One Water and Adaptation Committee

Information on Metropolitan's application to the State of California's Instream Flow Water Purchase Program

Item 9-1

October 13, 2026

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Item #9-1 Instream Flow Water Purchase Program

Subject

Information on Metropolitan's application to the state of California's Instream Flow Water Purchase Program (IFWPP)

Purpose

Provide information on Metropolitan's involvement and proposed commitment to the State's IFWPP

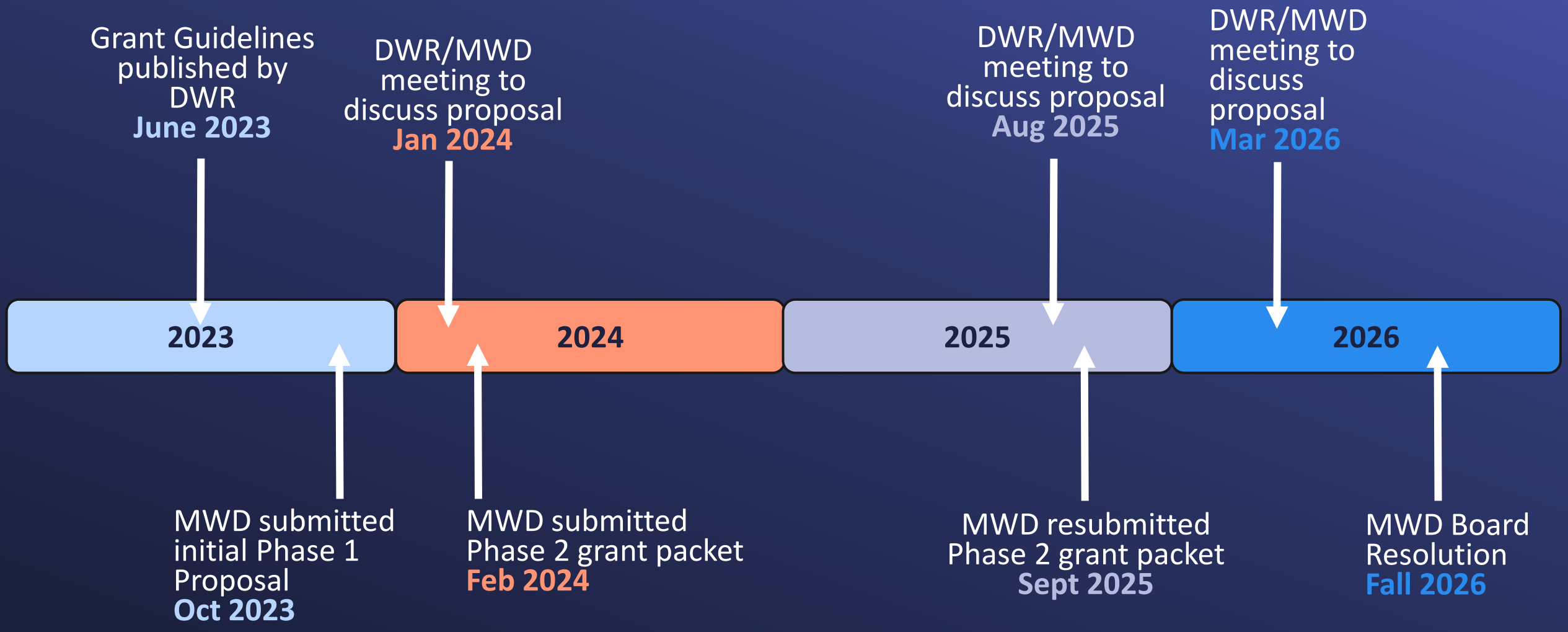
Next Steps

Request Board resolution to authorize the General Manager to enter into an Agreement with the California Department of Water Resources and California Natural Resources Agency for the Instream Flow Water Purchase Program

IFWPP Overview

- State-funded grant program administered by the Department of Water Resources and California Natural Resources Agency
- Primary goal: purchase water supplies to measurably enhance streamflow in the Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed to
  - Improve upon existing flow conditions
  - Provide fishery and ecosystem benefits
- IFWPP supplies can be used to meet State flow commitments in the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan update

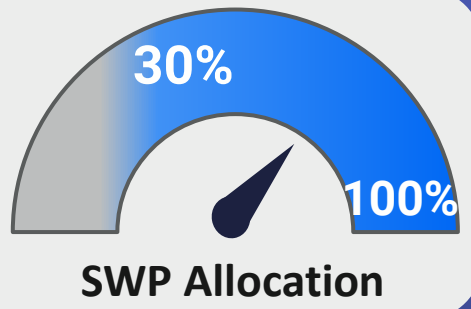
Instream Flow Water Purchase Program Timeline



