



The GENERAL MANAGER Monthly Report

**Activities for the Month of
June 2021**

This report identifies the actions and activities taking place during the month that support the objectives of the General Manager's Fiscal Year 2020/21 Strategic Priorities and the Core Business of the GM's work groups.

July 13, 2021



Content by Group

Administrative Services	3
Bay-Delta Initiatives	4-6
Chief Financial Officer	7-8
Engineering Services	9-13
Environmental Planning	14-18
External Affairs.....	19-26
Human Resources	27-30
Information Technology	31-36
Real Property	37-39
Security Management.....	40-41
Water Resource Mgmt.....	42-46
Water System Operations.....	47-72

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION/CAO

CORE BUSINESS: Business Processes Advance value-added business process improvements to increase effectiveness and efficiency while striving for innovation, flexibility, and integration with technology.

Objective #2 SUSTAINABILITY - Develop, promote and support sustainable business practices.

1. The fourth quarterly Rideshare employee newsletter was distributed to all employees. The e-newsletter raises awareness of Metropolitan's Rideshare Program and events with relevant new information from other transit agencies and various fun facts. The issue featured:
 - An update on the various programs within Rideshare
 - Rideshare alerts and announcements on transit (bus and train) and bike
 - Quotes by our participants
 - A fun recipe by Jeannette Correa featuring a traditional Peruvian rice dish with beef and tomatoes
2. Enterprise Content Management (ECM) Information Governance Phase II is complete. Over 6,893,727 pages of vital documents were collected from the field sites and Union Station. The scanning created over 647 GB of electronic records that will be migrated to the ECM system.

Accomplishments

1. Administrative Services Q4 Water Talk Article, A Sustainable & Resilient Imaging Services—"Copy That" was completed. The article provides an overview of the services Records Management and Imaging Services provides in-house, embracing modern and challenging times, including innovation, resiliency, and sustainability.



**Imaging Services Team—Raul Valdez, Juan Espinoza and Oscar Real
A Sustainable & Resilient Imaging Services—"Copy That"**

2. Administrative Services rolled out a new agreement database that houses agreements not stored in Oracle. Staff partnered with key employees throughout Metropolitan to identify agreement administrators for over 3,050 agreements. The system will send reminder notifications to the identified agreement administrator when an agreement is expiring. The database is a great resource to search for non-Oracle agreements.

BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective # 1 Pursue the development of adaptive management decision processes, governance, and funding mechanisms that would provide effective and stable means of meeting State Water Project (SWP) regulatory requirements.

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative groups called for in the 2019 Biological Opinions (BiOp) for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project, and in the 2020 Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for Long-term Operation of the SWP to address science needs and inform management and operation of the water projects. In June, staff worked with state and federal agencies to develop a Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE) for Spring-run Chinook salmon, a requirement of the ITP. The JPE would be the basis for managing take levels at the export. Anything to add regarding the federal BO implementation?

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective # 1 Pursue completion of the planning and permitting process for the single tunnel Delta Conveyance Project (DCP).

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing to develop an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). DWR is planning four technical webinars to inform the public and interested stakeholders about the current progress related to the preparation of the Draft EIR. Each webinar will feature presentations from technical staff about the approaches, methodologies, and assumptions to be used in conducting impact analyses in the Draft EIR. Information about impact findings and specific mitigation measures are not available at this time but will be included in future outreach efforts following the publication of the public Draft EIR.

DWR conducted a survey in November and December 2020 to collect information on how low-income, minority, and other underserved communities rely on resources in the Delta. This information will help assess potential impacts and benefits to these communities. The report documenting the survey results has been posted on DWR's website: https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Delta-Conveyance/Public-Information/DCP_EJ-Survey-Report-5-28-2021_Final_508.pdf.

Joint Powers Authorities

During the June 17, Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors Meeting, the board approved the \$21.5 million budget for fiscal year (FY) 2021/22. There is currently an underspend of approximately \$2 million for the current fiscal year which is anticipated to roll over into the budget for next year following the closeout of the current fiscal year in August 2021. If the DCA Board subsequently approves this added roll over amount, it would increase the overall budget for FY 2021/22 by about \$2 million. Planned technical work in the upcoming year will largely be focused on studies to support preparation of the Draft CEQA documents, continued execution of the geotechnical program, and consideration of a range of project refinements to be further evaluated during final design.

The DCA Board adopted the DCA Investment Policy for fiscal year 2021-22 and delegated to the DCA's Treasurer the authority to invest or to reinvest funds of the DCA, or to sell or exchange securities so purchased for FY 2021/22 in compliance with the Investment Policy and applicable law.

BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES *continued*

The DCA Board also adopted the resolution updating the Ethics and Protest Policies to: update the DCA's address, update of the non-discrimination language to include gender identity, revise the conflict of interest language to align with applicable law, and provide other formatting and language changes. They also took action to alter the DCA Board meetings to a schedule of every other month, starting in September after the regularly scheduled July 2021 meeting. Special meetings could be scheduled or regular meetings could be cancelled as needed with proper public notice.

John Weed, Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the Alameda County Water District, was introduced as a DCA Alternate Director for Class 2.

The DCA Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) met on June 23 where an update on DCA design changes and an update on DWR's efforts regarding the Community Benefits Program were presented. DWR also presented the results of the recent Environmental Justice survey.

The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority regularly scheduled June meeting was cancelled.

Objective # 2 Support environmental restoration project opportunities that meet the goals of the California EcoRestore program.

Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat and Adult Passage (Fremont Weir Notch)

Staff continues to participate on the Fisheries and Engineering Technical Team for the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat and Adult Passage (Fremont Weir Notch) project. The purpose of the project is to remove barriers to migration for salmonids and sturgeon between the Sacramento River and the Yolo Bypass. DWR proposes to install operable gates in the concrete Fremont Weir to provide access to 17,000 acres of floodplain rearing habitat for out-migrating juvenile salmon and allow passage and prevent stranding of adult salmonids and sturgeon at flows below crest height of the weir. DWR has obtained permits from the State Water Resources Control Board (Section 401 Water Quality Certification), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (draft ITP and Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement). Moving forward, DWR will continue efforts to obtain necessary permits for the project and complete final design. Project construction is scheduled to begin May 2022, and operations are expected to commence in 2023.

Objective # 3 Engage in planning and permitting activities for the Sites Reservoir.

In the joint Sites Project Authority Board (Authority Board) and the Sites Reservoir Committee (Reservoir Committee) meeting on June 23, the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee accepted the updated Sites Reservoir Project cost estimate. The updated feasibility-level cost estimate is for the "right sized" project and is intended to provide potential participants with a higher degree of certainty for project affordability. The feasibility cost estimate for a 1.5 million acre-foot reservoir (Alternative 1) is estimated at approximately \$3.93 billion (2021 dollars), and the feasibility cost estimate for a 1.3 million acre-foot reservoir (Alternative 2) is estimated at approximately \$3.87 billion (2021 dollars).

The Authority Board and Reservoir Committee also directed staff to prepare the Amendment 3 Work Plan on a 36 month work plan period, which includes a description of cash call options.

BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES *continued*

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

Objective # 1 Provide leadership through advancing scientific knowledge that promotes opportunities for the improvement of SWP supply reliability through the improvement and protection of estuarine processes, native species, and Delta ecosystem health.

Staff is leading a Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP) effort to collaboratively develop a scientific definition of salmon recovery, expressed as a suite of clear, measurable objectives and landscape level quantitative targets. Staff is planning and participating in a series of technical workshops to develop this definition. The first set of workshops, which are currently underway, are focused on the following tasks: (1) exploring different case studies and examples for structuring and defining salmon recovery, (2) working toward consensus on a draft framework and key elements needed for a definition of salmon recovery, (3) exploring and framing measurable draft objective(s) for salmon recovery, and (4) discussing the approach(es) for defining quantitative landscape targets and thresholds. After the first workshop, the facilitators for this effort (Compass and Kearns and West) will review and organize the key elements, measurable draft objective(s) and approaches for defining quantitative landscape targets and thresholds into a draft framework to be presented to workshop participants in the late fall for review. This effort includes the participation of state and federal resource agencies, public water agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

On June 24, the Delta Stewardship Council approved the 2021 Delta Science Proposal Solicitation Awards for 16 proposals selected through a competitive process. One of the proposals selected for funding is the proposal submitted by Trout Unlimited titled *Developing an Inclusive, Landscape Scale Process for Central Valley Salmonids*. The funding awarded to this proposal will support phases 2 and 3 of the CSAMP Salmon Recovery Project (Project). Phase 1 of the Project is funded by the State Water Contractors Science Program.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

CFO STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Maintain Strong Financial Position.

Provide timely and discerning financial analyses, planning, and management to ensure that forecasted revenues are sufficient to meet planned expenses and provide a prudent level of reserves consistent with Board policy.

Objective #2 Manage risk to protect Metropolitan's assets against exposure to loss.

The Risk Management Unit completed 42 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 47 risk assessments on contracts, including professional service agreements, construction contracts, entry permits, special events, and film permits.

CORE PRIORITY: Business Continuity

Facilitate district-wide planning and training to prepare employees and managers to effectively carry out critical roles and recover mission essential functions thus ensuring continuity of operations and resiliency in the event of a disaster.

Objective #1 Manage the Business Continuity Management Program in accordance with Operating Policy A-06.

- Continued working with Metropolitan on updates and approvals for Business Continuity Plans.
- Participated in planning meetings for the Employee Innovation Council program.
- Continued participating in the COVID-19 task force bi-weekly meetings, planning for return to work.
- Attended the three-day Fusion Risk Management annual user conference. The conference was virtual, no cost, and packed with useful information on how to more effectively use the business continuity management software.
- Initiated design for Business Continuity exercises, using a cyber-attack scenario.
Conducted MetAlert refresher training for EOC Duty Officer staff.

CORE BUSINESS: Financial Management

Manage Metropolitan's finances in an ethical and transparent manner and provide consistent, clear, and timely financial reporting. Update Metropolitan's capital financing plans and work with rating agencies and investors to communicate Metropolitan's financial needs, strategies, and capabilities thus ensuring Metropolitan has cost effective access to capital markets and the ability to finance ongoing future needs. In addition, actively manage Metropolitan's short-term investment portfolio to meet ongoing liquidity needs and changing economic environments.

Objective #1 Record and report the financial activities of Metropolitan in a timely, accurate, and transparent manner to the Board, executive management, member agencies, and the financial community.

- Water Transactions for May 2021 totaled 141.6 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 4.4 TAF higher than the budget of 137.2 TAF. This translates to \$137.4 million in revenues for May 2021, which were \$11.6 million higher than the budget of \$125.8 million.
- Year-to-date water transactions through May 2021 were 1,420.1 TAF, which was 33.7 TAF lower than the budget of 1,453.8 TAF. Year-to-date water transactions through May 2021 were \$1,264.8 million, which were \$30.6 million lower than the budget of \$1,295.4 million.
- In May 2021, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,300 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$29,000 in discounts.

Objective #4 Update capital financing plans and work with rating agencies and investors to communicate financial needs and capabilities, ensure cost-effective access to capital markets, and maintain long-term bond ratings of AA or better.

