Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

Call to Action & Commitment to Regional Reliability for All Member Agencies

Item 7-13
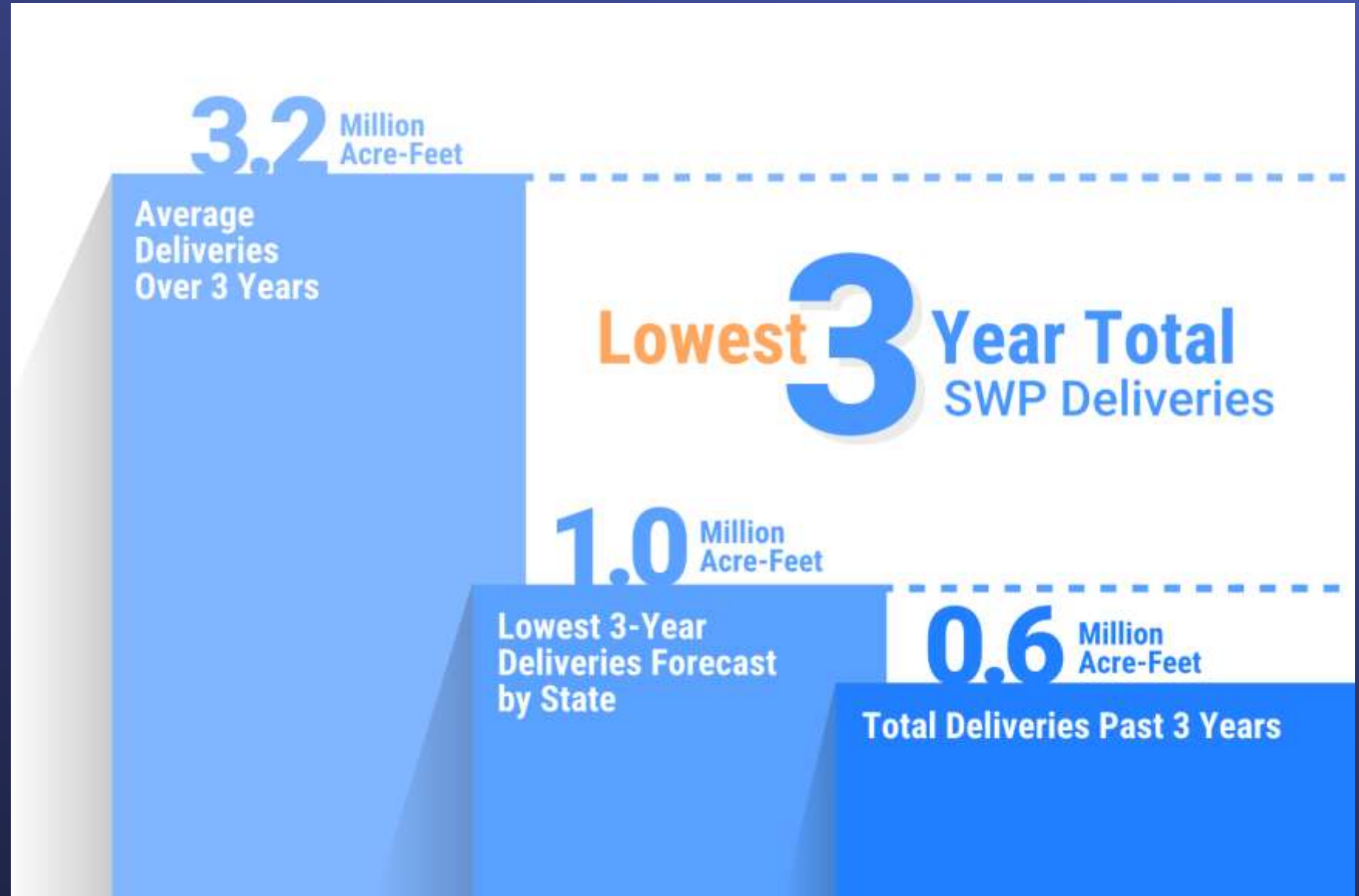
August 15, 2022

Today's Board Action

Call to Action & Commitment to Regional Reliability for All Member Agencies

