



● Chair of the Board Monthly Activity Report – February 2023

Summary

This report highlights the activities of the Chair of the Board during the month of February 2023 on matters relating to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's business.

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

Tour of Metropolitan's Desert Facilities

Directors Goldberg, Erdman, De Jesus, and General Manager Hagekhalil joined me on a tour of the villages at Metropolitan's pumping plant facilities in the desert to get a better understanding of current conditions of employee housing, recent progress to address issues, and preliminary plans to improve conditions for employees.

I have asked the General Manager to work with Director DeJesus, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Implementation of State Audit, to schedule similar opportunities throughout the year for any Director who is interested. I encourage Directors to participate in order to better understand the issues we are working to improve.



Association of California Water Agencies Conference in Washington D.C. and meetings with Federal Officials

Attended the Association of California Water Agencies annual conference in Washington, D.C. and met with the offices of Speaker Kevin McCarthy; United States Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla; Representatives Ken Calvert, Grace F. Napolitano; Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton, Deputy Commissioner David Palumbo; and United States Environmental Protection Agency's Radhika Fox and the Office of Environmental Quality at the White House. We discussed critical issues including the need for a multi-agency approach to address the impacts of potential Colorado River reductions on human health and safety; the need to invest in conservation and alternative supplies; and discussed safe drinking water issues in California related to Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and underserved communities.



During key meetings with Members of Congress and Administration Officials involving the Colorado River, we were joined by the leadership of the Imperial Irrigation District and the Colorado River Board to demonstrate California's unity.



Speaking Engagements/Events

- Served as keynote speaker at the 24th Annual California American Ground Water Trust-American Ground Water Association's Groundwater Conference in Ontario, California.
- Served as a speaker for the San Gabriel Valley Water Associations Quarterly Breakfast, noting the pioneering efforts of the leaders in the past and their ongoing work on improving resiliency. I emphasized the need for continued efforts to develop solutions for the future and value to the region and state.
- Moderated panel representing Member Agency Managers that included Metropolitan's General Manager Hagekhalil discussing water issues facing the region and the state at Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Water Policy Forum, which honored the life of MWDOC's General Manager Rob Hunter.
- Served as a featured speaker at Mesa Water District's *Yo Amo Agua* community event featuring their innovative vending machine that was first installed about six years ago to provide a convenient source of low-cost, high-quality drinking water for the community. It dispenses more than 60,000 gallons of 100% local water annually at a cost of just five cents a gallon, which is significantly less than buying bottled water or the cost of water at vending machines elsewhere and is environmentally friendly to reuse and refill large containers. This is a great example of providing innovative options for the communities we serve.
- Served as afternoon speaker at the Urban Water Institute's Spring Water Conference focused on Metropolitan's Climate Adaptation Master Planning process where I entertained a host of questions.
- Served on a panel at Groundswell's Water Justice Summit, which brought leaders representing faith-based organizations, businesses, environmental justice, and labor together to discuss the crisis facing California water needs and social justice.



Interviews

- Participated in an Exchange Contractors "We Grow California" podcast hosted by Darcy Burke, Darcy Villere, and Judy Zulfiqar, focused on California water policy and Metropolitan's relationships with California agriculture.
- Participated in a question-and-answer session with the Black Employees Association outlining goals during my tenure as Metropolitan's Board Chair.
- Participated in an interview by Spectrum's "Inside the Issues" program with Alex Cohen about current water supply issues, Metropolitan's workplace issues, as well as goals during my tenure as Board Chair.

Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

I continue to meet regularly to review issues and coordinate activities with the Board Vice Chairs, Department Heads, and Directors.