On May 18, 2021, Metropolitan priced \$271,255,000 of Subordinate Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, 2017 Series C, D, and E. The bonds were initially offered to investors at a rate of SIFMA plus 22 basis points, for a three-year term (SIFMA is an index of weekly tax-exempt variable-rate bonds). This initial pricing met with strong demand with over \$2.1 billion in orders from 23 different accounts. Because of this strong demand, the price was reduced to SIFMA plus 14 points. The transaction closed on May 19, 2021.

Objective #5 Prudently manage the investment of Metropolitan's funds in accordance with policy guidelines and liquidity considerations.

- As of May 31, 2021, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1,379.6 million; for the month of May 2021, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 27 trades.
- During the month of May 2021, Treasury staff processed 1,070 disbursements by check, 19 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 100 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 78 receipts by check, 47 receipts by ACH, and 49 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security, and Resiliency

Objective #1: Manage and execute Board-authorized projects within the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) to ensure the reliable delivery of water to Metropolitan's member agencies.

Distribution System Reliability Program

This program maintains reliable water deliveries through specific repair and rehabilitation projects on Metropolitan's pipelines, reservoirs, and control structures. Recent activities include the following:

- **Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates Garvey Reservoir by replacing the reservoir cover, liner, junction structure valves, and standby generator; relocates the outdated WQ lab; makes structural improvements to the inlet/outlet tower; assesses the need for subdrain systems below the reservoir liner; and evaluates the feasibility of making modifications inside the reservoir to improve mixing within the reservoir. The existing reservoir cover, liner, and supporting facilities have deteriorated and need rehabilitation to protect water quality and maintain reliable water deliveries. Preliminary design will be performed jointly by Metropolitan staff and a consultant. Preliminary design is 5 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in June 2022.
- **Garvey Reservoir Hypochlorite System Replacement**—This project ensures that a continuous and reliable chlorine residual can be maintained in the water that enters and exits Garvey Reservoir. The project replaces the existing hypochlorite feed pumps, reconfigures the system piping, and upgrades the control systems and automatic process controls to allow remote control from the SCADA system. The contractor has mobilized, started to clear the area for the temporary feed system installation, and is preparing contract submittals. Construction is 10 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in July 2022.
- **Garvey Reservoir Erosion Improvements Areas 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11**—This project will install a permanent drainage system and erosion control features to ensure that storm runoff leaves the Garvey Reservoir site in a controlled manner. The project includes new drainage piping, concrete ditches, stem walls, flow detention, and dissipation structures. The contractor has completed drainage and erosion improvements in Area 8 and is currently performing work in Areas 6, 7, 10, and 11. Current contract work includes site grading, compacting fill for the earthen berm, and installing a new fence. Construction is 45 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in November 2021.

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program

This program was established to enhance the reliability of Metropolitan's water distribution system and to reduce the risk of costly emergency repairs of PCCP. The priority pipelines included in the program are the Second Lower Feeder, Sepulveda Feeder, Calabasas Feeder, Rialto Pipeline, and the Allen-McColloch Pipeline. A total of 100 miles of PCCP pipelines will eventually be relined with new steel pipe liners under this 20-year program. Recent activities include the following:

- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates the remaining 28 miles of PCCP segments within the Second Lower Feeder and will enhance delivery reliability to member agencies. Long-term rehabilitation of the Second Lower Feeder will be staged over a period of eight to ten years, with multiple construction and procurement contracts. Approximately 10 miles of PCCP on the Second Lower Feeder have been relined. Construction for Reach 2 is complete. Final design of Reach 3 is 97 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2021. Preliminary design continues for Reach 9, which includes a section of pipeline that will be tunneled under the Los Angeles River.

ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

- **Second Lower Feeder Isolation Valve Procurement**—This contract provides 13 conical plug isolation valves for the Second Lower Feeder rehabilitation. These valves range in diameter from 48 inches to 54 inches and provide primary isolation for maintenance activities, inspections, and repairs required to maintain reliable water deliveries with Metropolitan’s distribution system. Fabrication of the first three 48-inch conical plug valves is 95 percent complete. Two valves were delivered in June 2021, and the third valve is scheduled to be delivered in October 2021. Fabrication of the first two 54-inch conical plug valves is 45 percent complete, and they are scheduled to be delivered in October 2021.
- **Sepulveda Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates the remaining 35 miles of PCCP segments within the Sepulveda Feeder and will enhance delivery reliability to member agencies. Long-term rehabilitation of the Sepulveda Feeder will be staged over multiple years with multiple construction and procurement contracts. Final design of Reach 1 is 9 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by February 2023. Preliminary design to rehabilitate the remaining reaches of the feeder continues.

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

This program maintains the reliability of Metropolitan’s CRA conveyance system. Recent activities include the following:

- **CRA Radial Gates Replacement**—This project replaces eight deteriorated radial gates along the aqueduct in two stages. The radial gates are used to dewater the aqueduct on an as-needed basis. Construction of Stage 1 to replace a radial gate at Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant is complete. Stage 2 work includes replacement of seven radial gates at seven facilities along the CRA. Construction of Stage 2 is 99 percent complete. The contractor has completed the punch list items and is installing new transformer containment pads at Iron Mountain and Hinds pump plants. Construction is scheduled to be complete by July 2021.
- **CRA Sumps Rehabilitation**—This project replaces the sump pumps, which are circulating water pumps integral to CRA pumping plants’ operation. In March 2020, under Metropolitan’s response to Covid-19, the on-site construction activities were suspended. Hence, the construction contract scope was limited to only fabrication, furnishing, and delivery of new pumps, valves, and other contract specified materials. Those will be installed under a new contract at a later date. Procurement is currently 19 percent complete. The contractor has completed delivery of valves to all plants. The first pumps are scheduled to arrive July 2021.
- **Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Structure Rehabilitation**—This project replaces the existing deteriorated discharge valve and refurbishes the valve house and discharge structure at the base of the Gene Wash Reservoir dam. If the reservoir needed to be drained rapidly in the event of an emergency, the valve would be opened to safely release the water. The contractor has completed installation of the electrical equipment at the crest of the dam and is preparing for the installation of the temporary underwater device to isolate the reservoir from the discharge structure during the rehabilitation work. Construction is 43 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by October 2021.



Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Structure Rehabilitation—New control panel at the crest of the dam

ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

Treatment Plant Reliability Program

This program was initiated to maintain reliability and improve the operating efficiency of Metropolitan's water treatment plants through specific improvement projects. Recent activities include the following:

Weymouth Plant

- **Weymouth Chlorination System Upgrades**—This project expands the existing chlorine building to house additional chlorination feed equipment and instrumentation at the Weymouth plant. The chlorination system at the Weymouth plant is a critical component of the plant's disinfection process. The contractor is currently working on instrumentation and electrical equipment installation, wire terminations, point-to-point checking, and commissioning. Construction is 93 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by October 2021.
- **Weymouth Water Quality Instrumentation Improvements**—This project will improve monitoring and rapid response to changing water quality conditions at the Weymouth plant, by adding required sample piping, pumps and housing for water quality analyzers. The contractor is currently installing analyzer panels, sample lines to the analyzer panels, and stainless steel piping for sampling pumps; performing terminations of electrical equipment wiring within the building; and preparing the testing plan. Construction is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2021.

Diemer Plant

- **West Basin and Filter Building Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates the west flocculation/sedimentation basins and filter building at the Diemer plant, including replacement of treatment basin equipment and filter valves, abatement of hazardous materials, and seismic strengthening of the filter building. Reliable operation of the flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration processes is essential for a surface water treatment plant to comply with its operating permit and produce water that meets federal and state drinking water regulations. The contractor has completed installation of all new valves and actuator in the west filters and has completed rehabilitation work for all west basins. Construction is substantially complete and final functional testing activities are scheduled to be complete by July 2021.
- **Diemer Water Sampling System Improvements**—This project upgrades the existing Diemer water sampling system, comprising 13 sample locations, and will improve the accuracy and timeliness of collected data. At each location, the sample pump, piping, and field analyzers will be upgraded by Metropolitan staff. All materials and equipment have been procured for this project, and Metropolitan staff continues installation and commissioning activities for water quality field analyzers. Construction is 89 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2021.

Jensen Plant

- **Jensen Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2**—This three-stage project upgrades the electrical system with dual power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practice and improves plant reliability and enhances worker safety. Stage 1 work is complete. Stage 2 improvements will upgrade Unit Power Controllers 7 and 9 and their associated motor control centers (MCCs) to support critical process equipment. The contractor has completed commissioning of new MCCs at the Module No. 1 filter gallery and energizing new MCCs at the Dry Polymer Building and is currently transitioning existing dry polymer equipment to the new MCCs. Construction is 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2022.

ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

System Reliability Program

The System Reliability Program consists of projects to improve or modify facilities located throughout Metropolitan's service area in order to use new processes and/or technologies and improve facility safety and overall reliability. Recent activities include the following:

- **Headquarters Building Improvements**—This project provides seismic upgrades and other needed improvements to the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. Construction related to the original contract scope is 98 percent complete. The contractor is currently working on Floors 10 through 12 and continuing electrical work for the power door-assist devices. Staff is working with the contractor to advance additional work while the building remains lightly occupied. Construction is anticipated to be complete by December 2021.
- **Board and Committee Room Upgrades**—This project upgrades and enhances the reliability of the A/V systems in the Boardroom, three Committee rooms, and the Rotunda at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. Engineering Services, IT, and Facilities Management are working collaboratively on this technology replacement project. Installation of the A/V equipment has been included as a board-approved change order to the original Headquarters Building Improvement contract, described in the previous paragraph. The contractor completed energizing new LED displays in the Rotunda and the Boardroom and is currently installing A/V equipment and media desks in the committee rooms and the Boardroom. Construction is 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2021.
- **Headquarters Physical Security Upgrades**—This project implements comprehensive security upgrades for the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. These upgrades are consistent with federally recommended best practices for government buildings. This work has been prioritized and staged to minimize rework and impacts on day-to-day operations within the building. Stage 1 work enhances security related to perimeter windows and doors. Stage 2 improvements will provide security system upgrades inside the building with a focus on the main entry rotunda area, board room, executive dining lounge, and security control room. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. Construction of Stage 1 is 99 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2021. Construction of Stage 2 improvements is 45 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2022. The contractor is installing electrical lines for the security equipment on Floors 2 through 8. Stage 3 improvements are currently in the design phase.
- **Headquarters Building Fire Alarm and Smoke Control System Upgrades**—This project upgrades the Metropolitan Headquarters Building fire life safety systems, which includes replacement of the fire detection and alarm system and HVAC system improvements for smoke control. The fire alarm and smoke control systems in the Metropolitan Headquarters Building provide detection, notification, and control of building functions so that occupants and visitors can safely exit in the event of a fire. The contractor is performing utility research, continuing the permit approval process, electrical closet installation, and revising construction sequence in accordance with the Fire Department's request. Construction is 15 percent complete. The anticipated project completion date is being reassessed in order to better sequence testing and commissioning of system components.

ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*



Headquarters Building Improvements—Contractor routing low voltage cables

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION/CAO

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Provide planning, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and regulatory permitting support for programs and projects that focus on infrastructure reliability and redundancy.

Regulatory Permitting

- Completed biological survey and jurisdictional delineation reports in support of the Copper Basin Road Access Road Repairs project regulatory permitting analysis.
- Received Draft Waste Discharge Requirements from the Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Structural Protection Project.
- Executed California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) for CRA Exposed Barrel Repairs.
- Conducted the first annual maintenance and monitoring report for Whitewater River Rehabilitation Project in compliance with project regulatory permits.

Objective #2 Emphasize employee development and recruitment, knowledge capture, cross-training, management/leadership training, and succession planning.

Webinars attended by staff:

- Southern California Regulatory Update
- Regulatory Permitting for Southern California Aquatic Resources Projects
- Linear Infrastructure Redux: Adapting Your Projects to Meet the New Regulatory Climate
- Expanded Climate Action Through Nature-Based Solutions Workshop
- Working Group participant in the Carbon Capture Storage Reconnaissance Study—Working Session No. 3

Recruitment

- Began onboarding and training of new Associate Environmental Specialist.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #2 Provide planning, CEQA/NEPA, and regulatory permitting support for projects and activities that address the challenges of sustainability, including aging infrastructure, contaminants of concern, and affordability of water supplies.

Delta Conveyance Project

- Participated in meeting with stakeholders and reviewed draft environmental impact report (EIR) cultural resources chapter.

Regional Recycled Water Program

- Attended meetings with member agencies and local/regional jurisdictions.
- Coordinated with Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts for joint CEQA review for the Program EIR.

Lake Perris Seepage Recovery Project

- Coordinated with Department of Water Resources on joint CEQA review for the Draft Lake Perris Seepage Project EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION/CAO *continued*

Objective #3 Continue to actively manage Metropolitan's more than 30,000 acres of conservation lands through cooperative relationships with public agencies and non-governmental conservation organizations to promote sustainability of reserve resources.

Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Conducted Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) monitoring and trapped seven individuals for species data collection.
- Continued invasive species mapping and management efforts throughout the reserve, including discovery of and eradication treatment of new populations of invasive Stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*).
- Mowed approximately 50 acres of grassland south of Cajalco Road to maintain SKR habitat.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Trapped over 40 non-native brown-headed cowbirds.
- CalFire conducted a prescribed burn on an approximately 40-acre site adjacent to Domenigoni Parkway.
- Conducted roadside weed abatement throughout the reserve and mowing of SKR habitat management units.
- Monitored translocated burrowing owls on the reserve. At least five nestlings have hatched and have been observed outside of the burrow (see photo).
- Continued operating wildlife cameras with observations of mountain lion, bobcat, and deer (see photo).



Deer observed by wildlife camera in Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve



Translocated burrowing owls (chicks) on the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION/CAO *continued*

Objective #4 Develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) and prepare CEQA documentation to be used to offset greenhouse (GHG) emissions from future construction projects. Identify new and continuing conservation efforts for the purpose of reducing future GHG reductions, as well as highlighting Metropolitan's effort to achieve those reductions, and develop a tracking methodology to ensure Metropolitan is meeting its goal.

- Finalized the draft Climate Action Plan and Administrative Draft EIR.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3 Innovation

Objective #1 Pursue programmatic CEQA and regulatory permitting efforts for operations and maintenance activities throughout Metropolitan's service area to streamline clearances for capital projects and O&M activities.

Western San Bernardino Right of Way and Infrastructure Protection Program (RWIPP)

- Conducted protocol surveys for San Bernardino kangaroo rat in support of regulatory permits.

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Compliance

- Completed review of Administrative Draft Program Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Objective #2 Develop and improve internal processes, procedures, systems, and databases to streamline and standardize environmental analysis and project clearance in support of customers.

- Attended monthly meeting of the Employee Innovation Council and Procurement Sub-Committee to develop Metropolitan-wide processes and procedures.
- Began partnership with Water Smart on pilot project to develop a regulatory permit database/management tool.

Objective #3 Partner and collaborate with regulatory and resources agencies, as well as other public agencies and external organizations, to build relationships and expedite/streamline environmental authorizations and clearances for Metropolitan projects.

- Attended monthly coordination meetings with Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA) regarding Metropolitan permit activities and responsibilities at Stickleback River Ranch Mitigation Site (mitigation site for Foothill Feeder dewatering activities in the Santa Clara River).
- Attended meetings with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding federal funding and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for the Regional Recycled Water Program.
- Participated in permittee meetings regarding the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and draft EIR and participated in development of the Joint Powers Agreement.

CORE BUSINESS: Regulatory Compliance

Objective #1 Provide timely and professional environmental planning services and CEQA and regulatory permitting support to ESG, WSO, WRM, External Affairs, and Real Property groups.