- Adopt resolution declaring
  - Southern California's water reliability crisis
  - Intent to provide equitable reliability through three policy statements
  - Urgency of action
  - Needed elements of the solution
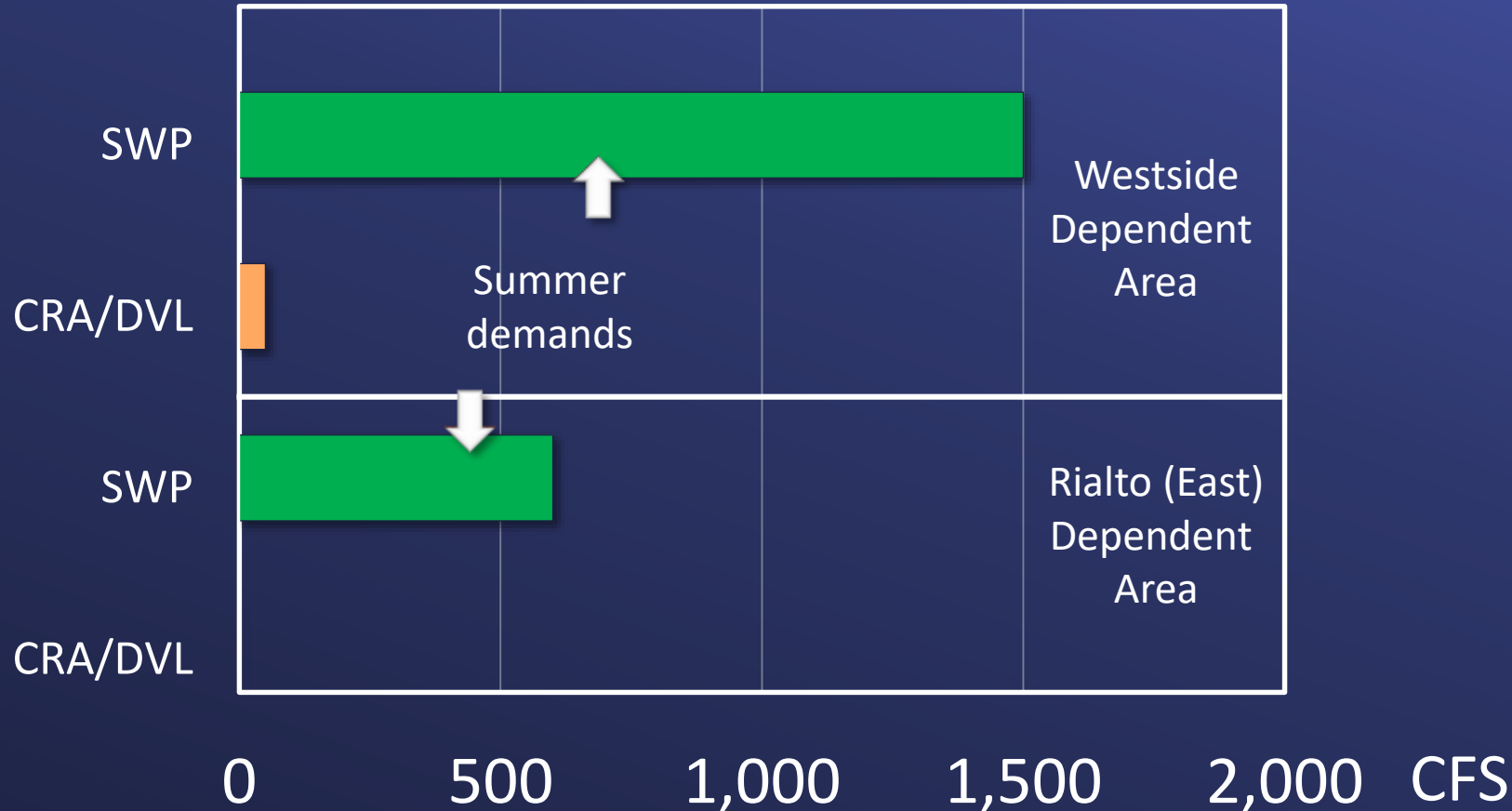
Severe Drought Depleted Water Supply

