



# General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of September 2022



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# Message from the General Manager

Last month, I wrote about the challenge of asking the public to stop watering their lawns during a record-breaking heat wave so that we could fix a leak in the Upper Feeder pipeline.

This month, I'm happy to report that the repair was completed ahead of schedule. In addition, we successfully managed and conserved the precious State Water Project supplies that flowed to customers while the pipeline was shut down.

In fact, we drew upon only half of the backup water supply from the State Water Project that we thought we might have to use during the shutdown. This was achieved through a combination of operational adjustments coordinated with the affected Member Agencies, conservation in response to our public appeals, and Metropolitan crews getting the job finished early.

Repairing the Upper Feeder was an all-hands effort to prevent an emergency, and it put on full display the ingenuity, dedication and resourcefulness of our Metropolitan team. Not only did the final work take place suspended above a river and amid record breaking heat and volatile weather, it was the culmination of months of planning and coordination. After crafting a temporary patch to keep the leak from becoming a rupture, Metropolitan staff fabricated in-house a replacement slip-joint because we could do it faster than the market could provide it. Our facilities and those of our Member Agencies had to adapt to the operational demands of the shutdown and limited water supplies. We spoke to the public in concert with our Member Agencies, and the public responded by reducing their water use.

It's projects like this that exemplify the best of Metropolitan - technical expertise, innovation, teamwork, and a tireless commitment to the vital mission of supplying water to Southern California.

Thank you for all your contributions to our championship team.

We are one,  
Adel



**“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”**

**– Phil Jackson,  
Basketball Hall of  
Famer**



# 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 new cohort of Metropolitan Management University has been launched and new modules for EEO and DE&I are being developed and will be implemented by January 2023.

The DEI Office is continuing to hire staff in order to drive GM strategic priorities such as Tribal Outreach and Engagement.

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.

Metropolitan became a signatory to IEWorks, a workforce collaborative of water and wastewater agencies in the Inland Empire focused on developing and implementing apprenticeships, internships, pre-apprenticeships, and career awareness programs.

The Organizational Development and Training Unit held the third session of its Metropolitan Management University for 15 newly promoted managers. The agenda for the day covered effective delegation skills, persuasive communication, and team member engagement.

## Sustain Metropolitan's mission with a strengthened business model

Conduct a careful, deliberative and inclusive review of the rate structure to ensure the business model can adapt to changing needs of the member agencies and support sustainable local and imported supplies.

We have initiated interview surveys of board members and member agency managers to get their direct input on customer service, priorities, and future challenges. This input will be summarized and reported at an upcoming board workshop and considered as we advance our resource planning and organizational assessments

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.

Gov. Newsom signed state budget bills authorizing \$130M in earmarks for Metropolitan emergency drought projects (\$50M) and Pure Water Southern California (\$80M). State Water Resources Control Board will release \$80M to Metropolitan for Pure Water within 60 days.

Staff participated in a Bureau of Reclamation webinar on Inflation Reduction Act funding to determine eligibility and guidelines for conservation and infrastructure grants.

Sale of the Sunset Garage was finalized, which will provide \$8.5M in non-rate revenue to Metropolitan.

## 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.

Staff developed water orders for both the State Water Project (SWP) and Colorado River deliveries, which support delivery of Colorado River water into the SWP-dependent area. Staff successfully obtained additional Human Health and Safety supplies to offset a portion of the impact of the Upper Feeder Shutdown.

Following board authorization of a consulting agreement for final design of improvements to the Foothill Pumping Plant, staff has completed a detailed layout of facilities and system descriptions.

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 Pure Water Southern California project was awarded \$80M from the state to accelerate project design and pursue early delivery components. ESG is working to incorporate sustainability and carbon footprint criteria into at least two capital projects, including Pure Water SC. The South Coast Air Quality Management District issued the operating permit to the demonstration plant, which allows plant influent flows up to its maximum level of 1 MGD that will expand our testing configurations.

SRI and Fleet Services kicked off the ZEV Task Force to develop plans for a shift to zero emission vehicles operated by Metropolitan and to pursue funding to support this transition.

As DWR held three public meetings about the Delta Conveyance draft EIR, Metropolitan shared information with member agencies about the proposal and EIR. The public comment period was extended to December 16.

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

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

Metropolitan successfully completed the shutdown of the Upper Feeder at the Santa Ana River bridge for the emergency repair of a leaking bellows joint. A new 116-inch diameter, 10-ton slip joint was manufactured at the La Verne shops. Staff and the contractor installed the new joint and completed the shutdown nearly two days ahead of schedule. Consumers also stepped up to heed Metropolitan's call for no outdoor watering during the shutdown with water use in the affected areas decreasing by an average of 30 percent, saving over 1.1 billion gallons of limited SWP supplies over a two-week period.

Metropolitan activated its Emergency Operations Center and two field Incident Command Posts in response to the Fairview Fire near Hemet. Fire department helicopters used water from DVL in their wildfire response. Staff were embedded within the Riverside County Fire Command Center allowing regular communication with fire commanders, which helped to ensure the protection and safety of Metropolitan's employees and nearby facilities. Lessons learned from this event will be used to update emergency plans as needed to further enhance Metropolitan's preparedness.

Metropolitan responded with several critical actions to reduce energy load and increase supply for grid reliability during the extreme heat emergency in early September. This included reducing pumping load at Gene and intake pumping plants during peak demand periods, increasing flows on the Rialto Pipeline allowing DWR to peak generate at Devil Canyon, and adjusting pipeline flows to operate Red Mountain hydroelectric plant. Staff's effective response totaled over 58 MW of actions to support California's grid reliability.

The Board authorized a new five-year agreement with Pure Technologies for condition assessment services as part of Metropolitan's PCCP program. Also, as part of the Data Center Modernization Project, staff reached a milestone by completing the migration of production servers and applications to the new primary datacenter.

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

The innovation team evaluated technologies addressing greywater solutions, dashboard analytics, pipe metering systems and floating solar.

## 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.

The transfer of website management from a consultant to Metropolitan is complete, with training underway for website-content program leads.

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

Staff has convened cross-functional teams to develop workplans to better engage tribal communities in Metropolitan initiatives and better address the needs of underserved communities.



# 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**

During the month of September, the Professional Services Contracting Team (PSCT) completed a crucial acquisition in support of the Alternative Project Delivery Methods Initiative. Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1309 – Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Negotiation requires a consultant to provide professional services to assist with the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) administration. The consultant shall report to the Manager of Construction Contracts and provide guidance, support, and direction by monitoring compliance with the PLA. Governor Newsom signed AB 1845, sponsored by Metropolitan, to allow the use of alternative project delivery methods.

## **Bay-Delta Initiatives**

In response to requests to extend the comment period for the public Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project, DWR extended it from October 27 to Friday, December 16, 2022. The Draft EIR describes project alternatives, potential environmental impacts, and identifies mitigation measures to help avoid or minimize impacts. The Delta Conveyance Project website ([Delta Conveyance Homepage \(deltaconveyanceproject.com\)](https://deltaconveyanceproject.com)) includes access to the Draft EIR and informational resources on how the public can provide comments.

## **Chief Financial Officer**

Successfully executed the financial closing of the 2022 Series B and 2022 Series C transactions priced late July.

## **Colorado River**

Metropolitan continued to work with other agencies in California to develop a plan to conserve a significant amount of water in Lake Mead from 2023 through 2026.

## **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

Even as the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Office is still being built, members of the DEI Office were out and about driving DEI engagement both at Met as well as in the community. From attending the “One Water Summit” hosted by US Water Alliance to exhibiting at the 11th Annual Veterans and Small Business Summit and engaging with our ERGs, the DEI Office is moving forward with embedding DEI in the fabric of the work of Met.

## **Engineering Services**

Engineering, Water System Operations, Environmental Planning, External Affairs and PCL Construction collaborated to plan and flawlessly execute a shutdown of the Upper Feeder to replace a damaged expansion joint with a new slip joint, which was designed and fabricated by Metropolitan staff. Despite high winds and flash flood warnings in the vicinity of the Santa Ana River work site, which temporarily halted construction, PCL Construction installed the slip joint ahead of schedule and the Upper Feeder was returned to service as planned.

## **Equal Employment Opportunity Office**

The EEO Office is building its resources with the creation and filling of the Chief EEO Investigator position. EEO has worked diligently to address state audit recommendations and is currently ahead of schedule with its submissions. EEO Office staff have engaged with employees on an individual, union and ERG level and will continue to streamline EEO processes and procedures based on best practices and employee feedback.

## **External Affairs**

An extensive media and community outreach effort reached large audiences in Southern California and resulted in significant water conservation by more than four million residents during the shutdown of the Upper Feeder pipeline for emergency repairs.

## Human Resources

During this month staff focused on preparing for open enrollment, working on responses to recommendations from the State Audit and continuing negotiations with bargaining units.

## Information Technology

Phase II of the Enterprise Data Analytics project is underway. Our consultant, Gartner, will be working with Metropolitan staff to document detailed requirement specifications for the top 25 analytics use cases as defined in Phase I.

## Real Property

Valley-Wide Park at the Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) East Recreation Area was used as incident command for the Fairview Fire. The DVL East Marina parking lot was also made available to fire authorities for equipment inspection and repair to enable rapid redeployment of equipment to the front lines.

## Security Management

This month, Metropolitan Security Specialists worked jointly with Union Pacific's (UP) Railroad Police and Special Agents to safely and humanely remove an encampment and trespassers located next to the Washington Pressure Control Structure (PCS). The illegal encampment endangered the safety of Metropolitan staff and encroached on critical infrastructure easements from LADWP, Metropolitan, LA County Flood Control, and Union Pacific Railroad.

## Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

SRI worked closely with WRM on the draft model ordinance provisions addressing non-functional turf and is coordinating Member Agency signatories on the Colorado River Urban Water Efficiency MOU. The team held its regular CAP Working Group and Employee Innovation Council. The CSRIO also presented at the LA Business Council, LA Waterkeeper Event and the One Water Summit in Milwaukee.

## Water Resource Management

Conservation activity has increased this summer with nearly a five-fold increase in residential and commercial applications for turf removal compared to last year. In addition, agencies in the SWP dependent area have continued to meet the overall reductions of use of SWP supplies since the Emergency Water Conservation Program began in June. Finally, staff completed water orders for the Colorado River and State Water Project system in preparation for 2023 deliveries.

## Water System Operations

The entire western U.S. experienced an extreme heat event in early September. On September 6, a record peak load was hit in California with the state on the verge of instituting rolling blackouts. Metropolitan took several actions to reduce energy load and increase supply to help maintain the state's grid reliability. This included reducing pumping loads at Gene and Intake pumping plants during peak hours, increasing peaking flows on the Rialto Pipeline using Live Oak Reservoir which allowed DWR to increase generation at Devil Canyon Powerplant, and adjusting pipeline flows to allow Red Mountain hydroelectric plant to operate. Staff's innovative operational responses resulted in over 58 MW of actions to support electrical grid reliability during this historic emergency event.