Engineering Services

- Provided design phase support for:
 - Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) at Jensen and Skinner Water Treatment Plants
 - CRA Reliability Program
 - CRA Housing and Property Improvements Program
 - CRA Mile 12 Flow and Chlorine Station Upgrades
 - Copper and Gene Sluiceways Rehabilitation
 - CRA 69kV and 230kV Transformers Replacement Projects
 - Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project (Michelle)

- Headquarters Second Floor North Wing TI Project
- Jensen Plant Vehicle Maintenance and Warehouse Building HVAC Rehabilitation
- Jensen Plant Vehicle Maintenance and Warehouse Building Roof Replacement
- Jensen Plant San Fernando Road Entrance Asphalt Pavement Rehabilitation
- Jensen Plant Ozone Power Supply Units Replacement
- Lake Perris Seepage
- Mills Plant Electrical Upgrades Stage 2
- Mills Plant Ozone PLC Replacement Project
- Palos Verdes Reservoir Sewer Line Connection
- Perris Valley Pipeline
- San Gabriel Tower Seismic Upgrades
- Upper Feeder Blow Off Structure Station 2858+91
- West Orange County Feeder Cathodic Protection System
- Western San Bernardino RWIPP
- Weymouth Plant Natural Gas System Improvement
- Weymouth Plant Basins 5–8 Rehabilitation
- Weymouth Plant Administration Building Seismic Upgrades
- Weymouth Plant Water Quality Building
- Provided CEQA analysis and environmental planning clearances for Safety of Dam maintenance activities for Lake Skinner, Cajalco Creek Dam and Detention Basin, and Cajalco Spillway.

Construction Monitoring

- Provided construction monitoring for the following projects:
 - Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Valve Replacement
 - CRA 6.9kV Cable Replacement
 - CRA Overhead Cranes Replacement
 - CRA Discharge Line Isolation and Couplings Repair
 - Garvey Reservoir Permanent Drainage and Erosion Control Project
 - Orange County RWIPP
 - Santiago Lateral Station 280+85 Rehabilitation
 - Jensen Plant Flocculators Modules 2 and 3 Rehabilitation
- Completed Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Allen McColloch Pipeline Urgent Repair construction monitoring.

Water System Operations

- Provided CEQA analysis and environmental planning support for:
 - Routine Road Grading and Vegetation Maintenance for Diemer Plant and Yorba Linda Feeder Patrol Roads (see photo)
 - Mills Equalization Basin Debris Cleanout
 - Mead Valley Fence Installation and K-Rail Laydown
 - K-rail Installation on Tin Mine Road
 - Iron Mountain Pump Plant Drainage Repairs
- Submitted extension request for the CDFW SAA for routine maintenance activities in Bull Creek (Jensen Plant).



Yorba Linda Feeder patrol road alignment during nesting bird surveys conducted in support of road maintenance activities

Legislative Support

- Provided support for Metropolitan-sponsored Assembly Bill (AB) 442 (Mayes) that proposes to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.

External Reviews

- Reviewed 12 notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan.
- Provided Federal Register review and coordinated responses for those that may affect Metropolitan.
- Reviewed and provided comments on the Administrative Draft Cajalco Road Widening EIR/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and participated in meetings with resource agencies and other stakeholders.

Real Property Support

- Provided CEQA analysis and determinations in support of five real property agreements.

Miscellaneous

- Submitted and received approval for the Zero and Near-Zero Emissions Fleet Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program FY 22/23 budget cycle.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PRIORITY: Advance Initiatives to Educate and Inform the Public, Elected Officials and Stakeholders on Water Supply Conditions and Important Water Management Decisions.

External Affairs will develop and maintain relationships with the public, legislative leaders, government officials, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders, and implement effective and diverse communication and outreach strategies on the value of water, current water supply conditions, innovative strategies to address current and future challenges, and the importance of Metropolitan actions and leadership to promote stewardship, planning and investments to benefit the region.

Objective #1 Recognizing there is a new normal that is directly impacting California water conditions driven, in part, by more volatile supply conditions due to climate change, and informing key stakeholders, news media, businesses and the public on the need for sustained conservation actions, support for new water supply projects and continued investment in imported water systems to maintain water supply reliability and protect the environment.

Multilingual Community Newspaper Advertising

Staff launched a multilingual community newspaper advertising campaign aimed at informing Southern Californians about the current drought conditions, encouraging them to keep conserving, and pointing them to bewaterwise.com as a resource. The full-page ads ran through June in more than 40 English-, Spanish-, and Mandarin-language publications throughout our six-county service area. Newspapers include the Los Angeles Times en español, San Diego Union-Tribune en español, Sing Tao, World Journal, Southern California News Group, Inglewood Today, Acorn Newspapers, and the San Diego Community Newspaper Group. (see images below)



CORE BUSINESS: Legislative, Communications, Community Relations, Public and Business Outreach

Engage the public, labor, business community, agriculture, government leaders, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in California's water issues, communicating Metropolitan's interests and Board-adopted policies through federal and state legislative strategies, multimedia and multi-cultural communications, and educational and other outreach programs. Inform the public about Metropolitan projects, facilities, operations and initiatives to gather input and support, foster competitive and diverse business opportunities, and facilitate innovation and technology sharing.

Objective #1 LEGISLATIVE SERVICES - Develop and implement local, state and federal legislative and regulatory strategies consistent with Board-adopted policies. Promote interaction between Metropolitan leadership and various stakeholders, including elected officials, to facilitate support for and garner greater understanding of water policy issues.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Federal

The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Climate Change and the Environment approved H.R. 3293, the Low-Income Water Customer Assistance Program of 2021. This bi-partisan bill, co-sponsored by Representatives Blunt Rochester (D-DE) and Katko (R-NY), establishes separate drinking water and wastewater ratepayer affordability programs at EPA. Metropolitan supports this bill, and our support letter was submitted into the Congressional record. (June 16)

AGM/COO Upadhyay testified at a House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Waters, Oceans, and Wildlife hearing. He provided feedback on draft legislation to create a new funding program at the Bureau of Reclamation for regional recycled water projects. (June 29).

The subcommittee also approved H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act of 2021 and H.R. 3291, the Assistance, Quality, and Affordability (AQUA) Act of 2021. While this legislation authorizes funding for a variety of EPA programs, it also overhauls the EPA's transparent and science-based approach to regulating drinking water contaminants and holds local water systems and their ratepayers responsible for cleaning up the pollution of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) manufacturers. The American Water Works Association and Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies are leading the opposition against these.

