

02/28/2023 Director Erdman's Comments

Item 3b – Discussion of Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water
and the next steps following the 2023 Retreat

- Prior to embarking on the development of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water, it's important for the Board to have clear consensus on two important questions:
 - What are the specific water supply related climate impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities that we are trying to address?And,
 - What are MWD's goals for the supply reliability, resiliency, financial stability, and affordability in addressing these climate-related issues.
- Based on the IRP Needs Assessment the Board has a very clear picture of the climate related impacts to the region's water supplies. However, the step we have NOT undertaken as a Board is to clearly define the water supply and organizational goals we want to achieve for the region and the criteria for successfully addressing the climate change.
- The steps outlined for development of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan are positive, but to ensure success of the Plan and to set a framework for future policy decisions, **the Board must come to an initial consensus on clear and explicit goals for MWD's reliability, resiliency, financial sustainability, and affordability.**
- To set these goals, the Board also needs to discuss and clearly **define for MWD and its member agencies what reliability, resiliency, financial sustainability, and affordability mean.**
 - Although the Board broadly defined the term "resiliency" at the retreat, the definition was not specific to MWD's resiliency, and the other terms were not defined.

Why it is important to establish clearly defined goals:

- Establishing clearly defined goals as an initial step in the process will also provide the Board and the member agencies the means to measure the Climate Adaptation Master Plan's progress and success.
- Metropolitan's goals for reliability, resiliency, financial sustainability, and affordability will also provide clarity to the member agencies in their own water supply planning processes and establish the basis for Metropolitan/member agency roles and partnerships.
- These goals will also be essential in defining Metropolitan's future role, mission, and future actions in providing water supplies to 19 million southern Californians.