# Upcoming Board Items

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

<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nomination and Election for Board Secretary for two-year term effective January 1, 2023</li><li>• State Mandated AB 1234 Ethics Training (2-hour training following Board meeting)</li><li>• Department Head Performance Evaluations</li><li>• Presentation on Budget Expenditure Trend for FY 2022/23 and Status of New Revenues and Grants</li><li>• Board Report of the Benefits of Various Project Portfolios for State Water Project Dependent Areas following IRP Testing</li><li>• Board Workshop on Planning Processes</li><li>• Water Supply Resiliency Plan Workshop</li></ul>
<b>December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inaugural Update on Climate Action Plan Implementation</li><li>• Oral Briefing on Status of State and Federal Bay-Delta Regulatory Processes</li><li>• Authorize Colorado River Protection Volume Agreements</li><li>• Authorize commencement of Pure Water Southern California with State funding</li><li>• Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2023</li><li>• Public Hearing on SB60</li></ul>
<b>January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delta Conveyance Project Follow-up Workshop</li></ul>
<b>February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board Report on Portfolio of Recommended Actions for State Water Dependent Areas</li><li>• Metropolitan Storage Portfolio Workshop</li></ul>



**"It is exciting to help Metropolitan expand its partnership with the Quechan Indian Tribe. This 2-Year Pilot will inform any future programs we may have, and so its success is very important to us and to the Tribe."**

*Kira Alonzo, Supply Acquisition Team Manager  
and Anna Garcia, Assistant Engineer II*

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Building on their history of partnership, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation have launched a two-year pilot program to conserve Colorado River water and make it available to Southern California cities, while supporting the Tribe's agricultural economy. Under the voluntary program, Metropolitan will pay interested farmers not to grow crops on a portion of their lands between April and July in 2022 and 2023.

## IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

The conserved water will be made available for urban needs and help California boost record-low water levels in Lake Mead. In the hot summer, farmers typically grow lower-value, water-intensive commodities such as grains and grasses. By fallowing a portion of their land during hotter months, farmers on Quechan tribal land earn financial incentives in exchange for not growing these water-intensive crops.

## MEMORABLE MOMENT

Consensus on the final Program Agreement came after several months of collaborative review between many staff throughout Metropolitan and the Quechan Tribe and its Legal Counsel. As a result, the agreement was ready to be executed at the 2021 Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) Conference held at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada at a special signing ceremony. For the first time, Metropolitan staff met Quechan President Jordan Joaquin, Quechan Water Technician Frank Venegas, and the Tribe's Legal Counsel Jay Weiner of Rosette, LLP in person, after solely working together virtually for many months.



# Water Resources and Engineering

## Water Resource Management



### **Ensure Access to Sufficient Water Supplies to Operate a Full Colorado River Aqueduct In Times of Drought.**

Staff submitted Metropolitan's Colorado River diversion request for 2023 to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The ordering process with Reclamation helps ensure full access to the available Colorado River supplies. This request for about 1,104 thousand acre-feet includes all transfer water and water that becomes available through the Colorado River priority system.

Water Resource Management (WRM) staff attended a three-day meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Work Group (Work Group) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The meeting included an update on the Paradox Valley Unit, a facility designed to remove high salinity flow from the Dolores River (a tributary to the Colorado River) and sequester it below ground via deep well injection. The facility is currently halfway through a six-month test whereby brine is being injected at two-thirds of normal well capacity. So far, the test has been successful—wellhead pressure and seismic activity have been within expected ranges—suggesting that Reclamation may be able to return the well to ongoing service after the test is complete in December.

### **Implement Regional Conservation Program**

Staff continued efforts to promote conservation and to implement Metropolitan's regional conservation program. Reservations for turf removal have risen sharply in recent months. Comparing June through August of 2021 with the same period this year, applications for turf removal have increased fivefold. Staff is monitoring activity and regularly reporting to the Board through the One Water Committee.

Other activities this month include presenting to Eastern Municipal Water District Board on the Flume Household Water Use Study and holding Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) classes in Carson and Downey in partnership with the California Landscape Contractors Association. MWELo classes taught planning staff how to review applications and implement the ordinance.

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

Staff continued implementation of the Emergency Water Conservation Program (EWCP) to address severely limited State Water Project (SWP) system water supplies. Since the June 1 start date, the affected member agencies in the SWP-dependent areas continued to show reductions in purchases from Metropolitan compared with historical and projected levels, indicating that consumers are responding to demand-cutting measures. Path One watering day limit compliance requirements remained at one-day-per-week watering restrictions during September. Staff is continuously monitoring and reporting water use performance to the affected member agencies to ensure that SWP water usage stays on track to remain within the available supplies.

During August and September, staff met and coordinated with the SWP-dependent member agencies to estimate total 2023 unmet human health and safety water needs in preparation for Metropolitan's submittal of its 2023 SWP Preliminary Water Delivery Schedule to the California Water Department of Water Resources (DWR) by October 1.

# Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

As requested by DWR, Metropolitan's transmittal included a preliminary delivery schedule for human health and safety demands under a zero percent Table A allocation.

Staff completed the 2022 Annual Local Production Survey, which involved extensive technical collaboration with the member agencies. Local supply survey data are crucial for Metropolitan's regional planning efforts, including estimating retail-level per capita water usage and tracking trends in local supply development.

Staff participated in CalDesal committee meetings in October. Key activities included establishing a team to support implementation of the desalination actions cited in the Governor's Water Supply Strategy released in August. CalDesal will hold a board meeting and its annual fall mixer on November 30th during the Association of California Water Agencies' (ACWA) upcoming Fall Conference in Indian Wells. Staff also participated in a board meeting of the Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC). The SCSC is holding a Salinity Workshop at Metropolitan on October 26th. Information on the Workshop and a registration link are available on SCSC's website here: <https://www.socalsalinity.org/>

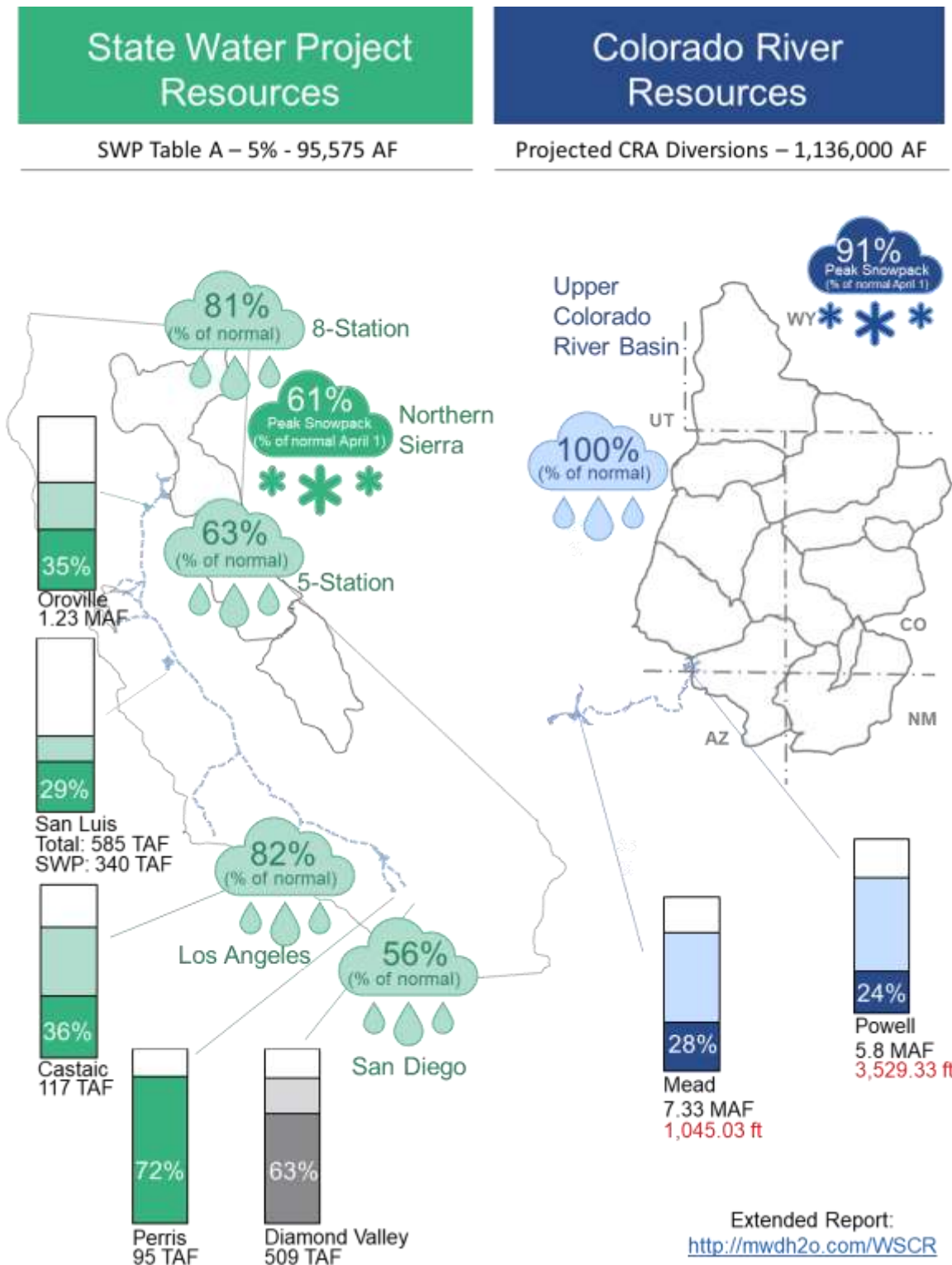
## **Promote Metropolitan's Technical Capabilities and Innovation Efforts to Advance the Understanding of Water Resources Management**

Staff held a Peer-2-Peer technical exchange with the Chicago Department of Water Management on Emergency Planning best practices. The meeting included a discussion on unique tools and innovative approaches each agency has implemented to improve emergency response. The Chicago Department of Water Management serves water to the City of Chicago as well as serving as a wholesale agency to over 100 suburban areas. Staff also met with a provider of floating PV systems for reservoirs. The company, Noria Energy, installed one of California's first floating solar installations in Healdsburg.



# Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)



As of September 30, 2022

## Bay-Delta Initiatives

### Resiliency

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative groups called for in the 2019 Biological Opinions (BiOp) for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project, and in the 2020 Incidental Take Permit for long-term operation of the SWP, to address science needs and inform management and operation of the water projects. In September, staff participated in meetings and provided input to develop: (1) a longfin smelt conceptual model to guide research needs, (2) study plans to evaluate the effects of the North Delta Foodweb Subsidy action using Delta smelt cage studies, and (3) priority monitoring needed to estimate juvenile production of steelhead.

#### **Delta Island Activities SB 88 – Water Diversion Measurement Compliance**

Since 2016, Metropolitan, along with Reclamation Districts (RD) #756—Bouldin Island, RD #2025—Holland Tract, RD #2026—Webb Tract, and RD #2028—Bacon Island, has been working diligently on installation of up to 88 magnetic flow meters on the most widely used siphons to measure and report diversions consistent with SB 88. During this period, fourteen meters (≈56 percent) have been installed as a part of Phase 4 (installation of 25 total meters).

Metropolitan also started building numerical correlations (case-by-case) between metered diversion to OpenET (evapotranspiration relationship to crop/plant consumptive use). This effort is to evaluate various diversion measurement devices with other data gathering methodologies, including OpenET to determine whether they would meet SB 88 requirements.

### Sustainability

#### **Delta Conveyance**

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) on July 27, 2022. It describes project alternatives and potential environmental impacts and identifies mitigation measures to help avoid, minimize, or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts. In response to requests to extend the comment period, on September 23, DWR announced that the comment period has been extended from October 27, to Friday, December 16, 2022, giving agencies and the public 143 days to comment.