State

The California Legislature passed a \$267.1 billion plan for the 2021-22 budget making this the largest budget in California's history and made possible \$76 billion surplus and an infusion of federal relief funds. The budget authorized \$3.465 billion for water and drought, \$1.255B climate resiliency, \$1 billion for wildfire mitigation, \$835 billion for clean energy, and \$1 billion for COVID-19 relief funds to pay down water and wastewater agency customer debts. However, the budget bill is short on details. There are no specific allocations to programs nor statutory language to guide implementation. These details will be forthcoming in a series of budget trailer bills as the negotiations between the Governor and the Legislature continue.

Metropolitan is part of a broad coalition of water agencies advocating for the water and drought funding and the arrearages relief. Staff have been meeting with Southern California legislators to urge support for funding recycled water projects, PFAS monitoring and treatment, investments in repairs to conveyance infrastructure and COVID-19 financial assistance for water agencies. Staff has also provided input on draft trailer bill language that would expedite drought relief grants and financial assistance.

On June 15, Governor Newsom lifted the COVID-19 restrictions, including physical distancing, capacity limits on businesses, the county tier system and masks for vaccinated Californians. And on June 17, Cal/OSHA adopted revised emergency temporary standards that align with the Governor's June 15 Executive Order and reflect the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health. The Governor's Office sent a letter to several trade associations stating their intent to ensure an orderly return to business as they ease up on the restrictions, including keeping in place the Brown Act waiver that allows virtual meetings. The moratorium on shutoffs due to nonpayment of water and wastewater bills will remain until September 30, 2021 as well.

The work of the Legislature continues as bills have passed out of their house of origin and moved over to the second house. Metropolitan's sponsored bill AB 442 (Mayes, I-Rancho Mirage) that amends the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, so that Metropolitan can develop a master reclamation plan, passed off the Assembly Floor on consent and will soon be heard in Senate Natural Resources Committee. Metropolitan is seeking Assembly Member support for SB 559 (Hurtado, D-Sanger) that establishes a Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Fund and requests \$785 million to cover the cost of subsidence repairs to the State Water Project and Central Valley Project. The Governor's May revision included \$200 million for conveyance repairs, and the State Water Contractor advocates are working to secure this funding in a budget trailer bill. AB 1195 (C. Garcia) that sought to address the needs of struggling public water systems in South Central Los Angeles has become a two-year bill. SB 222 (Dodd D-Napa) that would set up a low-income water rate assistance program passed out of the Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee on seven Ayes and two Noes.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Governor Newsom has appointed Nichole Morgan to the State Water Resources Control Board. Ms. Morgan has been the Assistant Deputy Director of the Division of Finance at the State Water Board since 2019. She is a civil engineer who has held several positions at the State Water Board and has worked for private consulting firms. The appointment requires Senate confirmation.

Local

Staff provided a water supply update to the Orange County Business Council's Infrastructure Committee regarding hydrological conditions, Metropolitan's water supplies and storage, and the WSDM program. (June 8)

Chairwoman Gray spoke on a panel about California's drought at the Los Angeles Business Council's virtual Sustainability Summit. Metropolitan also sponsored the event. (June 11)

AGM/COO Upadhyay gave a presentation on Regional Reliability to the Fallbrook Public Utility District. (June 28)

Metropolitan staff participated in webinars and events this month with chambers of commerce, business associations, councils of governments, public affairs networks throughout the service area including:

- Ventura County Board of Supervisors Meeting (June 1)
- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Meeting (June 1)
- Ventura County Special District Association Board (June 1)
- City of San Fernando City Council Meeting (June 1)
- South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce Board Government Affairs Committee (June 1)
- Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee (June 1)
- Ventura County Economic Development Association Policy Committee (June 2)
- Inland Empire Economic Partnership Public Policy Committee (June 2)
- LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Group (June 3)
- Building Industry Association Water Conference Planning Committee (June 3)
- Glendale Chamber of Commerce Business Advocacy/Legislative Review Committee (June 3)
- Glendora Chamber Legislative Action & Economic Development Committee (June 3)
- Upland Chamber of Commerce Legislative Advocacy Committee (June 3)
- Inland Empire Chamber Alliance (June 4)
- Water Association of the County of Orange (WACO) (June 4)
- Orange County Business Council Government Affairs Committee (June 4)
- Western Riverside Council of Governments Executive Committee (June 7)
- Inland Action (June 8)
- Orange County Business Council Infrastructure Committee (June 8)
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee (June 8)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Land Use Committee (June 8)
- Ventura County Board of Supervisors Meeting (June 8)
- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Meeting (June 8)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Reopening Workshop (June 8)
- Meeting with Stuart Waldman, CEO Valley Industry and Commerce Association (June 9)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition Legislative Committee (June 9)
- Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (June 10)
- Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Government Policy Committee (June 10)
- University of California, Irvine Economic Update (June 10)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Central City Association meeting with Los Angeles City Council Member Mark Ridley-Thomas (June 10)
- Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (June 10)
- San Fernando City Chamber of Commerce Board (June 10)
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Water Symposium Steering Committee (June 10)
- San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers Meeting (June 10)
- BIZFED Leadership Roundtable with Senator Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach) (June 11)
- Riverside Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (June 11)
- Regional Chamber of Commerce San Gabriel Valley Government Affairs Committee (June 14)
- West Ventura County Business Alliance Business Advocacy Committee (June 14)
- Ventura County Board of Supervisors Meeting (June 15)
- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Meeting (June 15)
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Water Issues Committee (June 15)
- City of San Fernando City Council Meeting (June 15)
- California Women in Agriculture Ventura County Chapter Board (June 15)
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee (June 15)
- Association of California Cities—Orange County Environment, Energy & Water Committee (June 15)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee (June 16)
- Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation Board of Governors (June 16)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Governmental Affairs Committee (June 16)
- Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Water Committee on Water, Housing, Energy, Environment, and Labor (June 16)
- California Building Industry Association Government Affair Committee (June 16 -17)
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Waterwise Breakfast (June 17)
- South Gate Chamber of Commerce Board (June 17)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Governing Board (June 17)
- Los Angeles County Business Federation meeting with Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martinez (June 17)
- Orange County Business Council Economic Forum (June 17)
- Anaheim Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (June 18)
- Oxnard Leadership Agriculture and Water Day (June 18)
- Southwest California Legislative Council Meeting (June 21)
- El Segundo Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (June 21)
- Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce Government Affairs Committee (June 21)
- Southern California Water Coalition Legislative Meeting (June 21)
- United Chambers of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (June 21)
- Ventura County Board of Supervisors Meeting (June 22)
- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Meeting (June 22)
- Ventura County Economic Development Association Board (June 22)
- Gateway Chambers Alliance Governing Board (June 22)
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Legislative Committee (June 23)
- San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network (June 23)
- Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (June 23)
- Association of California Cities—Orange County Legislative Committee (June 23)
- Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee (June 23)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Board (June 23)
- West Ventura County Business Alliance Board (June 24)
- Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Board (June 24)
- El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce Governing Board (June 24)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition Legislative Committee (June 25)
- United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley Board (June 28)
- Ventura County Board of Supervisors Meeting (June 29)
- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Meeting (June 29)
- City of San Fernando City Council Meeting (June 29)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Sacramento Day (June 29)
- Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (June 29)
- Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality Board of Directors/Regulatory Affairs Committee (June 30)