Metropolitan's Proposal Accepted by DWR

Conditional on Board Approval

MWD participation occurs in years with SWP Allocations of **30% or above**



14 TAF contribution in each participating year

- Total of 140 TAF across 10 participating years (not necessarily consecutive years)

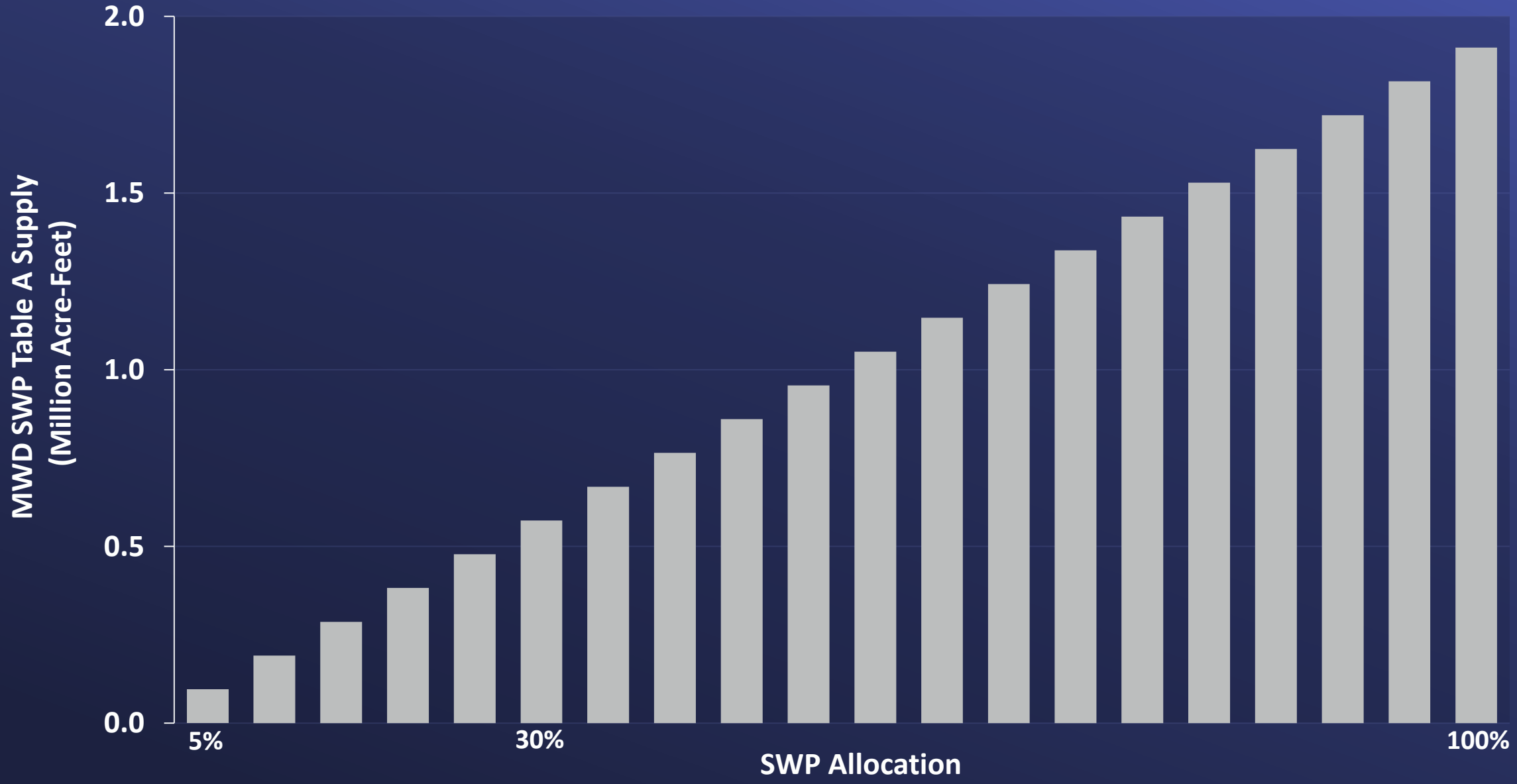
Lump-sum award payment of $70M

- Based on fixed SWP charges
- Funds available at program onset

Impacts to Member Agency Reliability

- Conducted reliability analyses similar to those performed within Metropolitan's decision-support framework
  - Modeling of Scenarios C and D of the Integrated Water Resources Plan (IRP)
  - Reductions in Colorado River supply assumed
- No significant increases to the probability of total shortages or SWP Dependent Area shortages
- 14 TAF contribution is a small percentage of Metropolitan's SWP Allocations of 30% to 100%