A Change Sheet for the DCP Draft EIR is now available on the Delta Conveyance Project website ([Read the Document \(deltaconveyanceproject.com\)](https://deltaconveyanceproject.com)). Since the publication of the Draft EIR, formatting and editorial issues have been identified in the Draft EIR. The Change Sheet describes those issues and the changes that will be made in the Final EIR to correct them. In some cases, the issues identified were not easily presented in the Change Sheet, and corrected files have been posted on the DCP Draft EIR website to present the corrected information. None of the identified changes modify the Draft EIR impact analyses or conclusions. The Change Sheet may continue to be updated if other formatting or editorial issues are identified throughout the duration of the public comment period.

DWR conducted the first of three virtual public hearings to receive comments on the DCP Draft EIR on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The second was held on Thursday, September 22, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., and the third on Wednesday, September 28, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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 regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting on September 15, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors approved a resolution to extend virtual board and committee meetings pursuant to AB 361. The DCA Board also passed a resolution approving the fourth amendment to the Management Partners Agreement for Executive Director services.

The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) Board of Directors held their regularly scheduled meeting on September 15, and they approved the Investment Policy and delegated authority to the DCFA Treasurer to invest DCFA funds.

## **Sites Reservoir**

At the September 16 joint meeting of the Sites Project Authority Board, they approved the release of the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA to initiate the public review process for activities related to the 2023-2024 Sites Reservoir Test Pits, Fault Studies, and Quarry Studies Project.

## **Innovation**

### **Science Activities**

The State Water Contractors (SWC) held a Science Symposium on September 13, addressing the science related to the water project operations management criteria consisting of the ratio of San Joaquin River inflow to water project exports. This measure has been a key focus in recent processes related to water project operations requirements. Staff helped organize and facilitate the symposium. Scientists presented information on the development of the Inflow:Export ratio regulation and what it adds to the regulatory toolkit; how it is meant to aid juvenile salmon; and data on how inflow and exports impact hydrodynamics and juvenile salmon routing and survival through the South Delta. Studies presented at the symposium found that more San Joaquin River inflow to the Delta has a positive effect on increasing survival of juvenile salmon, while no significant relationship was observed between water project exports and survival. A written summary of the symposium will be available by the end of the year.

Staff attended the annual conference of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Northern California Chapter, on September 15. The conference program included a presentation on a Metropolitan funded study evaluating the relative risk of toxic contaminants in the Delta. The study is being conducted by Dr Wayne Landis and his team at Western Washington University and is a collaboration with the Delta Science Program, Department of Pesticide Regulation, DWR, and SWC. The results suggest that contaminants are significantly affecting fish species in the Delta. The results of the study will be reported in a final report in June 2023.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP). In September, staff efforts focused on Phase 2 of the CSAMP Salmon Recovery Initiative. Staff is working with interested parties to gather information on current and planned projects aimed at increasing salmon abundance. These projects will be used to establish a baseline scenario of current conditions to estimate how implementing these projects might increase salmon numbers. Staff is reaching out to project leads on over 200 projects to gather, consolidate, and organize this baseline information. Once a baseline condition is established, various management actions will be evaluated to achieve salmon recovery. The goal of the Salmon Recovery project is to identify broadly supported management strategies that aid salmon recovery.

## Colorado River

### **Work Continues on Colorado River Protection Volume Plan**

In June of this year, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Commissioner Camille Touton called on Colorado River Basin water users to develop a plan to reduce their use by two to four million acre-feet of water in 2023 to address critical reservoir elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Initially, a deadline to develop the plan in mid-August was given; it was not met, but later Reclamation confirmed that they would continue to work with the Colorado River Basin States to develop actions to significantly reduce water use from 2023 to 2026, and that funds from the Inflation Reduction Act would be available to assist in implementing those actions. The agencies in California determined that they would move forward with a plan to conserve water in California from 2023 through 2026 and have been meeting to determine how much water can be conserved during that period and how much funding from Reclamation would be needed. The specific volumes and actions are being discussed, and staff will inform the Board of the progress of the California conservation plan as it develops. California agencies are also continuing to meet with other states to develop a larger plan. The agencies involved in the discussions to conserve water beginning in 2023 include Metropolitan, Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, Palo Verde Irrigation District, and agencies in the California Department of Natural Resources, including the Colorado River Board of California.

## 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 Erosion Improvements Areas 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11**—This project will install a permanent drainage system and erosion control features to mitigate and control storm runoff from the site. The contractor completed all drainage and erosion improvements, as well as all drainage connections through residents' properties to the city street. Construction was completed 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). The contractor has installed both ERDIP barrels and the geofoam backfill in the primary fault zone. Construction is approximately 60 percent complete, with final tie-in scheduled in February 2023.
- **Upgrades at Three Sepulveda Feeder Structures**—This project replaces deteriorated electrical components at three Sepulveda Feeder underground structures near the intersection of Rinaldi Street and Hayvenhurst Avenue in the city of Los Angeles. The contractor received notice to proceed in July 2022 and is 1) transmitting submittals for Metropolitan's review and approval, 2) mobilizing equipment, and 3) setting up the laydown area. Construction is 2 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed by July 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. The contractor is currently preparing submittals for Metropolitan staff review. 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 complete and is scheduled for board award in December 2022.

- **Second Lower Feeder Isolation Valve Procurement**—This fabrication contract provides 13 conical plug valves for the Second Lower Feeder PCCP rehabilitation. These three 48-inch and ten 54-inch diameter valves that 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 72 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 October 2022, because of delays at the shipping port. Two additional 54-inch valves are scheduled to be delivered in November 2022. The next three 54-inch valves will be delivered between May 2023 and July 2023. Fabrication of three remaining 54-inch valves started in June 2022 and will be completed in early-2024.
- **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 68 percent complete and Reach 2 is 95 percent complete. Both are scheduled to be complete by February 2023. The Board authorized preliminary design for the northern 20-mile reach of Sepulveda Feeder in the August 2022 meeting. The North Reach project was re-prioritized to support the West Area Water Supply Reliability Improvements.
- **PCCP Rehabilitation Valve Storage Building**—This project constructs an 18,160 square-foot pre-engineered metal building on a reinforced concrete slab at Lake Mathews for valve and equipment storage. The fabrication of the metal building was completed in September 2022. The contractor began construction of the concrete building pad for the new building. Construction is 30 percent complete, and construction is scheduled to finish in September 2023.

## Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

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

- **CRA Storage Buildings at Hinds, Eagle Mountain, and Iron Mountain**—This project furnishes and installs storage buildings at the three sites and constructs associated site improvements at the Hinds, Eagle Mountain, and Iron Mountain Pumping Plants. A workshop was held to optimize the design and reduce contract costs. The project is being modified following this workshop and is scheduled to be readvertised for construction bids in the first quarter of 2023.
- **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 mobilized at the Gene Pumping Plant in September 2022 and has started the installation of scaffolding and elevated construction platforms. Construction is 7 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by July 2023.
- **Eagle Mountain Utilities**—This project replaces the existing domestic water, wastewater, fire water, and irrigation distribution systems at the Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant. Final design is 60 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by February 2023.
- **Hinds Discharge Valve Platform**—This project rehabilitates maintenance platforms for the discharge valves located below the pumps bays at the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant. Preliminary design is 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2023.



**Casa Loma Siphon Seismic Upgrades—Welding 104-Inch Butt Strap on Welded Steel Pipe Wye Branch**



**Casa Loma Siphon Seismic Upgrades—Thrust Structure No. 1 Concrete Finishing**

## **System Flexibility/Supply Reliability**

Projects under this program will enhance the flexibility and/or increase the capacity of Metropolitan's water supply and delivery infrastructure to meet current and projected service demands. Projects under this program address climate change affecting water supply, regional drought, and alternative water sources for areas dependent on State Project Water.

- **Perris Valley Pipeline Interstate 215 Crossing**—This project will complete unfinished portions of the Perris Valley Pipeline by tunneling underneath the I-215 Freeway. Final design is complete and board award of a construction contract is scheduled for December 2022.
- **Foothill Pump Station**—This project is one of four drought-related projects needed to supply water from DVL to Rialto Pipeline. The project will connect an existing San Bernardino Valley Metropolitan pump station with Metropolitan's Inland Feeder. Final design is approximately 20 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by November 2022. Concurrent with the design effort, the project team is also coordinating with SBVMWD on developing a joint operations agreement, real property agreement, and biological survey of the project area.

# Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

- **Wadsworth Pumping Plant Bypass**—This project is one of four drought-related projects needed to supply water from DVL to Rialto Pipeline. This project will construct a pipeline connecting the Wadsworth Pumphouse Conduit to the Eastside Pipeline at the Wadsworth Pumping Plant to allow continuous pumping of water from DVL's forebay while filling the forebay from DVL during times of limited State Water Project (SWP) supplies to pipelines and facilities in Metropolitan's Eastern Branch that are dependent on SWP. Final design is complete and board award of a construction is scheduled for December 2022.

## 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 contract 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 procuring critical equipment and materials required for the upcoming half-plant shutdown in December 2022. The updated project baseline schedule is under final review. Construction is 5 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed by May 2025.

### Mills Plant

- **Mills Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2**—This project upgrades the electrical system with dual-power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practices; improves plant reliability; and enhances worker safety. Stage 1 construction is complete. Stage 2 improvements will add a second incoming 12 kV service from Riverside Public Utilities (RPU), reconfigure the existing 4160-volt switchgear, and replace the standby generator switchgear and the emergency generator programmable logic controller. The contractor completed the electrical grounding system at RPU's switchyard and is preparing for the ORP switchgear building expansion. Construction is 18 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed by December 2024.

## System Reliability Program

The System Reliability Program consists of projects to improve or modify facilities located throughout Metropolitan's service area in order to use new processes and/or technologies and improve facility safety and overall reliability. Recent activities include the following:

- **Headquarters Physical Security Upgrades**—This project implements comprehensive security upgrades for the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. These upgrades are consistent with federally recommended best practices for government buildings. This work has been prioritized and staged to minimize rework and impacts on day-to-day operations within the building. Stage 1 work is complete and provides enhanced security related to perimeter windows and doors. Stage 2 improvements 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 commissioning of security equipment on Floors 2–12 and



equipment installation in the rotunda. Construction of Stage 2 improvements is complete except for the additional exterior door latch-bolt monitoring on the first floor. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. Design for Stage 3 improvements is complete and board award of a construction contract is scheduled 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 upgrades and is currently working on the smoke control upgrades. Construction is 60 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2023.
- **SCADA System Upgrades**—This project will upgrade Metropolitan's entire control system in incremental stages, spanning the Colorado River Aqueduct, the five water treatment plants, and the conveyance and distribution system. The first stage of this project is to replace the control system at the Mills plant, starting with a pilot effort on one of the plant's remote terminal units. This will demonstrate the proposed technology and the consultant's approach for the plant and the overall project. The pilot project is anticipated to be complete by June 2023. Staff is finalizing the consultant agreement for project execution and performing field investigations for the communication system. The full system upgrade at the Mills plant is anticipated to be complete by January 2026.

## Engineering Mentoring Program

- ESG's Mentoring Program celebrated completion of its 10th Year as a formalized program within the group to foster staff development and enhance career progression. In September, the 2022 Mentoring Cohort celebrated its culmination ceremony. Since its inception, the mentoring program has included 227 participants.



Keynote speaker Liji Thomas was our keynote speaker for the 2022 Mentoring Program culmination ceremony with John Bednarski, Mai Hattar, and Mentees/Mentors.

