 8090, a bill that extends Reclamation's authority to produce basin studies for the next 10 years. He emphasized the important role basin studies play in building collaborative partnerships to understand the impacts of climate change and plan for sustainable water supplies. (July 21).

The House passed H.R. 5118, the Wildfire Response and Drought Resiliency Act. This bill contains numerous Metropolitan priorities including extending the Bureau of Reclamation's authority for the large-scale recycling program; authorizing \$600 million for Reclamation's Title XVI water recycling program; and authorizing \$100 million for new water conservation and efficiency grant programs at the USEPA.

State

Metropolitan's sponsored bills SB 230 (Portantino, D-La Cañada Flintridge) on constituents of emerging concern in drinking water and AB 1845 (Calderon, D-Whittier) on alternative delivery methods have been referred to Appropriations where they will be heard in August.

Other bills Metropolitan is tracking.:

- SB 1020 (Laird, D-Santa Cruz; Caballero, D-Merced; Durazo, D-Los Angeles; and Atkins, D-San Diego): The Clean Energy, Jobs, and Affordability Act of 2022 would require DWR to achieve 100 percent renewables or carbon free resources to power the State Water Project by 2030. Metropolitan has expressed concern about the cost to the State Water Contractors and is advocating for state financial assistance to protect ratepayers.
- SB 1157 (Hertzberg, D-Los Angeles) would require further study on the economic benefit and impacts of lowering the indoor water use standard to 42 gallons per capita per day by 2030.
- SB 222 (Dodd, D-Napa) would create a statewide water rate assistance program and move the administration to the State Water Board. Several new provisions are worrisome to retail water agencies, including administration costs and the ability of the State Water Board to maintain confidentiality of customer records.

Local

In addition to regularly scheduled government affairs meetings, Metropolitan staff participated in 67 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.

Media and Communications

Staff developed a new CII Checklist, a resource to help Southern California businesses save water. Water-saving tips are organized according to sectors ranging from manufacturing and industrial to landscaping and agriculture. The checklist was made available to member agencies for co-branding.

Staff presented drought communications activities at ACWA's Communications Committee meeting. (July 27)

Media Activities and Interviews

- Coordinated an interview with Associated Press reporter Kathleen Ronayne and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp for a story on the Colorado River Compact
- Arranged an interview with Politico reporter Lara Korte and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp about Bureau of Reclamation call for Basin states to cut Colorado River water use

- Set up an interview with staff for News Nation story regarding Colorado River issues
- Coordinated an interview with Los Angeles Times reporter Haley Smith and WRM Group Manager Coffey regarding the progress Metropolitan is seeing in response to its emergency drought actions
- Arranged an interview with Snapchat News reporter Jaida Evans and WRM's Polyzos for Good Luck Los Angeles regarding the impact of the drought on Southern Californians and how people can save water
- Set up an interview with CNN reporter Paul Vercammen and Water Use Efficiency Manager McDonnell regarding Metropolitan's turf removal program
- Coordinated an interview with Chief Executive/AGM Upadhyay and KNX 1070 on renaming recycled water program as Pure Water Southern California and the value of recycled water as a critical supply source
- Arranged a tour of Pure Water Southern California with External Affairs' Soni and Los Angeles Times reporter Jaimie Ding, followed by an interview on the project with WRM Group Manager Coffey
- Set up an interview with Ventura County Star's Cheri Carlson and WRM Group Manager Coffey about the early response to Metropolitan's emergency drought restrictions
- Coordinated an interview with KCRW-FM 89.3 reporter Caleigh Wells and WRM Group Manager Coffey regarding drought restrictions and available water supplies across the region
- Arranged an interview between KNBC4 reporter Alex Rozier and Coffey about the progress toward and compliance with Metropolitan's emergency drought restrictions
- Coordinated an interview between KABC and Water Use Efficiency Manager McDonnell about Metropolitan's water efficiency rebates and ways the public can conserve indoors and outdoors
- Coordinated a panel interview for Southern California Water Coalition's podcast featuring WRM Group Manager Coffey, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Thomas, and Chief Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Officer Crosson
- Arranged an interview between CNN en Español and External Affairs' Cetina about Metropolitan's turf replacement program
- Set up an interview with Univision and Cetina on Metropolitan's water supplies and drought response
- Set up an interview between Water Use Efficiency Manager and KNX-AM 1070 regarding Metropolitan's recent turf replacement program studies showing a "multiplier effect."
- Arranged an interview between New York Times reporter Jill Cowan and Water Use Efficiency Manager McDonnell for a story about the turf replacement program and the cultural shift away from lawns
- Set up a series of interviews with GM Hagekhalil, Chief SRI Officer Crosson, and Water System Operations' Jontry about Metropolitan's efforts to cut its carbon emissions as part of a documentary episode on a show called "Road to Zero," which will run on Arabic Language Station Al Hurra TV