MWD IFWPP Participation in Relation to SWP Supply



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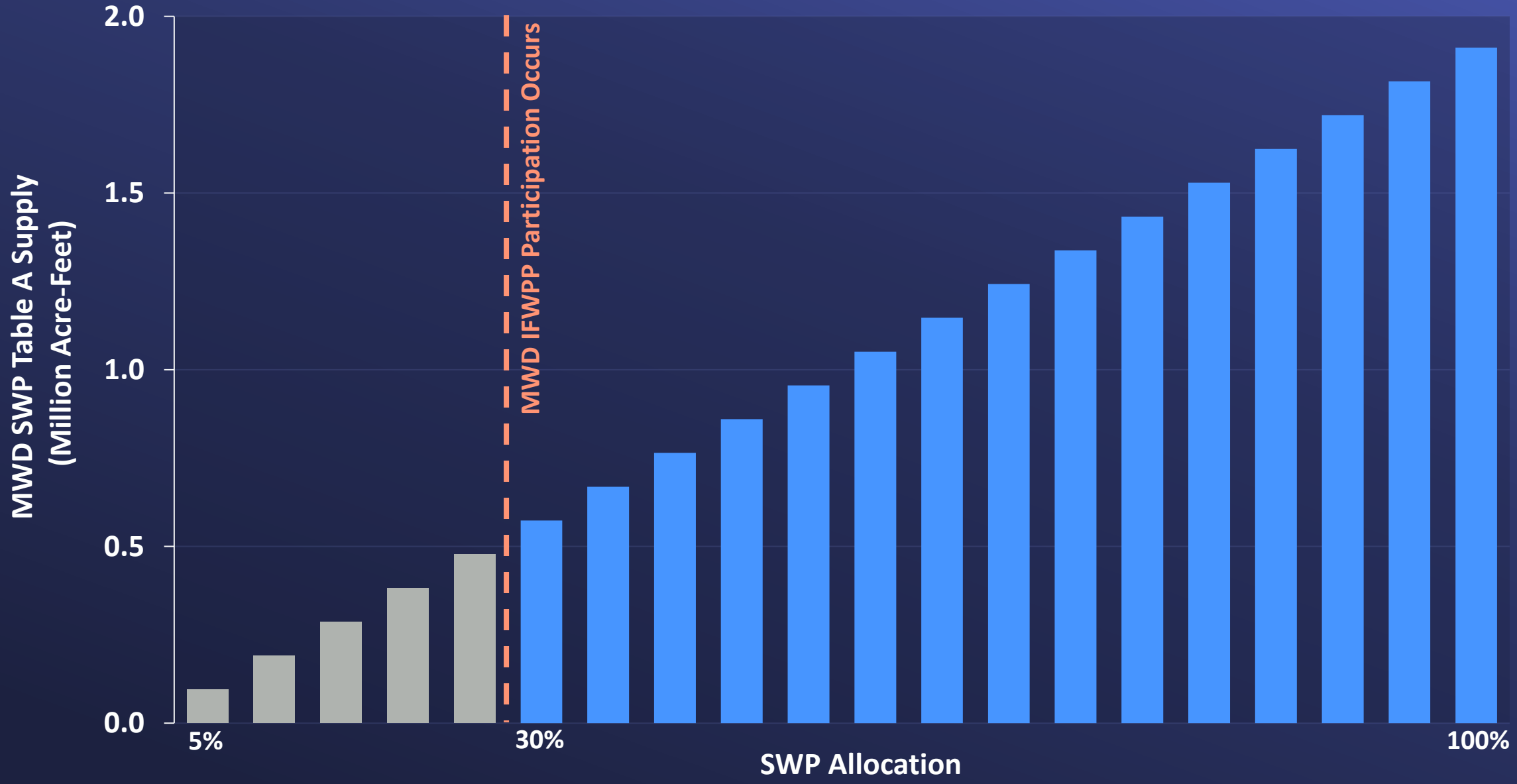