# Operations

## Water System Operations

### Core Business Objectives

#### 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, mechanical apprentices completed final exams in machine shop. During machine shop, apprentices learn to operate lathes and mills. This helps teams throughout Metropolitan machine parts for repairs using internal resources.

The Apprenticeship Program continued to engage candidates by providing details about its first internal recruitment. Staff held webinars with AFSCME and Human Resources where candidates were provided an overview of the program, the recruitment process, and assistance with preparation for the written exam. Candidates were also given the opportunity to ask questions to the live panel, which included Apprenticeship Instructors, Program Administration, AFSCME, and Human Resources. The written exam measures reading comprehension, math proficiency, and aptitude for the trades. Candidates must score 70 percent or better to progress in the recruitment.



#### Apprenticeship Program webinar for internal recruitment candidates

The Technical Training team assisted the Ethics Office with the roll-out of Safety-Related Retaliation Training. Safety is a top priority and employees should feel comfortable and safe while doing their jobs. This mandatory training was provided to employees in response to the State Audit recommendations. Sessions throughout the month were held via webinar and included opportunities for employees to ask questions and make comments anonymously. Training for WSO employees will be completed by October 1.



**Safety-Related Retaliation Training webinar**

## **Manage Vacancies**

WSO filled four vacant positions in August 2022.

## **Provide Reliable Water Deliveries**

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 140,012 acre-feet (AF) for September with an average of 4,667 AF per day, which was 665 AF per day lower than in August. Some of the decreased water demands in September can be attributed to the conservation achieved within the greater Los Angeles County area as a result of the urgent call for conservation during the Upper Feeder shutdown. Treated water deliveries decreased by 14,331 AF from August for a total of 67,869 AF, or 48 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) continued operating at an eight-pump flow with a total of 116,000 AF pumped for the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,485 AF per day, totaling about 44,565 AF for the month which accounted for approximately 32 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. The target SWP blend remained at zero percent for Diemer and Skinner plants. The Weymouth plant transitioned back to 100 percent Colorado River water on September 19 following the successful completion of the Upper Feeder shutdown.

## **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 from the DVL to the Mills plant operation, continued in September to conserve SWP supply use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in September. Staff resumed Greg Avenue pump operations to minimize SWP supply usage following the successful completion of the Upper Feeder shutdown. 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.

## Support the Pure Water Southern California Program

On September 1, staff and project consultants met with members of the Independent Science Advisory Panel to discuss and finalize pathogen removal calculations for the completed first phase of testing in tertiary MBR configuration. Staff also continued to support pretesting activities at the Pure Water Southern California Demonstration Plant for secondary membrane bioreactor (MBR) operations, treating primary treated wastewater effluent from the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' (LACSD) Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District issued an operating permit for the demonstration plant in early September, allowing plant influent flows up to its maximum level of 1 MGD. Following LACSD improvements to the primary effluent supply line to the demonstration plant, staff increased MBR process flows to 0.7 MGD and began bioreactor stabilization to support baseline testing that will start in October. The MBR system continued to achieve greater than the target 80 percent nitrogen removal through the bioreactors.

Staff continued analyzing microbial samples from the demonstration plant influent and MBR filtrate, as well as characterizing MBR filtrate quality for various surrogates. Staff completed corrective and preventative maintenance, including optimization of the reverse osmosis system. Staff also rehabilitated critical plant air system components to improve reliability and programmed additional monitoring and alarm systems.



Staff replacing a pH probe on the UV effluent at the PWSC demonstration plant



Staff discussing upcoming testing plans with LACSD laboratory and research staff at the PWSC demonstration plant

## Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner

Given continuing drought conditions, the CRA is expected to maintain eight-pump flow up till the next planned CRA shutdown in February 2023, if feasible. Staff continue to monitor the cost and operational impacts of reduced hydroelectric power generation and increased energy prices in the electricity and natural gas markets, and to monitor the Resource Adequacy (RA) capacity needs of the CRA and obtain supplemental RA as required.

Because of low SWP allocations and system operating conditions, Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of about 0.05 megawatts, or 36.1 megawatt-hours and \$2,880 in revenue, for the month of August 2022. Metropolitan's solar facilities, totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated approximately 1,021 megawatt-hours in August 2022.

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


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

This month, staff updated, published, and posted two Safety Talks on the IntraMet to inform and promote employee safety during on-the-job activities. Both *Personal Security of Field Employees* and *Working at Isolated Locations* safety talks have been updated with instructions on how to handle situations involving a law enforcement "private person's arrest" form.



### MWD Safety Talk

**Environmental, Health & Safety Information for  
Personal Security of Field Employees**



Field employees have many safety challenges to contend with and one of the utmost concerns is personal safety. Unexpected violence can occur at any time when visiting right of ways, right neighborhoods, houses or high crime areas. Therefore, if you are unfamiliar with the area, ask your manager, co-workers, or your local Special Agent for security updates. Prepare yourself before the site visit and follow the guidelines below.

**Plan Ahead**

- Contact the facility-specific Special Agent to obtain security updates before visiting an unfamiliar MWD facility or remote location. The special agent can provide insight into any possible known risks associated with the area.
- If necessary or as requested, the Special Agent can provide you with a satellite monitoring device (known as "Lone Worker") that can help you stay in touch with MWD security while working solo or in a remote area. To check out one of those devices, fill out the 2-Form through the Security page: <http://www.socalwater.com/Security.asp>
- Avoid going to unknown or questionable sites alone. Always try to use a buddy system. Before the visit, arrange for check in and check out procedure by calling tel to your manager, Special Agent, local AGC, or other designee. Try to be aware of any "safe houses" while driving to visit destination such as police or fire stations.
- Keep your vehicle gassed up and in good working order in the event of an emergency and if you need to get away quickly.
- Leave all valuables in your office or the trunk of the vehicle. Carry your cellphone with you. Make sure your cell phone is fully charged with a field/car charger before heading to the field site. Be sure to have emergency or important numbers programmed into speed dial numbers into your phone, such as 9-1-1, manager, Special Agent, local AGC, or other designee, so that they can be contacted with the push of a button.
- Look official by wearing proper attire (hard hat, vest, identification badges) so others do not question your intentions. By wearing your PPE, it shows that you are a public utility employee.

**To Contact Special Agent on Duty:**

**Email:** [SpecialAgent@metrowesth2o.com](mailto:SpecialAgent@metrowesth2o.com)


**Cell Center:** 1-800-555-5911

**Turner Smith, Security Manager**

**Cell:** 916-926-7181 or Ext. 76180

### MWD Safety Talk

**Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for  
Working at Isolated Locations**



Personal safety may be a challenge for Metropolitan field personnel who work at isolated locations. Major concerns include, how to handle unexpected encounters with trespassers, trespass encounters, homeless encampments in the area, or trash/biological waste near work locations. Employees working at isolated locations should follow personal safety procedures discussed in this bulletin.

**Plan Ahead**

- Discuss with your manager, check in/out procedures and emergency procedures when off site.
- Find out as much information about the work location, such as previous encounters, homeless encampments in the area, or trash/biological waste near work locations.
- Avoid traveling alone to isolated areas, if possible.
- Lock valuables in a secured location in the vehicle, preferably out of sight.

**Safety When Working in Isolated Areas**

- Be alert and aware of what is happening around you. Visually scan the area before entering and close-lock the gates after entry.
- Look for evidence of trespassers such as tents, traps, blankets, clothing, trash or biological waste (excrement, needles, or used clothing) in the work area. Report all encounters to your manager (or follow up as needed).
- Wear appropriate safety shoes and clothing at all times.
- Bring tools or utility gloves. Wear them when opening locks or marking items to gain access to work area.
- After work is completed, lock buildings, storage sheds, containers, dumpsters or gates before leaving the area.
- Lock or turn off exterior power outlets, unless required for operations.
- Keep property free of trash, litter, junk, etc. If no trash receptacle is available, take trash with you. Lock trash or dumpsters as needed.
- Report vandalism, graffiti and other damages to facilities to your manager.
- Inform manager of any problems with security such as exterior lights that are out or very gates that are difficult to lock. This is an important step to keep the area safe for others.

## Updated Safety Talks that have been posted to the IntraMet

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Hearing Board approved a permit variance that allows the Pleasants Peak emergency generator engine to operate through the end of the year beyond the 200-hour annual limit. The variance's stipulated conditions include monitoring runtimes, recordkeeping, reporting to SCAQMD, and payment of any excess emission fees.

Staff submitted requests for the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) CORE Voucher Program for partial funding for two all-electric mobile power stations. After completing a preliminary review, CARB will review the requests in more detail and may request additional information. Staff is working with the vendor's representative to arrange a demonstration of the 500-kWh mobile power station at Lake Mathews in mid-September.



**Mobile power station with front-end loader option**



## Optimize Maintenance

Major maintenance projects continue even during periods of maximum aqueduct flows. Desert staff replaced a unit's intermediate and pump bearings at Hinds pumping plant. Staff also installed a rebuilt oil cooler and replaced the temperature monitoring equipment for both bearings.



**Staff replacing the intermediate bearing on a 12,500hp pump unit at Hinds pumping plant**

When the CRA is running at maximum capacity, only one spare pump is available. Maintenance outages are closely coordinated with Desert teams to ensure the outage window is as short as possible while incorporating all necessary maintenance and repair. Spare pump units are removed from service monthly to perform preventative maintenance on the motor, pump and auxiliary systems.



**Staff racks out a 6.9kV circuit breaker to safely secure a pump for maintenance**

Monsoonal storms brought heavy rains and flash flooding to some desert locations this month causing localized erosion. As a result, a portion of the CRA was exposed. Desert staff were on site the next day to clear the debris and cover the conduit with fill to ensure that the CRA is protected during the next storm.



**Storm damage along the CRA**

CRA pumps use electrotechnical relays to protect the motor from overcurrent, locked rotor, reverse power, and current differential. These relays are tested and calibrated every two years as part of Metropolitan's preventative maintenance program.



**Desert staff calibrating a CRA motor relay**

The sodium hypochlorite tanks at Lake Mathews used for quagga mussel control have reached the end of their service life and are being replaced one at a time to minimize any impact to water operations. This month, staff replaced the first tank and are completing mechanical piping connections.



**Staff grouting tie-down boxes to secure a chemical tank at Lake Mathews**

Staff successfully completed three minor leak repairs on the Upper Feeder in the cities of Ontario and Rancho Cucamonga. Two leaks required excavation and shoring to provide a safe work zone. To perform the leak repairs, staff drilled into the affected areas of the pipe, installed port tubes, and injected hydrophilic material. The hydrophilic material is activated by water, which seals the cracked mortar inside the pipe joint. Staff performed the repairs under reduced flow conditions which did not require a pipeline shutdown.



**Staff excavated minor leak site on the Upper Feeder in the city of Rancho Cucamonga**





**Staff drilling into pipe joints (left) to install injection ports (right) on the Upper Feeder**



**Staff injecting hydrophilic material into pipe joints on the Upper Feeder**

As part of the Upper Feeder leak repair at the Santa Ana River bridge crossing, staff installed a 36-inch diameter access point on the feeder to improve the accessibility for replacement of the expansion joint and for future maintenance. Two leaking mortar joints were also repaired near the Fontana area while the pipeline was out of service.