GM Hagekhalil, "Road to Zero" documentary taping

Press releases

- Media event with Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot and Pasadena Water and Power
- Metropolitan's renaming of regional recycled water project to Pure Water Southern California
- Statements from Chairwoman Gray and GM Hagekhalil on release of the draft EIR for Delta Conveyance.

Creative Design

- Placed new assets across multiple media platforms, in seven languages and in banners in 135 Hispanic convenience stores and 30 Asian grocery stores throughout the service area
- Extended Metropolitan's "This is How we Save" video commercial to play on 116 electric vehicle charging stations in high traffic areas and dozens of gas station video monitors
- Finalized plans with Altman nurseries, a wholesaler growing of native plants, to provide campaign elements for in-store advertising banners and signs at Home Depot
- Collaborated with TreePeople on the development of co-branded social media posts and collateral about tree care in a drought, through a series of messages on social media

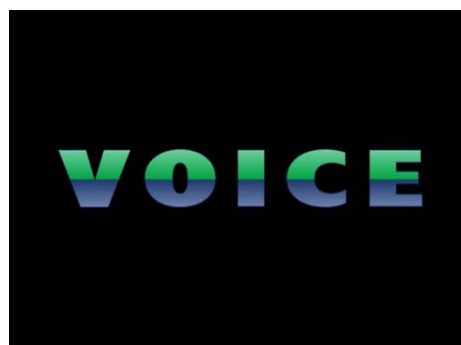


Social Media



- Generated more than 3 million impressions in July, reaching nearly 1 million people for the This is How We Save Water conservation campaign and turf removal programs.
- Posted highlights of External Affairs' Joe Chavez taking his family to see a Metropolitan billboard on which they are featured. This was one of the highest performing posts.
- Received more than 350,000 impressions for posts featuring home savings and lawn and garden tips.

- Created posts to celebrate National Disability Independence Day and highlight Metropolitan's newest Employee Resource Group, which strives to be the voice for employees with disabilities (as classified under the Americans with Disabilities Act), and to provide support, resources, engagement, and representation.



Website

- Updated progress dashboards tracking Metropolitan's response to the state audit and Shaw Law Group workplace assessments

Public Outreach and Member Services

Staff provided briefings and tours of Pure Water Southern California to IEUA (July 12), the Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (July 13), Gabrieleño/Tongva Band of Mission Indians (July 14), Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians—Kizh Nation (July 14); Liberty Hill Foundation (July 14), Southern CA Leadership Network (July 15), Azusa Rotary (July 21), WELL Legislative Workshop (July 23), LA Neighborhood Initiative (July 25), East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (July 27), and the Council for Watershed Health.

Construction/Maintenance Outreach

Distributed over 4,000 notifications to the communities of Temecula, Menifee, and Winchester regarding the hazards of the San Diego Canal. (July 1–8)

Met with city of Monterey Park staff to discuss local community coordination for Garvey Reservoir. (July 25)

Education and Community Relations

Metropolitan sponsored and staff provided a Water 101 presentation at the Kollab Water Connects Us All Summit, an event to help students explore career opportunities the water industry. (July 23)

Metropolitan staff provided water education materials and promotional items for the LaunchPad, a community outreach and education event organized by CSU-LA.



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Community Partnering and Sponsorship Program

The Community Partnership Program (CPP) approved four sponsorships:

- Palos Verde Irrigation District Water Education and Safety event
- California Latino Leadership Institute Careers in Water Field Trip
- Corona-Norco School District Water Distillation Laboratory Project
- Friends of The Water Conservation Garden Harvesting Water in Healthy Soil Workshops

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation



Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

Sustainability and Resiliency

- Speaking Engagements: SoCal Water Coalition Podcast, Southern California Leadership Network, Metropolitan Coffee with the GM, Interview with Al Hurra Road to Zero.
- With GM Hagekhalil, met with Delta Tribal Nations to discuss partnership opportunities.
- Kicked off the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Working Group with participants from throughout Metropolitan.
- Participated in the Water, Energy, Climate, Sustainability (WECS), Metropolitan Energy Sustainability, and Clean Air Initiatives Working Groups.
- Participated in the first U.S. Water Alliance Utility GHG Reductions Cohort Peer Exchange Group and the California Fifth Climate Change Assessment Kick-off.
- Completed climate-related legislative reviews for SB 852 (Dodd), SB 905 (Skinner), SB 989 (Hertzberg), SB 1145 (Laird), SB 1297 (Cortese), H.R. 2820 Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2022, and H.R. 7776 Water Resources Development Act of 2022.