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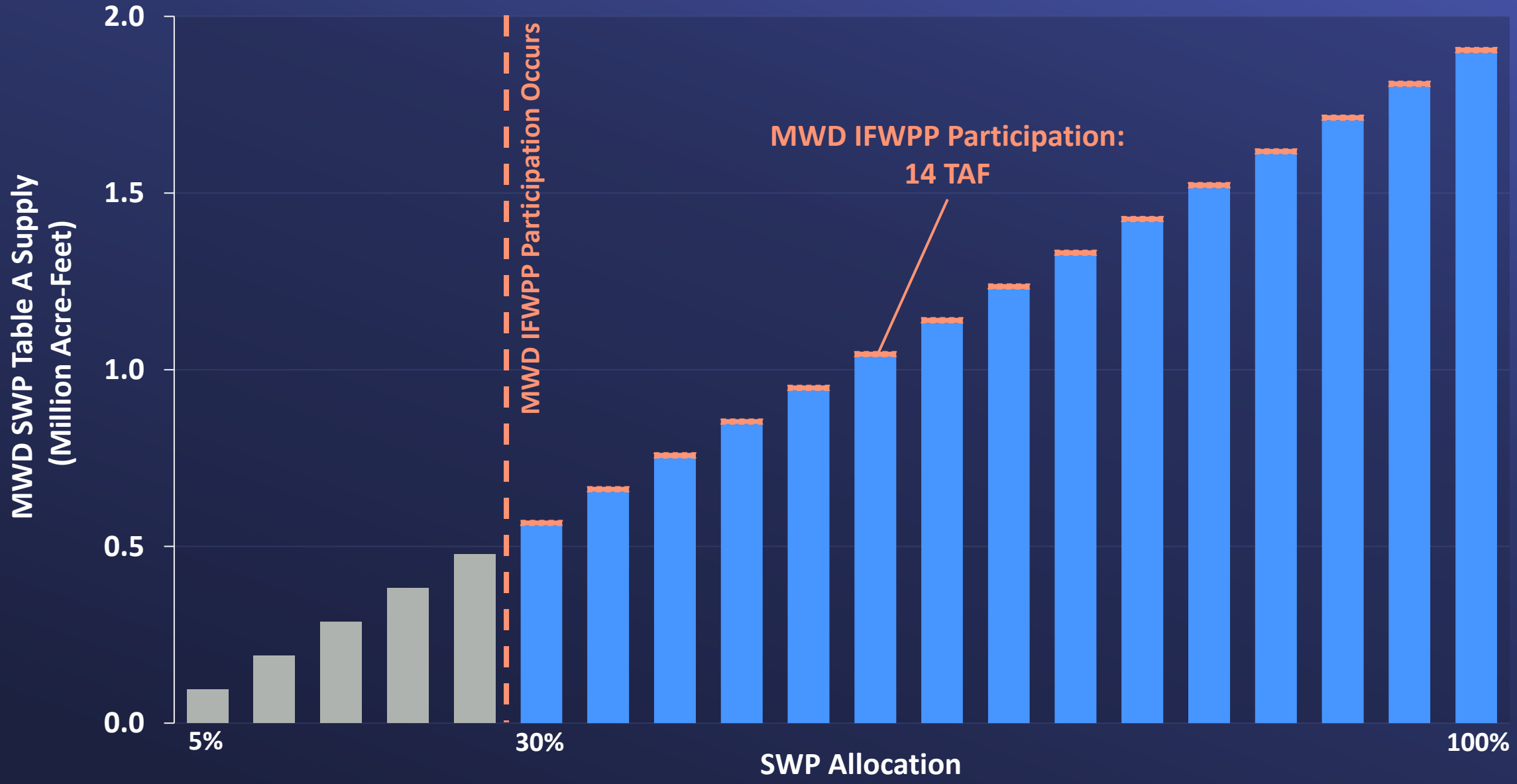

Metropolitan's IFWPP Participation

Metropolitan's role is to contribute a portion of allocated SWP Table A supplies in exchange for compensatory funds

IFWPP is not a surplus water management tool or a sale of surplus water; it is a compensated contribution to instream flow requirements

Contributions will be used to improve upon Delta flow conditions and may help meet future state regulatory requirements

Metropolitan's Participation under Potential Future Scenarios

Scenario 1: **Participation Helps Meet State Commitments to Future Regulatory Requirements**

- Metropolitan's contributions support improving flow conditions and ecosystem benefits within the Delta
- Metropolitan's commitment helps to solidify the State's flow contributions
- Metropolitan receives funding, which may be used for additional water management actions

Scenario 2: **Participation Does Not Contribute to Future Regulatory Requirements**

- Metropolitan's contributions support improving flow conditions and ecosystem benefits within the Delta
- Additional flow contributions needed from the State for regulatory requirements
- Metropolitan receives funding, which may be used for additional water management actions

Next Steps

- Board action required by late 2026 to authorize Board resolution to enter into grant agreement
- Upon Board approval, review and finalize grant funding agreement from DWR

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