**Staff welding thimble on the Upper Feeder at the Santa Ana Bridge crossing**



**Installing shoring to repair minor leak on Upper Feeder near Fontana area**

Staff installed a new 120-volt DC battery system for the main switchgear at the Skinner plant that reached the end of its service life. These batteries enable circuit breaker control and electrical fault protection for the plant's high-voltage distribution system.



**Staff installing new 120-volt DC battery system for the main electrical switchgear at the Skinner plant**

## **Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution**

To support the Upper Feeder shutdown in September, the Weymouth plant's source water was temporarily switched to Silverwood Lake. The State Water Project (SWP) target blend entering the Weymouth plant was increased to 100 percent before the shutdown and then decreased to zero percent on September 19 at the end of the shutdown. The SWP target blend entering the Diemer plant and Lake Skinner was zero percent in September.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from August 2021 through July 2022 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 597, 593, and 590 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Of Metropolitan's five water treatment plants, the Mills plant is the only one that does not have washwater reclamation facilities. Solids from the sedimentation and filtration processes are sent to cement-lined lagoons. The solids drying time depends on weather and typically takes up to three months to reduce water content to less than 15 percent. To minimize drying time, staff have driven through the solids with a tractor that pushes an aerating device called a Brown Bear. Although this has improved the solids handling process, the device has frequently needed repair, including adding wear and tear on the tractor. The Mills plant recently began using a new disk attachment for the tractor that allows it to travel forward, as opposed to reverse, when using the Brown Bear, which is expected to result in less maintenance and overall improved performance.



**Staff using a new disk attachment at the Mills plant to help process residual solids**

Staff performed maintenance on the chlorine scrubber system at the Diemer plant. The scrubber is designed to neutralize any chlorine releases to protect staff, the public, and the environment. This work included removing corrosion from the scrubber vessel, performing an interior rinse of the vessel, completing coatings repairs of the interior fiberglass, filling the scrubber with a caustic soda solution, and testing the system.



**Chlorine scrubber at the Diemer plant**





**Containment area rinsed during chlorine scrubber maintenance at the Diemer plant**

Staff performed troubleshooting of an intermittent fault at one of 48 filters at the Diemer plant. Intermittent faults are malfunctions of a system that occur at irregular intervals. During high water demands, it is especially critical to have a maximum number of filters available to meet system demands. Proper equipment and skill are required to diagnose intermittent faults and perform the necessary repairs.



**Staff troubleshooting an intermittent fault on a filter surface wash valve at the Diemer plant**

## Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response

Metropolitan activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and two field Incident Command Posts (ICPs) during the Fairview Fire near Hemet. This fire started on September 5 and burned over 23,000 acres by September 14. Fire department helicopters used DVL as a dip site to reload their water tanks to fight the fire. Metropolitan staff were embedded within the Riverside County Fire Command Center, just east of DVL, which helped to maintain regular communication between Metropolitan and fire commanders. The DVL Marina parking lot was also used by the Fire Command Post to inspect and repair firefighting vehicles. An air quality alert was sent to all Metropolitan employees to limit outdoor work to only essential functions in the affected area. Skinner plant staff coordinated with the EOC for situational status and to ensure the safety of operational staff. Periodic updates were provided to employees from the EOC and the General Manager's office. All these actions helped protect Metropolitan staff and operational facilities, while supporting firefighters in their wildfire response. By September 14, rains from Tropical Storm Kay significantly stopped the fire's spread. Lessons learned from this event will be used to update emergency plans as needed for future emergency preparedness.



Fire helicopter using DVL water to fight the Fairview Fire near Hemet



**Active flames from the Fairview Fire visible near DVL**



**Fire vehicle inspection area at DVL Marina parking lot**

Staff successfully completed the shutdown of the Upper Feeder at the Santa Ana River bridge crossing. During the shutdown, which began on September 6, staff dewatered the pipeline to allow for the planned emergency repair of a leaking expansion joint. Operations and engineering staff collaborated on the design of a new 116-inch diameter, 10-ton slip-type expansion joint that was manufactured at the La Verne Shops. The replacement piece was manufactured within weeks and demonstrated the importance of Metropolitan's in-house manufacturing capability to ensure the resiliency of our water system. During the shutdown, Metropolitan's contractor, commissioned through a board-approved emergency contract, successfully installed the slip joint. The joint was leak-tested and the

pipeline was put back into service. The Weymouth plant completed its transition from 100-percent SWP supply back to 100-percent Colorado River supply on September 19, which marked the end of the shutdown nearly two days ahead of schedule. Completing this work in record time was truly an impressive achievement with staff overcoming numerous challenges, including an extreme heat emergency during the first week of the shutdown.

While Metropolitan staff and the contractor worked around the clock to complete this emergency repair ahead of schedule, consumers stepped up to heed Metropolitan's call for no outdoor watering during the shutdown for areas within greater Los Angeles County. Demands in the affected areas downstream of the Weymouth plant decreased by an average of 30 percent, helping to stretch limited SWP supplies this year. Overall, conservation and member agency operational actions during the two-week call for no outdoor watering saved over 3,300 acre-feet, or 1.1 billion gallons, of SWP supply. Several media reports covered the shutdown because of its significance to the region. This shutdown was truly a shining example of collaboration of the dedicated and hardworking staff across Metropolitan, our member agencies, numerous cities and retail water agencies, and the public. We are grateful for the broad cooperation and focused efforts by many to complete this repair work safely and successfully, improving Metropolitan's overall water system reliability.



**Staff set up a large-volume quagga mussel filtration system to safely dewater the Upper Feeder during the shutdown**





**Contractor removing failed bellows joint from the Upper Feeder at the Santa Ana River bridge**



**The La Verne Shops manufactured a new slip joint for the Upper Feeder leak repair**





**Contractor installing new slip joint for the Upper Feeder at the Santa Ana River bridge**

Staff at the Skinner plant provided a plant overview, tour, and training to the Riverside County chemical responders, which included Cal Fire and the Riverside County Environmental Health HAZMAT Response Teams. This provided an opportunity for these chemical responders to learn about the chemicals at the facility, the built-in engineering safety controls, and Metropolitan's emergency preparedness. This visit further builds important relationships with emergency responders that will help in collaboration and response to any future emergency events.



**Staff providing a tour to the Riverside County chemical responders at the Skinner Plant**



**Staff providing an Incident Command Post overview for the Riverside County chemical responders**

## **Protect Source Water Quality**

On September 8, staff assessed the source water protection measures implemented at the Cal Fire maintenance staging area for emergency use at the DVL Marina parking lot. Cal Fire inspected and serviced up to 200 vehicles used in containing the Fairview Fire and provided hazardous material liners and other measures to safely contain potential spills and ensure protection of DVL water quality.

On September 12, staff participated in the Clean Colorado River Sustainability Coalition board meeting held in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Metropolitan is a member of this coalition, composed of key stakeholders in the Lower Colorado River Basin focused on protecting the river's water quality. The coalition elected officers and discussed activities involving Lake Havasu, including an ongoing mapping project, current water quality conditions, and a proposed Environmental Learning Center.

Turbidity levels in Castaic Lake effluent increased significantly starting on September 12 following recent fire and storm events in the watershed. Peak turbidity occurred deep in the lake and close to the outlet tier that serves the Jensen plant. With the low water elevation and naturally occurring taste and odor compounds in the surface water, changing to a shallower tier was not possible. Treatment processes at the Jensen plant were optimized to manage the increased turbidity and additional sampling throughout the elevated turbidity event demonstrated that the plant performed well and met all operational and regulatory compliance standards. The California Department of Water Resources successfully treated Castaic Lake with copper sulfate for taste and odor control on September 14.

## **Manage the Power System**

A 10-day, west-wide heat storm began on August 31 and continued through September 9. This combination of extreme high temperatures and high humidity, long duration, and extent (across the entire western United States) made this very unusual. Several actions were taken in California to respond to this extreme event. The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) set a record peak load on September 6 of over 52,061 MW, exceeding the previous all-time peak demand by 2,000 MW (by comparison, the CAISO's peak demand during the 2020 energy crisis was 47,236 MW) and coming within about 500 MW of instituting rolling blackouts. The California Office of Emergency

Services sent out an Emergency Wireless Notification requesting energy conservation, which resulted in about 2,000 MW of load relief and averted the need for load shedding. The Western Electricity Coordinating Council's Western Interconnection also set an all-time peak demand of 165 Gigawatts (GW), exceeding the old record by 5 GW.

Metropolitan supported the state's efforts by responding with several critical actions to reduce energy load and increase supply for grid reliability. On September 5 through 6, Metropolitan reduced CRA pumping load at Gene and Intake pumping plants by 50 MW during peak demand hours. In addition to increasing grid reliability, this reduction also resulted in significant energy cost savings as prices during these peak hours exceeded \$1,000/MW-hour. Staff increased flows on the Rialto Pipeline into Live Oak Reservoir during peak periods, which allowed DWR to increase generation at Devil Canyon Powerplant by about 4 megawatts. Staff coordinated with San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) to adjust pipeline flows and allow Red Mountain hydroelectric plant to operate, adding another 4 megawatts of generation; this also increased treated water deliveries to SDCWA from the Skinner plant, allowing the Carlsbad desalination plant to ramp down during peak load hours. All these efforts highlight the creativity and dedication of Metropolitan staff to respond to this extreme heat event and support California's grid reliability.

## **Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation**

On August 25, CARB adopted the Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) Regulation, which increases emissions standards for new vehicles sold between 2026 and 2035 and mandates the transition to 100 percent sales of new light-duty passenger vehicles and trucks to be zero emission by 2035. The ACC II regulation does not require fleets to transition their existing traditional gasoline and/or diesel vehicles but rather only increases the availability of cleaner engines and zero-emission vehicles available for sale in California.

On August 30, CARB released the 45-day rulemaking draft of the Proposed Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulations. The main goal of the ACF is to transition medium- to heavy-duty vehicles weighing more than 8,500 pounds away from internal combustion engines to cleaner zero-emission technologies. Beginning in 2024, 50 percent of Metropolitan's new fleet purchases would need to be zero emission and 100 percent in 2027. Staff is drafting a comment letter to CARB over concerns with the purchasing deadlines and exemption process (e.g., infrastructure delay, vehicle unavailability, and daily usage requirements). Comments are due October 17, 2022, and the ACF is set for final adoption in early 2023.

On August 31, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its proposed revisions to the Risk Management Program (RMP) rule under the Clean Air Act. Metropolitan's chlorine facilities are regulated by the RMP. EPA is seeking to reinstate multiple provisions of the 2017 Obama-era rule that were rescinded by the 2019 Trump-era rule, as well as adding considerations for climate change and environmental justice. Staff is working with AWWA to review the proposed rule. The comment period closes October 31, 2022, and EPA anticipates promulgating the rule in August 2023.

On September 6, the EPA released its proposal to list perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Staff is working with several industry organizations on comment letters seeking an exemption under CERCLA for PFAS from third-party sources that end up in the water storage, transportation, and/or treatment system, and help with disposal options and costs. Comments to EPA are due November 7, 2022.

On September 7, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted a "Policy Handbook Establishing a Standard Method of Testing and Reporting Microplastics in Drinking Water." Under the program, the SWRCB will issue orders to public water systems or wholesalers or both to monitor microplastics in source waters and treated

drinking water. Seasonal source water sampling will take place over two years beginning fall 2023. By mid-2026, testing will be expanded to treated water. SWRCB anticipates holding a public workshop on microplastics monitoring in late 2022. Staff is developing microplastics monitoring methods for Metropolitan's source and treated waters.

