THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

- **Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly Activity Report – September 2026**

Summary

This report highlights my activities as Chair of the Board for the month of September 2026, as well as highlights the activities of Board Members who have been appointed to represent The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California externally, on matters relating to the district.

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- Joined General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh in hosting California's Secretary for Environmental Protection, Yana Garcia, on a one-day tour of the PureWater Southern California facility. We were joined by Board Executive Officer Jon Rubin, Pr. Public Affairs Representative Elisa Mendez, Public Affairs Representative Alyssa Fundal, and Public Affairs Representative II Noelle Vest. The tour highlighted the advanced water purification and reuse pilot program for PureWater Southern California, and its potential to provide a climate-resilient, regionally sourced water supply to support Southern California's future needs.

- Participated in the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) Board of Trustees candidate interviews spanning over two days, with Directors Kurtz, Miller, and De Jesus. I authorized Vice Chair Camacho with a proxy to cast Metropolitan's votes in the September PVID election for two open seats. The two successful candidates were new Director Chad Elliot and the incumbent Directror Grant Chaffin.

- Welcomed San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Board Chair Nick Serrano, who bid the Metropolitan board farewell as he concludes his successful term in the high office. We also presented special recognitions acknowledging our mutual accomplishments with our boards reaching not only a settlement of long-running and costly litigation, but the dawn of a new business model with supply exchanges that will prove to stabilize water supplies through intergovernmental investments in the lower basin, and among our member agencies, without the additional regional conveyance

infrastructure within Southern California. We underscored the strong partnership between Metropolitan, SDCWA and our 25 other member agencies.

- Presented Director Gloria Cordero with her 10-year anniversary pin in recognition of her dedicated service on Metropolitan's Board. Director Cordero represents Metropolitan on the Colorado River Board and is a key voice in advancing regional water policy and collaboration. Thank you, Director Cordero!

- Attended an evening gathering and discussion with General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh and other Metropolitan staff, with participants in the Sacramento Valley Water Stewardship Colloquium. The Colloquium is a year-long leadership program designed to inspire, equip, and elevate the next generation of water managers in Northern California. Rooted in Northern California Water's vision of one state, one watershed, the program brings professionals together to deepen their knowledge and technical expertise, strengthen their advocacy and leadership capacity, and build enduring relationships across agencies, communities, and disciplines. During the discussion, the group identified shared values and explored opportunities to collaborate on efforts that: (1) reflect the importance of the one-watershed vision to the water supplies that we all depend upon, and (2) would provide benefits to the entire state.

- Joined Mina Guli, a water advocate and ultrarunner, alongside staff from the Colorado River and Water Resources team, including Bill Hasencamp, Jennifer McCarthy, and Noosha Razavian for the final seven miles of her 2,000 mile journey—an effort that symbolizes far more than its physical accomplishment. The event highlighted the critical importance of protecting the Colorado River, a lifeline that supplies water to millions of people in Southern California and supports communities across the seven basin states. Safeguarding this essential resource is vital for the long-term sustainability of our region and the broader Colorado River system.

- Attended the Colorado River Symposium in Santa Fe, New Mexico, hosted by the Water Education Foundation. I was joined by Director Gloria Cordero, General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh, Bill

Hasencamp, Shanti Rosset, and Ann Garcia, where we met with various Western tribal and water officials. The symposium provides a private, collaborative forum for water leaders, tribal leaders, and government officials to discuss long-term management strategies and critical water-scarcity issues across the Colorado River Basin.

- Attended the National Latina Women Business Association–LA Chapter (NLBWA-LA) event, where I was honored to accept the Legacy and Leadership Award on behalf of Metropolitan for advancing innovative water research and strengthening community partnerships in Southern California. It was gratifying to see the lasting impact and benefits of the Business Outreach Program started during my tenure between 1999 and 2005 bear fruit in such a spectacular way, benefiting women-owned businesses of Southern California

Director Summaries

- At the September 22, 2026, Subcommittee on Imported Water meeting, Director Gloria Cordero provided an update on the September 9 Colorado River meetings. The Colorado River Board received presentations on Atmospheric River Forecasting and Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations, including the potential application of these tools to improve Colorado River runoff forecasting. Reclamation also provided an update on an ongoing appraisal study evaluating options to reduce flows to Mexico in excess of the 1944 Treaty requirements, including expansion of Brock Reservoir, off-stream storage, and operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant.

  The Six Agency Committee discussed the Weather Modification Program and the Colorado River Board's funding outlook. The CRB and Southern Nevada Water Authority have approved funding for the next year, while the Central Arizona Project continues to consider its participation. The Committee also discussed the CRB's four-percent funding deficit and noted that, under current conditions, reserves would support approximately three more fiscal years of operations.

  The Colorado River Authority approved an advance of $60,000 for the California State Water Project and Delta Tour scheduled for October 5–7. The tour will include a Sacramento River boat cruise, an educational rafting trip on the Feather River, an overview of Oroville Dam, and tours of Delta landscapes and infrastructure.

Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

- Continued to meet regularly with the Board leadership, the General Manager, the General Counsel, the Ethics Officer, and the General Auditor to discuss policy and organizational issues.