



● Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly Activity Report – May 2023

Summary

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

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- Participated in a special tour with Congressmember Sydney Kamlager-Dove (California) of Metropolitan's Pure Water Facility in Carson. I thanked Representative Kamlager-Dove for her help in securing \$80 million for the project in last year's state budget. Noting that Metropolitan is using the funds to advance the planning and design of the full-scale facility. In addition, we discussed Metropolitan's interest in pursuing Federal infrastructure funding to help advance the Pure Water project. Director John Morris, Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance, and John Bednarski, Group Manager Engineering Services, joined me.



- Held a reception recognizing the Board Chair's conference Room designation as the San Fernando Room during my term in office. Certificates of recognition were presented by the offices of Congressmember Tony Cardenas, Senator Caroline Menjivar, and Assemblymember Luz Rivas. In addition, a public art photo exhibition from the archives of Liquid Art was displayed featuring member agency artwork from Metropolitan's six counties which was commissioned and photographed by internationally acclaimed photographer Tom Bonner and featured at galleries throughout California. I was joined by the City of San Fernando Mayor Celeste Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza, City Council Member Joel Fajardo, and City Manager Nick Kimball. Also in attendance were past Metropolitan Directors representing the City of San Fernando, including Sylvia Ballin, Hugo Mejia, and Sergio Rascon, who spoke about and reflected on their experiences serving on the Board. Board Vice Chair Heather Repenning, and Board Members Marsha Ramos, Miguel Luna, and Juan Garza were in attendance.



- Board Vice Chair Michael Camacho, Director Linda Ackerman, and I attended the State Water Contractors Policy Breakfast in Monterey, California.
- Addressed the Colorado River Board of California at its monthly meeting held this month in Monterey, California, to discuss Metropolitan's commitment to working together to solve Colorado River issues and challenges. I was joined by Directors Gloria Cordero and David DeJesus.



- Attended Metropolitan's One Water Awards Ceremony with General Manager Adel Hagekhalil, where six businesses and municipalities throughout Southern California were recognized for participating in Metropolitan's Water Savings Incentives Program to improve their water management operations and equipment. These investments together will save more than 1 billion gallons of water over the next decade. Board Vice Chair for Climate Action Heather Repenning provided remarks on behalf of the board. In addition, Vice Chair Gail Goldberg and Directors Jacque McMillan, Tony Fellow, and Karl Seckel, were also in attendance and provided awards to the recipients.



- Participated in a special tour of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District to learn more about their water system and recycling facility, strategic priorities, and matters of common interest. We also discussed ensuring imported water supply reliability, protecting water quality, local water supply development, and maintaining incentives for conservation. I was joined by Metropolitan Directors Miguel Luna and Glen Peterson, along with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Board President Jay Lewitt, Director Andy Coradeschi, General Manager David Pederson, Director of Engineering Joe McDermott, and Director of Facilities and Operations John Zhao.



- Director Miguel Luna and I traveled to Los Banos, California, to participate in a roundtable discussion with stakeholders from the environmental and agricultural community.

Speaking Engagements/Events

- I joined State Water Resources Control Board Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo as a morning speaker at the University of California Riverside School of Public Policy Water Affordability Symposium, where I emphasized the need for continued efforts to develop solutions for the future to address climate change impacts and vulnerabilities facing the region's water system and the communities' Metropolitan serves. I also participated in a robust question-and-answer session addressing climate change impacts, service costs, water quality, and Delta conveyance. Attendees included Eastern Municipal Water District General Manager Joe Mouawad, Western Water General Manager Craig Miller, water providers, policymakers, students, and community-based organizations.



- Provided congratulatory remarks at a reception honoring Maria Mehranian for her reappointment to the Delta Stewardship Council. We were joined by Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Board Vice Chair for Climate Action Heather Repenning, Director Miguel Luna; Nina Hawk, Group Manager Bay-Delta Initiatives; as well as former Metropolitan Board Members Lorraine Paskett, Hugo Mejia, and California State Assemblymember Laura Friedman.



- I was invited to present at the City of San Fernando's Council meeting to discuss current water supply conditions and Metropolitan's turf rebate program. The City of San Fernando adopted a 45-day moratorium on installing artificial turf while they study regulations to limit the installation of artificial turf on residential lawns.
- Met with Congressman Jared Huffman over Zoom to discuss Metropolitan priorities and regional investments and agreed to schedule a future briefing.
- Spoke over the telephone with Congresswoman Grace Napolitano about progress on Colorado River milestones.

Interviews & Correspondence

- Took part in an interview with the Los Angeles Times regarding the California Water Impact Network report on the Delta Conveyance Project. I discussed Metropolitan's Climate Adaptation Plan, which will inform Metropolitan's Capital Investment Plan, regional and local water project development, and long-term financial planning to ensure we are developing the best possible future for the communities we serve.
- Participated in an interview with Spanish language Univision to discuss the historic Colorado River agreement reached by California, Nevada, and Arizona to conserve at least 3 million-acre-feet of water through the end of 2026.
- In coordination with General Manager Adel Hagekhalil, I signed a Board approved resolution supporting the nomination of Cathy Green as a candidate for the position of Board President for the Association of California Water Agencies.

Delegation of Activities

- I asked Board Vice Chair for Finance, Audit, and Planning Gail Goldberg to serve as the introductory speaker for the VerdeXchange water resources planning charrette in my place.
- Board Vice Chair for Strategic Communications and Stakeholder Policy Michael Camacho joined Assembly Member Josh Lowenthal from Long Beach on a tour of the Los Angeles Sanitation District's Joint Water Control Plant and a visit to Metropolitan's Pure Water Southern California demonstration facility in Carson.
- On the board's behalf, I asked Board Vice Chair Michael Camacho to provide remarks at the 2023 Spring Service Awards Luncheon, paying tribute to employees for their years of service and dedication to the organization, which was also attended by Director Juan Garza.



Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

I was informed that Metropolitan Board staff has been involved in facilitating notices and logistics for the Northern Member Agency Caucus, which meets at Metropolitan headquarters given its central location. To my knowledge, Metropolitan staff is not involved in facilitating any other member agency caucus. I feel that such activities may blur the prerogative of member agencies to independently convene and inform their own representatives and delegations. While there is no issue with Northern Caucus meetings being held at Metropolitan if space is available, I asked Northern Caucus leaders to handle their own notices and logistics and for Metropolitan staff to assist in the transition by July 2023. This in no way impacts briefings from Metropolitan subject-experts and executive leadership, as is commonly requested by all member agency caucuses.

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