On September 8, the SWRCB adopted a new Construction General Permit (CGP). The CGP requires the development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for construction sites disturbing one or more acres of soil. Effective September 2023, the new CGP provides procedural updates, introduces the need to comply with total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and passive treatment technology for turbidity control, and revises monitoring and reporting requirements. Staff will ensure that the new CGP requirements are implemented on new projects.

## Advance Education and Outreach Initiatives

On September 9, staff provided a tour of the Water Quality Laboratory and media interview following the State Water Resources Control Board's adoption of the Policy Handbook for monitoring microplastics in drinking water. Metropolitan is included in the handbook as a utility potentially selected to monitor for microplastics. Staff are currently adapting existing space at the Water Quality Laboratory in La Verne as a dedicated microplastics testing area.

## Support and Engage with Member Agencies on Technical Matters

Metropolitan held a virtual regulatory update workshop with Member Agency Water Quality Managers on September 15, with approximately 85 participants. Key presentations included discussions on federal and state drinking water regulatory developments, PFAS remediation, and new drinking water testing laboratory accreditation requirements.



Member Agency Water Quality Managers Meeting Regulatory Workshop



Monthly Update as of:

9/30/2022

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<b><i>Colorado River Basin</i></b>		
Lake Powell	5,803,000	24%
Lake Mead	7,329,000	28%
<b><i>DWR</i></b>		
Lake Oroville	1,230,444	35%
Shasta Lake	1,515,087	33%
San Luis Total	585,114	29%
San Luis CDWR	340,447	32%
Castaic Lake	116,934	36%
Silverwood Lake	67,282	90%
Lake Perris	94,875	72%
<b><i>MWD</i></b>		
DVL	508,942	63%
Lake Mathews	105,189	58%
Lake Skinner	36,031	82%



Hoover Dam



## Information Technology

### Project Highlights

#### Emergency Radio Communications Upgrade

The Emergency Radio Communications Systems Upgrade has been making progress in migrating from the Connect Plus to the Capacity Max variant. New features will be available under Capacity Max to all users, as well as the addition of a greater coverage area to the desert for the operators (using bi-directional amplifiers and distributed antenna system) and locations at Eagle Rock and Sepulveda Canyon. The project recently completed its phase 2 pilot at La Verne, which included staged equipment and successful testing of the Capacity Max Pilot implementation in isolation with 15 subscriber radios.



#### IT All Hands

The Information Technology Group hosted their IT All Hands meeting to acknowledge staff accomplishments over the last year, as well as to align the group on the strategic vision for the future. This year, the team also used the meeting to celebrate IT Professionals Day, which lands on the third Tuesday of September.



## Real Property

### Project Highlights

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

Acquired two 12-month entry permits from Southern California Edison to facilitate a combination of access, parking, storage, and laydown in support of the Etiwanda Pipeline Relining Project in Fontana. Acquired one 24-month temporary easement and three permanent easements from March Joint Powers Authority in support of the Perris Valley Pipeline Project in Riverside County. These easements will collectively provide temporary and permanent access and permanent rights for the pipeline and tunnel structures. Acquired a 24-month sublease agreement from the March Field Air Museum in support of the Perris Valley Pipeline Project in Riverside County. The subleased area will provide a contractor's temporary staging and laydown area.

**Partner with academia, current agriculture tenants, and subject matter experts to develop and implement new and progressive farm practices that are in line with Metropolitan's sustainability and water conservation objectives.**

Attended an informative webinar presented by Chico State University on Soil Carbon Accrual and Regenerative Agriculture. Chico State University has been recognized as a leading innovator advancing soil science and the sequestration of carbon dioxide through non-disturbance and other regenerative agriculture practices.

**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.**

Obtained one-month extensions to 14 entry permits from Southern California Edison in the cities of Bellflower, Downey, Irwindale, Lakewood, Pico Rivera, Whittier, Baldwin Park, Cerritos, City of Industry, Duarte, La Puente, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, and South El Monte. The permits allow Metropolitan to conduct observational surveys 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.

### Real Property Acquisition, Management, and Revenue Enhancement

**In conjunction with our partners in WSO and Security, manage and protect Metropolitan's real property land holdings and permanent easements while ensuring that Metropolitan's core operations are protected.**

Worked with City of Rosemead to assign a physical address to Metropolitan fee-owned property Central Basin 36, which was previously unaddressed for emergency response purposes in accordance with a Water System Operations request. The new address allows responders to identify the site on permit documentation and emergency response plans.

Staff coordinated the clean-up of trash dumping at the Tin Mine Road entrance to Eagle Valley and the removal of an encampment in the Mead Valley area along Valverde Tunnel.

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

Metropolitan closed escrow on the sale of the Sunset garage property, located adjacent to Metropolitan's former headquarters site, which was used for employee parking and fleet operations. The terms were negotiated in 2017 and included an option to exercise purchase, the termination to a long-running legal dispute and a \$10 million purchase price consisting of a \$1.5 million holdback account to use for environmental remediation. In five years, any unused funds in the holdback account will be released to Metropolitan.



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

Urgent repairs were completed to a leaking fire sprinkler pipe located at Metropolitan headquarters. The pipes had corrosion at the flanges indicating the possibility of a greater pipe failure and resultant damage to the printing equipment in Reprographics. The work was performed over a two-day period without affecting operations in Fleet or Reprographics.



## District Housing Maintenance and Management.

Ninety-two work orders were in this reporting period. Thirteen of these work orders were Tenant Requested Work Orders for Metropolitan residences. Other work orders included the pre-occupancy work that was done on five Metropolitan residences that were refreshed and prepared for occupancy. These refresh efforts included re-painting, new flooring, appliances, and lighting, as well as a bathroom remodel and new window coverings.



**Kitchen Before**



**Kitchen After**



**Bathroom Before**



**Bathroom After**



Valley-Wide Park at the Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) East Recreation Area was used as incident command for the Fairview Fire. The DVL East Marina parking lot was also made available to fire authorities for equipment inspection and repair to enable rapid redeployment of equipment to the front lines.





## Security

### Project Highlights

#### Security and Emergency Response

This month, Metropolitan Security Specialists worked jointly with Union Pacific's (UP) Railroad Police and Special Agents to safely and humanely remove an encampment and trespassers located next to the Washington Pressure Control Structure (PCS). The illegal encampment endangered the safety of Metropolitan staff and encroached on critical infrastructure easements from LADWP, Metropolitan, LA County Flood Control, and UP Railroad.

Ongoing property crimes and issues in the area that necessitated this intervention included:

- Uncontrolled fires
- Illegal dumping of hazardous materials
- Power and metal thefts
- Vandalism, graffiti, and trespassing into Metropolitan substructures

Trespassers were issued warnings and given relocation resources to contact for housing alternatives. The operation was a success and resulted in better mutual cooperation between Metropolitan Security and other critical infrastructure security partners in the region.



**Union Pacific Railroad Police work jointly with Metropolitan Security to safeguard Washington PCS**

## **Employee Readiness for All Hazards and Emergencies**

Over the 9/11 weekend, Metropolitan Security Specialists and contract guard forces responded to a no-notice, unplanned microwave outage in the Desert Region that severely affected all landline phones and security cameras at the pumping plants.

In an abundance of caution, Metropolitan Security quickly mobilized a response force to provide additional security support and resources to critical infrastructure along the CRA until a final root-cause determination was made. A mechanical failure was ultimately found to be responsible for the outage. This incident coincidentally occurred concurrently with the Fairview Fire EOC activation, extreme heat warnings, planned SCE power shedding-operations, and the Upper Feeder emergency repairs.

The security response was executed quickly, smoothly, and safely—reinforcing the necessity to have a professional security force that is well-trained, appropriately resourced, and routinely exercised.



**Metropolitan Security staff respond to an unplanned microwave outage over 9/11 weekend**

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

Risk Management completed 56 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.**

- Continued facilitating tabletop exercises and Business Continuity plan updates, with a special focus on cyberattack planning.
- Facilitated the quarterly business continuity steering committee meeting, with good discussion and participation.
- Distributed a MetAlert air quality alert to all employees on behalf of Water System Operations in accordance with regulatory guidelines.
- Participated in planning meetings to develop a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with FEMA requirements that would allow Metropolitan to seek grant funding for projects.
- Participated in planning efforts for three upcoming exercises focused on testing response and business continuity for the Diemer and Jensen water treatment plants.

### 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 August 2022 totaled 139.9 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 3.6 TAF higher than the budget of 136.3 TAF and translates to \$131.4 million in revenues for August 2022, which were \$13.4 million lower than budget of \$144.8 million.

- Year-to-date water transactions through August 2022 were 281.9 TAF, which was 15.0 TAF higher than the budget of 266.9 TAF. Year-to-date water revenues through August 2022 were \$265.0 million, which were \$1.1 million lower than the budget of \$266.1 million.
- In August 2022, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,300 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$23,600 in discounts.

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

Onboarded a debt analytic tool in our new Investor Relations portal, BondLink, that provides charts of Metropolitan's outstanding debt using the ICE database.

**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.**

Successfully executed the financial closing of the 2022 Series B and 2022 Series C transactions priced late July, which was described in detail in last month's August GM Report (July 2022 Activity).

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

As of August 31, 2022, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.2 billion; in August 2022, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 11 trades.

In August 2022, Treasury staff processed 1,214 disbursements by check, 22 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 115 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 77 receipts by check, 35 receipts by ACH, and 52 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

In addition, Metropolitan's P-Card program was transferred to the Treasury and Debt Section effective July 1, 2022. In August 2022, 6,218 P-Card transactions, totaling \$1M, were processed. The Finance team closed the books on the program operating under the BofA platform, Metropolitan's previous banking partner for P-Card. As a result of our strategic efforts to address technical and user issues with the P-Card program, our P-Card Administrator and Treasury staff achieved seamless transaction reconciliation, statement uploading to our general ledger accounting system and timely payment to JP Morgan, our current banking partner for P-Card.



## Administrative Services

### Accomplishments

During the month of September, the Professional Services Contracting Team (PSCT) completed a crucial acquisition in support of the Alternative Project Delivery Methods initiative. **Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1309—Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Negotiation** requires a consultant to provide professional services to assist with the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) administration. The consultant shall report to the Manager of Construction Contracts and provide guidance, support, and direction by monitoring compliance with the PLA. Governor Newsom signed AB 1845, sponsored by Metropolitan, to allow the use of alternative project delivery methods.

In support of O&M and capital projects, PSCT completed **Request for Qualification (RFQ) No. 1318—Dam Safety Monitoring Instrumentation and Data Management Services** to establish a list of pre-qualified firms. The pre-qualified firms will provide on-call services for dam monitoring instrumentation evaluation and upgrades, automatic data acquisition system (ADAS) design and programming, dam monitoring and surveillance data management and dashboarding, and long-term maintenance for its dam monitoring systems. These services are critical to ensuring Dam safety across Metropolitan's water delivery system.

## Human Resources

### HR Priorities

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

In September, 266 Metropolitan employees attended virtually facilitated classes, including Intermediate Excel, Preventing Workplace Bias, Drug & Alcohol Awareness, and Preventing Harassment in the Workplace.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online, e-learning content platform, was accessed for such topics Sustainability Strategies, Decision Making, Finding Your Purpose at Work, and Compassionate Directiveness.

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

Recruitment successfully filled 21 positions for the month of September. Recruitment received 42 new staffing requisitions resulting in 195 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.