Innovation

- Facilitated an internal discussion group exploring the most innovative approaches to addressing evaporation control for Metropolitan facilities.
- Hosted five Employee Innovation Council (EIC) groups to discuss and share feedback, inputs, and approaches to improving the efforts of the council towards the 5-year Metropolitan Innovation roadmap.
- EIC members participated in the industry-wide “Building the Narrative” Project. This project lays the foundation for identifying and creating an effective innovation story for Metropolitan.
- Hosted five meet-ups with entrepreneurs who introduced various emerging technologies that address: Elimination of PFAS, organic alternatives to chlorine for water treatment, E.coli detection and elimination, Mississippi River water transfer, and offshore desalination.
- Facilitated two peer-to-peer discussions between other utilities and Metropolitan. The city of Chicago shared its best practices in safety and Israel’s Mekorot shared distribution system water quality modeling.

Environmental Planning Section

Core Business: Environmental Planning and Regulatory Compliance Support

Bay Delta Initiatives

Delta Conveyance Project

- Continued coordination with Department of Water Resources to support development of information regulatory permit applications.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)

Engineering Services Group

Etiwanda Pipeline Relining Project

- Completed CEQA Addendum to the 2015 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to provide environmental clearance for additional pipe storage locations during construction.

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Rehabilitation Program

- Provided construction monitoring for valve storage area at Lake Mathews.
- Conducting ongoing revegetation monitoring for Allen-McColloch Urgent Relining Project.

Perris Valley Pipeline

- Completed environmental clearance in support of construction bid advertisement.

Pure Water Southern California

- Commented on the Draft Involvement Plan regarding approaches to public involvement for the program.
- Conducted ongoing biological and cultural resources technical surveys in support of the draft Program EIR.
- Coordinated with Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and consultant firms regarding various resource areas (including Air Quality/Health Risk Assessment), conveyance alignments, early start project, and community outreach.

Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Program EIR

- Initiated technical studies for the Weymouth Program EIR.



Environmental Planning Section consultants performed technical field surveys in support of the Weymouth plant and La Verne Site Improvements Program EIR.

Construction Monitoring

- Provided construction monitoring support for the following projects: Orange County Feeder Relining, Reach 3, 4, 4A; Weymouth Basins 5-8 Rehabilitation; and Weymouth La Verne Shops, Phase 4 Upgrades.

External Affairs Group

- Provided legislative analysis on amendments to Senate Bill (SB) 1392 (McGuire)—Aquaculture: registration, renewal, surcharge, and penalty fees: reports

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)

Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation Office

Climate Action Plan (CAP) Monitoring and Reporting

- Began preparation the CAPDash website in support of transparent tracking and reporting of CAP measures.
- Prepared a template checklist for subsequent CEQA analysis of CAP projects.
- Accepted Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) merit award for Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan, which was adopted by the Board in May 2022.

Water System Operations Group

- Provided environmental monitoring for the Foothill Feeder exposed pipeline emergency repairs.
- Provided CEQA analysis, environmental planning support, and environmental clearance for the following O&M activities: routine road maintenance for the Allen-McColloch Pipeline, Lower Feeder, Rialto Feeder, Santiago Lateral, Upper Feeder, Yorba Linda Feeder, and East Orange County Feeder No. 2.

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Compliance

- Submitted administrative draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and draft Reclamation Plan to the California State Mining and Geology Board for review and comment before public release of documents.

Reserve Management

Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Met with CALFIRE to discuss the results of the 2022 prescribed burns and prepare for burns to be conducted in 2023.
- Conducted approximately four acres of weed abatement to control invasive Russian thistle.
- Repaired multiple fence cuts along the Reserve's western boundary with residential properties.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Conducted vegetation management in established habitat management units.
- Installed addition container plants in the Tocalota Creek restoration site.
- Met with CALFIRE to plan for prescribed burns to be conducted in 2023.
- Staffed the Alamos Schoolhouse environmental education facility.
- Mowed and conducted weed abatement around burrowing owl artificial burrows.



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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