

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 9318

**AFFIRMING A CALL TO ACTION AND A
COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL RELIABILITY
FOR ALL MEMBER AGENCIES**

1) WHEREAS, Metropolitan seeks to provide water supply reliability to its Member Agencies.

- a) Metropolitan’s enabling legislation provides broad powers for “developing, storing, and distributing water for domestic and municipal purposes.”
- b) The Board in 1931 established, “Neither surface nor subsurface storage shall be created to the advantage of any area within the limits of the District, or elsewhere, unless such storage is a necessary and economical part of the general engineering plans which may be accepted.”
- c) The Board in 1991 established its current mission to “provide the service area with adequate supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.”
- d) The Board in 1996 adopted its first in a series of Integrated Water Resource Plans (IRPs) to identify infrastructure and supply programs to achieve 100 percent reliability.
- e) The Board in 2008 adopted a water supply allocation plan (WSAP) for use when regional shortages exist to manage shortage conditions felt across the entire service area.

2) WHEREAS, Metropolitan’s infrastructure today cannot provide equivalent water supply reliability to all Member Agencies.

- a) Metropolitan’s distribution system was designed decades ago to operate by gravity and to serve large portions of the service area from a single supply system.
- b) Past reliability efforts focused largely on increasing supply availability rather than connecting member agency demand to multiple imported sources
- c) Infrastructure constraints prevent the State Water Project (SWP)-dependent agencies from accessing sufficient amounts of supply from the Colorado River Aqueduct, or from storage in Diamond Valley Lake or Lake Mead
- d) Metropolitan’s actions to operate existing infrastructure to distribute water across the service area, such as the rehabilitation of the Greg Avenue pumping plant, can only meet a small portion of SWP dependent-area needs.

3) WHEREAS, infrastructure constraints created substantial and disparate impacts between Member Agencies.

- a) Under the Emergency Water Conservation Program, six out of 26 member agencies, serving about one-third of Southern California’s population, were required to severely constrain outdoor water use or comply with strict volumetric limits beginning on June 1, 2022.
- b) These affected member agencies must cut their use of Metropolitan’s SWP supply by up to 73 percent, or face volumetric penalties of \$2,000 per acre-foot or a first-ever total ban on outdoor irrigation.

- c) Meanwhile, other member agencies face lesser requirements under statewide regulation to implement demand reductions under Level 2 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plans, locally determined to achieve up to 20 percent water use reduction, and without volumetric penalties.

4) WHEREAS, Severe drought curtailed Metropolitan’s State Water Project Supplies.

- a) Beginning in water year 2020 (October 1, 2019, to September 30, 2020), the watersheds supplying the California State Water Project (SWP) received below-average precipitation. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) classified water years 2020 - 2022 as dry or critically dry.
- b) The three-year sequence of water years 2020 - 2022 (October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2022) is projected to be the driest on record in California for statewide precipitation. Precipitation in Northern California during the three months from January through March 2022 was the driest on record for that region.
- c) On March 18, 2022, DWR reduced the SWP Table A allocation for 2022 from 15 to only five percent of contract amounts. Table A allocations for 2020 and 2021 were 20 and five percent, respectively. The last three years marks the lowest three-year combined deliveries of allocated water in the history of the SWP.

5) WHEREAS, Metropolitan and its Member Agencies have taken specific actions to preserve SWP supplies.

- a) Metropolitan’s member agencies have, where feasible, operated their systems to reduce dependency on Metropolitan’s supply delivered through service connections fed from the SWP system.
- b) On August 17, 2021, by Minute Item 52481, Metropolitan’s Board adopted a resolution declaring a “Condition 2 – Water Supply Alert” to preserve Metropolitan’s supply for the region.
- c) On November 9, 2021, by Minute Item 52581, Metropolitan’s Board adopted a resolution recognizing the statewide drought emergency, declaring specified emergency conditions to exist within portions of its service area, and calling on member agencies to take various actions to preserve Metropolitan’s supply from the SWP.
- d) On April 26, 2022, by Minute Item 52802, Metropolitan’s Board adopted a resolution declaring a Water Shortage Emergency Condition and established an Emergency Water Conservation Program for member agencies within the SWP-Dependent Area.