### 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 Supervisors' Association 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 coordinated the third quarter Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC) meeting on August 31, 2022. The DCAC elected to renew its service agreement contract with Empower for an additional five years, extending the new contract until July 31, 2028. This extended service agreement will further reduce participants' fees. The DCAC also elected to revise its lineup of investment options, to deliver better performance for plan participants.

The Benefits Unit coordinated seven webinars hosted by Financial Finesse and Empower Retirement in August and September on Financial Education, Investment Education, and Retirement Planning with 397 participants attending the various sessions.

The Benefits Unit is starting an in-depth communication campaign for the annual Benefits Open Enrollment period, which will run from September 27, 2022, and will conclude on October 17, 2022.

Human Resources partnered with I-sight vendor to design, configure, and test the administration and tracking of grievances and disciplinary actions within the new system.

## 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 that 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 mid-September, 406 leaves of absence have been approved for COVID-related reasons.

On September 13, 2022, staff obtained board approval of an annual resolution establishing Metropolitan's medical contributions for Plan Year 2023, ensuring compliance with both CalPERS regulations and bargaining unit MOU provisions. Metropolitan's contributions are based on 100 percent of the highest cost HMO plan, which in the coming year, will be the Anthem Traditional HMO Basic Plan rate, Region 3.

In September, 11 new Workers' Compensation claims were received. Seven employees remain off work because of an industrial injury or illness. This reflects Metropolitan's effort to accommodate injured workers, while enabling them to be productive and on the job.

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

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

- Coordinated four Medical medvan visit (DMV, respirator exams, and hearing tests) Hinds, Eagle Mtn., Iron Mtn., and Gene Camp.
- Arranged nine medical evaluations (Pre-employment, DMV, medical surveillance, vanpool program restarted)
- Addressed 35 accommodation issues, referrals, and follow up with Shaw Consulting Group.

HR Metrics	June 2021	September 2022	Prior Month August 2022
<b>Headcount</b>			
Regular Employees	1,881	1,777	1,770
Temporary Employees	32	32	34
Interns	5	2	1
Recurrents	20	18	18
Annuitants	16	19	18

# Finance and Administration

(continued)

	September 2022	August 2022
<b>Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)</b>	195	184
<b>Number of New Staffing Requisitions</b>	42	29
	September 2022	August 2022
<b>Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress</b>	6	5
<b>Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits</b>	1	2
<b>Number of New Job Audit Requests</b>	1	1

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 21/22 Totals</u>	<u>September 2022</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	82	16	24
Temporary Employees	36	1	3
Interns	4	0	0
<b>Internal Promotions</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Management Requested Promotions</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Retirements/Separations (regular employees)</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Employee-Requested Transfers</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

## Departures

Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Reason	Group
Doughty	Timothy	Engineering Tech III	8/5/2022	Retirement—Service	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP
Myers	Robert	Construction Inspector III	8/5/2022	Retirement—Service	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP
Gudino	Gilberto	O&M Tech IV	8/5/2022	Resign—Personal Reasons	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP



## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

### Highlights

#### US Water Alliance “One Water Summit”

Chief DEI Officer Liji Thomas attended the US Water Alliance’s One Water Summit focused on various issues in the water industry, including topics of equity and inclusion. Liji also attended the US Water Prize, hosted during the Summit, and met with various leaders from LA community-based organizations to solicit feedback on how Metropolitan can better engage with the community.

#### Expanding Career Pathways – IE Works

Metropolitan recently became a signatory to IEWorks, a workforce collaborative of water and wastewater agencies in the Inland Empire focused on developing and implementing cost-effective programs, including apprenticeships, internships, pre-apprenticeships, and career awareness programs that ensure sufficient numbers of qualified candidates who are prepared to meet responsibilities to customers, communities, and the environment.

#### Supporting Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)/Employee Engagement

DEI recently partnered with VOICE, Metropolitan’s ERG focused on creating a more inclusive environment for people with disabilities, to address concerns with HR regarding the company’s accommodations process. Improvements are in the process of being explored and implemented. In addition, Chief DEI Officer Liji Thomas joined Jonaura Wisdom, Chief EEO Officer, to engage with Hispanic Employees Association (HEA) to clarify the differences between DEI and EEO and discuss other issues of workplace culture and employee engagement. Business Outreach staff exhibited and participated on a panel at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans and Small Business summit on September 27.



# External Affairs



## External Affairs

### Highlights

An extensive media and community outreach effort reached large audiences in Southern California and resulted in significant water conservation by more than four million residents during the shutdown of the Upper Feeder pipeline for emergency repairs.

- Chairwoman Gray, Director Ramos, GM Hagekhalil, and staff participated in a press conference hosted by Burbank Water and Power that received extensive coverage from local media.
- Before and throughout the shutdown, staff worked with member agencies and local officials and fielded hundreds of calls from the public.
- Arranged interviews with Fox 11, KABC-TV 7, KNBC-TV 4, KPCC-FM 89.3's Larry Mantle, Spectrum, KCRW-FM 89.9, KNX-AM 1070, EstrellaTV, KTLA-TV Channel 5, KCAL-TV 9, and Univision.
- An online and social media campaign, which was updated in real-time to provide site-specific information and maps, daily progress reports, photos, and videos of the repair work, generated 80,000 page views to mwdh2o.com and 160,000 impressions on social media. (September 619)



*Outreach for the Upper Feeder shutdown included a large portfolio of photographs, videos and social media content to support key messages calling for no outdoor watering and other conservation action during the planned 15-day shutdown.*

Chairwoman Gray, Directors Sutley and Jung, GM Hagekhalil and staff met with Representatives Costa (D-Fresno) and Conway (R-Tulare), members of the California Latino Water Coalition and other Central Valley leaders to discuss the importance of ag-urban partnerships to help ensure reliable water supplies. (September 12)



*Chairwoman Gray, Directors Sutley and Jung, GM Hagekhalil and staff met with members of the Latino Water Coalition (left) and Rep. Connie Conway (right) during a visit to the Central Valley.*

GM Hagekhalil was a panel speaker at the U.S. Water Alliance's One Water Summit, which Metropolitan sponsored. Also attending were Chief DEI Officer Thomas, Chief SRI Officer Crosson, and Special Assistant to the GM Schlageter. (September 13/15)

Chairwoman Gray, Directors De Jesus, Erdman, Lefevre, Dick, and Jung and staff attended, and Metropolitan sponsored the Orange County Water Summit. EO/AGM Upadhyay was a panelist and spoke about the proposed Pure Water on a panel about the importance of developing water supply projects. (September 16)

Directors Hawkins and Record and staff attended the Western Science Center Science Under the Stars event, and Metropolitan hosted an exhibit booth with information on conservation and educational information. (September 17)

Director Glen Peterson, GM Hagekhalil, EO/AGM Upadhyay, Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp, and staff attended the Colorado River Symposium in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to meet with federal officials and representatives from basin states to consider new actions to prevent Colorado River reservoirs from falling to critically low elevations that would threaten water deliveries and power production. (September 22-23)

Directors Cordero, Goldberg, and Repenning, GM Hagekhalil, General Counsel Scully, and staff attended the Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site annual dinner. Metropolitan and Director Cordero were honored at the event. (September 24)

Director Morris attended and Metropolitan sponsored the Coro Crystal Eagle Awards honoring public policy leaders in Southern California. (September 29)

Directors Quinn and Luna, Chief DEI Officer Thomas, and EEO Officer Wisdom attended and Metropolitan sponsored the DIY Girls event, marking 10 years of work to increase girls' interest and success in technology, engineering, and making thorough innovative educational experiences and mentorships. (September 29)

GM Hagekhalil was a panelist at the World Water Tech North America Summit on California Spotlight: Tackling Drought and Water Scarcity, joining leaders from the LA County Sanitation Districts, Orange County Water District, and U.S. EPA to talk about Gov. Newsom's Water Supply Strategy, technology, and the importance of public engagement in decision-making. (September 29)



*Director Repenning, GM Hagekhalil, Director Goldberg, and honoree Director Cordero at Rancho Los Cerritos awards event*

## Legislative Services

### Federal

Anticipate vote on continuing resolution keeping government funded at FY 2022 levels until early December. Staff is closely tracking the FY 2023 appropriations process and funding for priority programs that are important to Metropolitan.

GM Hagekhalil and staff, along with representatives from the California Colorado River Board and Imperial Irrigation District, provided a briefing to Congressional staff on Colorado River issues. (September 19)

### State

Metropolitan secured passage of two policy bills and significant funding in the budget for Metropolitan priorities as the two-year legislative session ended. The FY 2022-23 budget includes \$80 million for Pure Water Southern



California and \$50 million for drought emergency mitigation projects to improve the flexibility of the distribution system and provide State Water Project-dependent areas access to alternative supplies in future dry years.

The Governor signed AB 1845 by Assembly Member Calderon (D-Whittier), which authorizes Metropolitan to use alternative delivery methods for the design and construction of Pure Water Southern California and emergency drought mitigation projects.

Metropolitan and co-sponsor California Municipal Utilities Association secured passage of SB 230 by Senator Portantino (D-La Canada-Flintridge), which authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to expand their knowledge of constituents of emerging concern (CEC) in drinking water.

## Local

Metropolitan staff provided an update on actions and projects to assist SWP-dependent areas at the Water Crisis and California's Drought workshop sponsored by Assembly Member Bennett (D-Santa Barbara) and Senator Limon (D-Santa Barbara). (September 8)



*Chief SRI Officer Crosson spoke on panel at LABC Summit*

Metropolitan sponsored and Chief SRI Officer Crosson participated in a water panel at the Los Angeles Business Council Sustainability Summit. (September 8)

Director Sutley and Chief SRI Officer Crosson were featured speakers and Metropolitan sponsored the 2022 Net Zero conference. (September 15)

Chief SRI Officer Crosson attended and Metropolitan sponsored the LA Waterkeepers "Making the Waves" event. (September 24)

In addition to priority outreach initiatives, Metropolitan staff monitored and/or participated in 55 webinars, virtual or in-person meetings, and events this month.

## Media and Communications

GM Hagekhalil, who is serving as co-chair of the CUWA Communications Committee, and External Affairs Manager Sims led the committee's first meeting to identify key goals and priorities. (September 2)

### Media Activities and Interviews

- Set up interview between Marketplace public radio's Savannah Maher and GM Hagekhalil regarding Colorado River negotiations and the potential consequences of inaction.
- Coordinated interview with Grist Magazine's Jake Bittle and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp about Colorado River discussions and responded to Arizona reporter Tony Davis on the same subject.
- Arranged separate interviews with LA Times columnist Gustavo Arellano and Harpers Magazine reporter Ben Weiss with WRM's Guerrero on water use for lawns and research projects on turf removal.
- Coordinated interview with Yahoo Finance and WRM Conservation Manager McDonnell on turf removal and outdoor water use.
- Arranged interview with Spectrum reporter Parker Collins and Water Quality's Slifko regarding microplastics and state action on monitoring.



- Set up interview between LA Times reporter Hayley Smith and EO/AGM Upadhyay on water supply outlook for coming year.
- Coordinated interview between LA Times reporter Rachel Uranga and WSO's Collins regarding rail strike and potential supply chain impacts on water treatment/deliveries.
- Arranged interview between Capital B News and Chairwoman Gray regarding water justice and solutions in African-American communities.