Existing infrastructure unable to connect supply/storage and demand

Relative Flow Capacity from SWP or Colorado River/DVL System

Infrastructure limits reliability when calling upon Colorado River/ Diamond Valley Lake
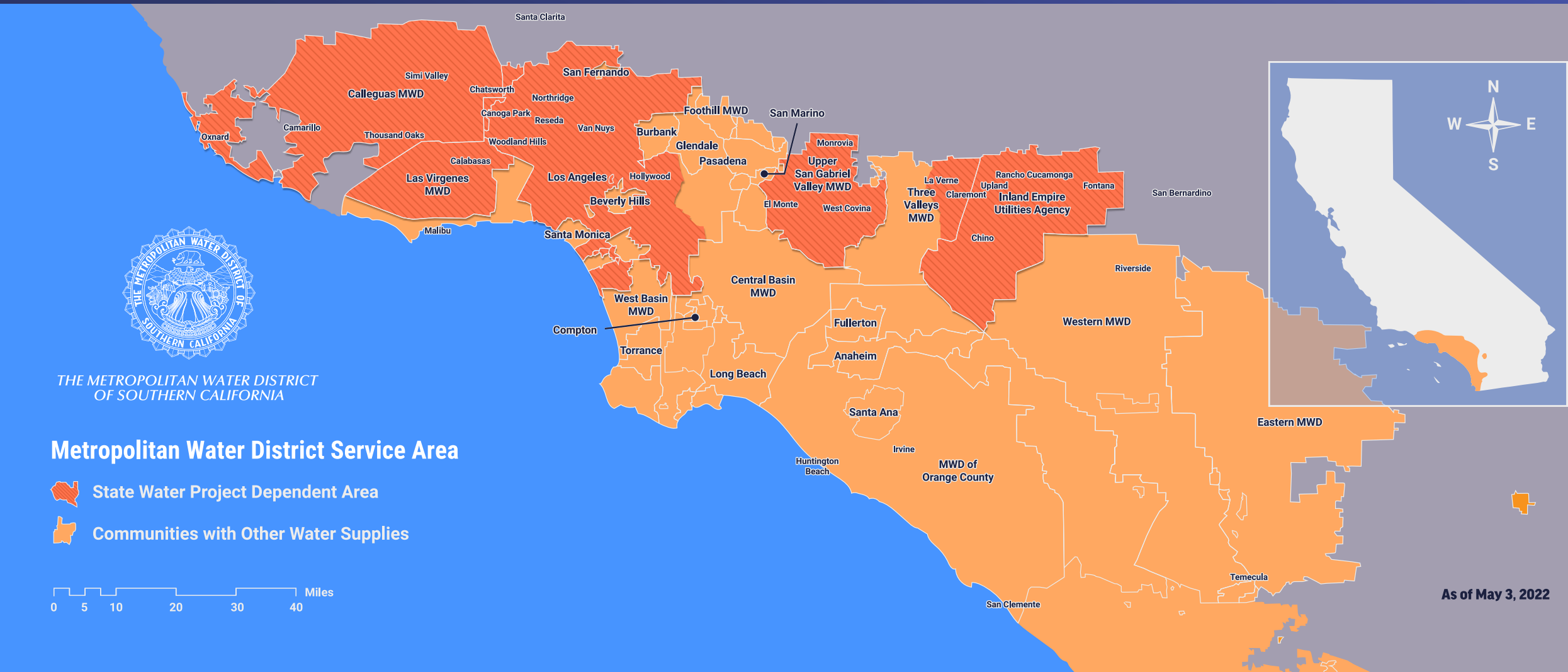
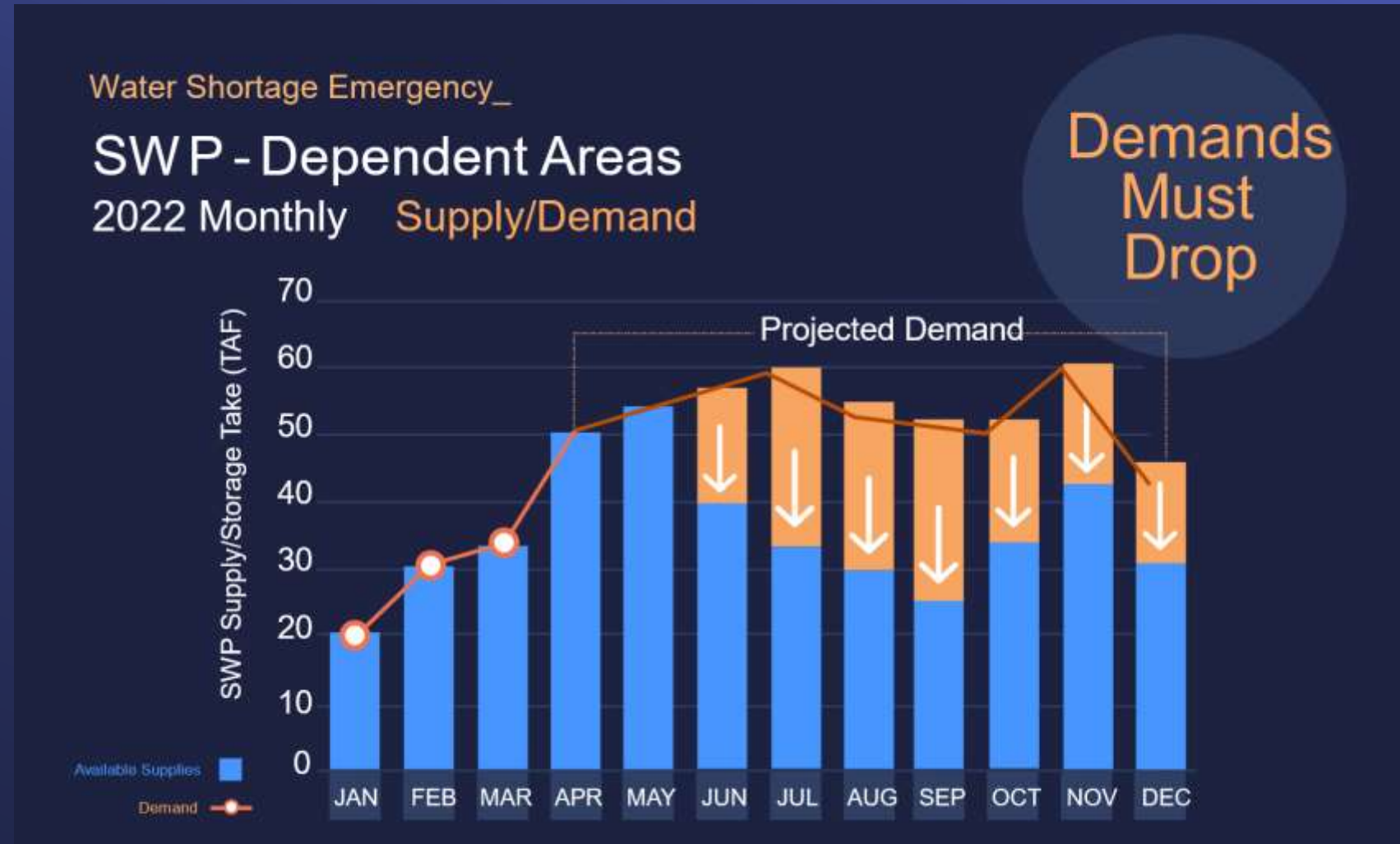# Existing infrastructure unable to connect supply/storage and demand