6) WHEREAS, Metropolitan has sought additional water for the Human Health and Safety needs of the residents in the SWP-dependent areas.

- a) Supply and infrastructure capabilities within the SWP Dependent Area became insufficient in 2022 to meet basic human health and safety needs, as defined by State Water Resources Control Board regulations and based on 55 gallons per capita per day.
- b) Although DWR granted Metropolitan’s request for additional supply for unmet Human Health and Safety water needs, this water comes under certain conditions: Metropolitan must impose mandatory conservation and must also repay any water borrowed for this purpose within five years.

7) AND WHEREAS, Metropolitan and the affected Member Agencies jointly agree on this problem statement:

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

- 1) **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California hereby affirms the following:
 - a) Southern California's water reliability is in crisis because of record-breaking drought and insufficient pipeline connectivity for imported supplies and existing regional storage to serve all member agencies.
 - b) The disparity in water supply reliability between member agencies is unacceptable.
 - c) Serving any member agency from only one supply source creates a long-term and unacceptable risk.

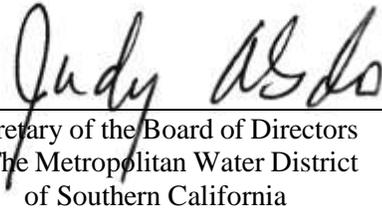
- 2) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board intends to provide equitable reliability across the service area through a balanced combination of infrastructure, storage, demand management, and water supply programs. These three policy statements affirm this intent:
 - a) All member agencies must receive equivalent water supply reliability through an interconnected and robust system of supplies, storage, and programs.
 - b) Metropolitan will reconfigure and expand (1) its existing portfolio to provide sufficient access to the integrated system of water sources, conveyance and distribution, storage, and (2) programs to achieve equivalent levels of reliability to all member agencies.
 - c) Metropolitan will eliminate disparate water supply reliability through a One Water integrated planning and implementation approach to manage finite water resources for long-term resilience and reliability, meeting both community and ecosystem needs.

- 3) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the urgency of this inequity requires a Call to Action where the General Manager is directed to:
 - a) Identify a portfolio of projects and programs, in coordination with the member agencies, to address the problem statement in this resolution. The selected portfolio must include infrastructure improvements to deliver available water supplies to the SWP-dependent areas. The portfolio must also be balanced through new storage and supply programs and local supply development and management.
 - b) Bring a recommended portfolio and implementation plan for Board approval in February 2023.
 - c) Reprioritize CIP projects and spending plans as needed to expedite work on critical and time-sensitive elements to address the supply and infrastructure inequity. If available, use alternative project delivery methods to deliver the projects.
 - d) Provide quarterly reports on the status of the drought emergency projects.

- 4) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs the General Manager to address these actions through a One Water approach with robust Board oversight through the implementation phase of the IRP. The cornerstone elements of the actions must include the following:
 - a) Upgrade water infrastructure to ensure equitable access to supply and storage assets.
 - b) Increase long-term water savings through water use efficiency and transformation of non-functional turfgrass into a more appropriate Southern California landscape.
 - c) Advance development of local supplies for recycled water, groundwater recovery, stormwater capture, and desalination.

- d) Align imported supply planning and actions for the full potential impacts of climate change, using the best available science. These actions include stabilizing those supplies through conveyance improvements, storage infrastructure and programs, water-loss prevention, and voluntary transfers.
- 5) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board recognizes that the urgency of these improvements may appear to diminish when this present drought eases. The Board affirms that the General Manager must continue to pursue these infrastructure investments even if temporary relief is provided and the water supply conditions improve.
- 6) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Manager is hereby directed to continue the actions and activities specified in Board Resolution 9313 (August 17, 2021), 9289 (November 9, 2021), and 9305 (April 26, 2002), except as expanded or limited herein.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at its meeting held on Aug. 15, 2022.



Secretary of the Board of Directors
of The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California