## Creative Design

- Completed design and production for HR Benefits Guide and video; Annual Shutdown Report; CRA and SWP inspection trip books; Pure Water Southern California fact sheets and website.
- Staff presented an overview of the conservation advertising campaign at the ACWA Region 8 meeting. (September 19)
- Produced a video of social media influencer Atiba Jefferson for a conservation advertising campaign.
- Received 250,000 page views on bewaterwise.com site with the This is How We Save Water page as the most visited page.



## Social Media

- Garnered 11 million impressions on social media platforms since July for the This is How We Save Water advertising campaign.
- Celebrated employee achievements on social media platforms, including Lupe Tesso's retirement after 53 years of service and a Labor Day salute to Metropolitan employees.



*Top performing social posts featured conservation tips and Labor Day salute to MWD employees.*

## Public Outreach and Member Services

The Director's Inspection Trip program resumed with trips this month to the Colorado River and State Water Project facilities. (September 30)

### Pure Water Southern California

- Presentations on the Pure Water Southern California project were made to the WaterReuse Association California Conference (September 12); Southeast Water Coalition (September 15); and the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Governing Board. (September 15)
- Facility tours were given to JWPCP Citizens Advisory Committee (September 20); Colorado River Water Users Association Public Affairs Committee (September 21); Sequoyah School (September 23); West Basin Municipal Water District staff. (September 28)
- Pure Water Southern California Member Agency Outreach Working Group meeting. (September 7)
- Meeting and tour of Vulcan facilities with Vulcan Materials staff to discuss potential for recharge and a holding reservoir. (September 29)
- Webinar with Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative. (September 30)
- Launched scoping website and outreach materials for the EIR scoping phase. (September 30)

## Other Activities:

- Met with member agency managers to provide updates on state legislative activity; the Delta Conveyance Project Draft EIR; the emergency water conservation program; Colorado River issues; project portfolios for SWP dependent areas; allocation approaches; and proposed actions for nonfunctional turf. (September 2)
- Participated in a presentation to the Lomita City Council for upcoming work on the Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B project. (September 6)
- Distributed notices to residents and businesses for the OC Feeder and Extension Relining, Etiwanda Pipeline North Relining, and Sepulveda Feeder Interconnection Electrical Upgrades.

California's Recycled Water Staff Person of the Year honor was awarded to WSO Team Manager Lehman, who oversees operations and testing at the Pure Water Southern California demonstration plant. (September 12)



*MWD's Joyce Lehman was honored at the WaterReuse Conference and acknowledged on social media.*

## Education and Community Relations

Metropolitan provided a sponsorship for the Cardenas Foundation to help fund STEM education and workforce development activities on water issues for young people in the Northeastern San Fernando Valley.

Metropolitan staff virtually interacted with more than 140 teachers, students, and parents through online tours, scouting programs, and customized ZOOM class presentations.

In partnership with the Municipal Water District of Orange County, staff provided conservation information to a class of Environmental Science students from Chapman University.



*WRM's Guerrero participated in the Theodore Payne Poppy Hour podcast and shared information about turf replacement rebates and ideas for sustainable landscapes.*

Metropolitan sponsored and staff participated in the Theodore Payne Foundation Poppy Hour podcast and YouTube broadcast to highlight and answer questions about the district's turf replacement and other rebate programs. (September 15)

Metropolitan sponsored the Orange County Coastkeeper Coastal Cleanup Day event. (September 17)

Staff participated in a meeting of the Ventura County Work-Based Learning Consortium, composed of public agencies, companies, and educational institutions to discuss work-based learning opportunities in the water industry. (September 21)

# Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation



## Sustainability, Resiliency, Innovation, and Environmental Planning

### SRI Core Activities

Worked closely with WRM to develop model ordinance provisions for member agencies to phase out non-functional turf and coordinated with the Colorado River team on gathering signatories for the Colorado Basin Urban Water Efficiency MOU.

The CSRIO presented at the Los Angeles Business Council's Sustainability Summit on water resilience efforts, spoke at the LA Waterkeeper Women of Water event and participated the Southern California and Climate Action delegations to the One Water Summit in Milwaukee, and participated in exchanges with utilities on greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies. Participated in the ninth annual Net Zero 2022 Conference and Expo to learn from public and private industry presenters on the latest news and best practices in climate change, zero carbon, net zero, sustainability and resilience, and equity.

Participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> World Water Tech Summit North America held in Torrance, CA. This year's theme focused on tackling Water Scarcity through innovation and collaboration. Panel speakers for this event included MWD GM Hagekhalil and Employee Innovation Council member Michael Thomas.

Attended the Regional Conservation Strategies Symposium hosted by The Nature Conservancy that encourages a voluntary, non-regulatory regional planning process that is intended to result in higher-quality conservation outcomes through the development of long-term conservation priorities including ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water conservation, and preservation of agricultural lands.

### Innovation

The Innovation team facilitated meetings with Metropolitan staff and four Technology Feedback Forum entrepreneur applicants. The applicants offered technologies addressing greywater solutions, Dashboard Analytics, Pipe Metering Systems, and Floating Solar.

Hosted the monthly Employee Innovation Council. The council discussed the restructuring of meeting agendas, terms of council members, and the inclusion of innovation global trends in personal and workplace use.

### Environmental Planning Section

**Core Business: Environmental Planning and Regulatory Compliance Support**

#### Engineering Services Group

##### **Etiwanda Pipeline Relining Project**

- Initiated environmental construction monitoring activities.

# Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)

## **Pure Water Southern California**

- Finalized and released for public review the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings (NOP).
- Continued preparation of public scoping materials and presentation in support of scoping meetings to be held during the NOP public review period, which extends from September 30, 2022, to November 14, 2022.

## **Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Program EIR**

- Continued collection data in support of development of the project description.

## **Construction Monitoring**

- Provided construction monitoring for the Upper Feeder Santa Ana Bridge Emergency Repairs, Orange County Feeder Relining, Weymouth Basins 5–8 Rehabilitation, and La Verne Shops Upgrades projects.

## **Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Group**

### **Climate Action Plan (CAP) Monitoring and Reporting**

- Kicked off the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Working Group responsible for ensuring that CAP GHG reduction measures are implemented and GHG emissions are accurately reported.
- Continued development of the CAPDash website for tracking and reporting of emissions and emissions reductions.
- Continued preparation of document templates and guidelines for subsequent CEQA review for projects covered under the CAP and for GHG CEQA analysis for new Metropolitan projects relying on the CAP.

### **Water System Operations Group**

- Obtained regulatory permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife in support of the Upper Feeder Santa Ana River Bridge Emergency Repairs Project.
- Monitored dewatering and construction activities and ensured compliance with permit conditions during the Upper Feeder shutdown and Santa Ana River Bridge Repairs project.
- Conducted site visit to Colorado River Aqueduct/Desert borrow sites with staff from California State Mining and Geology Board and the California Department of Conservation in support of preparation of the draft Reclamation Plan under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

### **Reserve Management**

#### **Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve**

- In coordination with the Reserve Management Committee (RMC), approved the fiscal year 2022/2023 Annual Work Plan and Annual Operating Budget.
- In coordination with the RMC, approved extension of the reserve management agreement with Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agenda through September 2026.
- Performed fence maintenance and repair along Reserve boundaries and conducted security patrols.



# Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)

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

- Concluded brown-headed cowbird trapping for the year; a total of 40 cowbirds were trapped to protect state and federally-listed bird species.
- Coordinated with CalFire during the recent Fairview fire.
- The Alamos Schoolhouse Interpretive Center educated 102 visitors during the past month.

# Equal Employment Opportunity



## Equal Employment Opportunity

### Expanding EEO Office Resources

The EEO Office created a new, high-level position entitled Chief EEO Investigator. This position is responsible for leading and conducting investigations of alleged EEO violations; it ensures that allegations are properly investigated and provides guidance to Principal EEO investigators, support staff, and others about the solution of difficult, complex and/or novel questions related to the application of policies and procedures. It also conducts detailed interviews and collects, obtains, and analyzes electronic, documentary, and anecdotal evidence; it provides follow-up on leads; examines and evaluates records and prepares and reviews detailed investigative reports, and finally, presents complex case information through written and oral communication to a range of audiences.

The EEO Office hired two qualified employees to fill this position; one employee was an internal promotion and the other employee was an external candidate. Both employees started in September and have hit the ground running, conducting EEO investigations.

### State Audit Recommendations

#### EEO Complaint and Investigative Procedures

In record time, the EEO Office created EEO Complaint and Investigative Procedures (EEO Procedures) and obtained feedback from Metropolitan's bargaining units. The EEO Procedures set forth a general overview of the EEO Office's internal complaint and investigation process to promptly receive and/or investigate and resolve a complaint of a violation of the EEO Policies; and to provide a mechanism for identifying, responding to, preventing, and eliminating discrimination, harassment, or retaliation in the workplace. The deadline to submit these procedures to the state auditor is October 20. However, the EEO Office was able to submit the EEO Procedures a month early for a pre-review by the state auditor.

#### EEO Concurrence Process

The EEO Office works collaboratively with Human Resources and DEI to develop an EEO Concurrence Process to integrate EEO oversight in the recruitment and selection process. The purpose of this process is to ensure that recruitment and selection practices are inclusive and nondiscriminatory and are evaluated according to an individual's knowledge, skills, and abilities as they relate to the requirements of the position(s) to be filled, without regard to any protected characteristic as defined by Metropolitan's EEO policies. Personnel selections will be made in a manner that ensures fair and equitable treatment, and reviewed to ensure that any artificial, non-job-related barriers to employment, transfer, or promotion are eliminated.

Although the EEO Office is primarily responsible for implementing Metropolitan's EEO Program, all officials, managers, and supervisors are responsible for ensuring equal employment opportunity and are prohibited from discriminating against any protected class. All managers, from frontline supervisors to the General Manager and/or Board Chair, bear the responsibility of carrying out Metropolitan's EEO Programs and related policies.

# Equal Employment Opportunity

(continued)

## EEO Case Management System

The EEO Office contracted with iSight to develop a case management system for EEO complaints. Throughout the month of September, the EEO investigative team worked to develop specific job fields within the system to capture relevant case information. We have collaborated with iSight, HR, and IT for configuration, webform coding and integration, UAT testing, data migration, and validation of the data migrated. The Go Live date for iSight is scheduled for early October.

## EEO Office Engagement

The EEO Office, in collaboration with DEI, recently partnered with VOICE, Metropolitan's ERG focused on creating a more inclusive environment for people with disabilities, to address concerns with HR regarding the company's accommodations process. Improvements are in the process of being explored and implemented. In addition, Chief EEO Officer, Jonaure Wisdom, joined Liji Thomas, Chief DEI Officer, to engage with Hispanic Employees Association (HEA) to clarify the differences between DEI and EEO and to discuss other issues of workplace culture and employee engagement. On September 29, Ms. Wisdom represented Metropolitan by attending the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the DIY Girls Gala, where Metropolitan served as a Bronze sponsor. DIY Girls offers innovative educational experiences and mentorship relationship programs for girls in 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, in under-resourced communities, to increase their interest and success in technology and engineering.

**HISPANIC**  
HERITAGE MONTH  
2022

**Sept. 14**

**KEYNOTE PANEL DISCUSSION**  
11:30AM-12:15PM  
US.1.T01.CA

MWD's New Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Officer **Liji Thomas**, and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer **Jonaure Wisdom**.  
It's in person & virtual meeting!

To register for ZOOM webinar, [click here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
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**HISPANIC**  
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



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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