Used in 2022

Total dry-year storage

Supply Constrained in 2022 for SWP Dependent Area

SWP-dependent areas taking painful cuts, as high as **73%**

Water Shortage Emergency_

SWP - Dependent Areas
2022 Monthly   Supply/Demand

Demands Must Drop

Projected Demand

SWP Supply/Storage Take (TAF)

70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0

Available Supplies

Demand

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Problem in Context

- Six agencies, serving six million people must cut their use of SWP by up to 73% (35% on average)

- Mandatory and painful water restrictions required with $2,000/AF penalties or total ban of outdoor watering

- Other areas face lesser requirements under statewide regulation

- This disparity is unacceptable

Regional Reliability in Crisis

Call to Action & Commitment to Regional Reliability

"Whatever is done should be done for the benefit of the whole and whatever is done for the benefit of the whole should be shared by all the parts."

Weymouth   Mulholland   Whitsett

Board Chair W.P. Whitsett
(Present Day Club, Riverside, 1930)

Problem Statement

Due to limited infrastructure, Metropolitan cannot provide the SWP-dependent agencies equitable access to water supply and storage assets during severe droughts.

Policy Background

- 1928 Broad powers for developing, storing, and distributing water
- 1931 No advantage to any area
- 1967 No "second-class" municipalities
- 1991 Mission statement
- 1996, 2004, 2010, 2015 Integrated Water Resources Plan
- 1988, 1996, 2007 System overview and integrated area studies
- 2008 Water Supply Allocation Plan
- 2022 IRP Needs Assessment, General Manager's Strategic Priorities

Policy Background

Metropolitan's clear intent was to provide equitable reliability across its service area through a balanced combination of infrastructure, storage, demand management, and water supply programs.

Policy Statements to crystalize intent and focus urgency

- Provide equivalent water supply reliability to all agencies through an interconnected and robust system of supplies, storage, and programs

- Reconfigure and expand existing portfolio and infrastructure to provide sufficient access to the integrated system and programs to achieve equivalent reliability for all member agencies

- Eliminate disparate water supply reliability through a One Water approach

Call to Action

- Drive a decision to a portfolio of projects and programs to address the problem
- Bring the portfolio and implementation plans forward for Board approval in February 2023
- Reprioritize to expedite critical work
- Utilize alternative project delivery methods
- Provide quarterly updates

Call to Action (cont.)

Action needed in four main areas

- Upgrade infrastructure to ensure equitable access to supply and storage assets

- Increase long-term water savings through water use efficiency and removal of non-functional turf

- Advance development of local supplies

- Align imported supply planning and actions for the full potential impacts of climate change

Board Options

Option #1

- Adopt the Resolution committing to regional reliability for all member agencies

Option #2

- Modify the Resolution to expand or limit the direction to the General Manager to address the inequitable access to water supply and storage assets

Option #3

- Do not adopt the Resolution

Board Options

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1