Objective #2 MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS - Communicate Metropolitan's policy priorities, actions and initiatives through various means to raise public awareness, enhance Metropolitan's visibility and cultivate support for Metropolitan priorities. Update and develop new communications tools, materials and platforms to ensure Metropolitan information reaches diverse audiences throughout its service area in a cost-effective, timely, relevant manner that reflects current communications trends.

Interviews

- Coordinated interview between KNX-AM 1070 news radio producer Donald Morrison and Water Quality Manager Rochelle regarding Metropolitan being named nation's best-tasting water.
- Arranged interview with CalMatters reporter Rachel Becker and AGM/COO Upadhyay about drought situation in Northern California versus Southern California, and drought planning for the future.
- Set up interview with KQED's Saul Gonzalez and GM Kightlinger on California drought conditions and related issues for the statewide show, "The California Report."
- Coordinated interview with CNN digital producer Drew Kann and GM Kightlinger regarding Colorado River flow decline, the looming shortage, and the river's future.
- Issued statement to AP reporter Alan Suderman regarding cyber espionage attack via Pulse Secure.
- Arranged interview with Bloomberg News reporter Brian Eckhouse and GM Kightlinger on drought conditions across the Southwest.
- Set up interview with Los Angeles Times reporter Lila Seidman and GM Kightlinger regarding drought.
- Coordinated interview with Los Angeles Times reporter Louis Sahagun and AGM/COO Upadhyay about Southern California drought preparedness.
- Arranged subsequent interview and tour of Diamond Valley Lake and Wadsworth Pumping Plant for LA Times' Sahagun and Water System Operations' Group Manager Yamasaki.

Press Releases

- Metropolitan Wins Top Honor for Best Tasting Tap Water in the U.S.
- Metropolitan Board Confirms Adel Hagekhalil as new General Manager
- Metropolitan Helps Advance Stormwater Capture and Recycling Project
- Virtual Solar Cup Program Culminates with Celebration of Student Winners Across Southern California
- Director Representing Western Municipal Water District Appointed to Metropolitan Board

Website

- Received more than 119,000 visitors to mwdh2o.com home page, with Diamond Valley Lake and the Regional Recycled Water Program the most frequented.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Generated more than 2,800 views on bewaterwise.com, with the turf replacement and California Friendly and native Plants® the most visited pages.

Social Media

- Generated impressive reach and engagement, with more than 100,000 click-throughs and more than 9.5 million impressions, on social media campaign featuring past conservation-focused assets that encouraged Southern Californians to save water through helpful tips and online class opportunities.
- Received nearly 20,000 organic impressions for first Twitter post announcing new GM Hagekhalil.
- Celebrated Pride Month and Juneteenth, along with the completion of the virtual Solar Cup 2021 program, on social media platforms. (see images below)



Objective #3 PUBLIC OUTREACH AND MEMBER SERVICES - Conduct public outreach to increase awareness and input on Metropolitan projects and initiatives and ensure impacted communities are aware of Metropolitan construction and maintenance activities. Enhance public awareness of Metropolitan's systems and facilities and the role they play in regional supply reliability while protecting environmental resources. Serve as liaison to Metropolitan's member agencies and facilitate their engagement with Metropolitan.

Member Agency Support

Metropolitan met with the Member Agency Managers to discuss water supply and drought operations; storage management strategy and implementation; FEMA funding opportunity for development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan; Multi-family Property Toilet Replacement Program; Flow Monitoring/Leak Detection Pilot Program; and the Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Regional Recycled Water Program

- Provide an update on the Regional Recycled Water Program and conveyance system that will be evaluated during the environmental planning phase to the cities of Azusa, Bellflower, Commerce, Industry, Lakewood, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Signal Hill, and South El Monte. (throughout June)
- Chairwoman Gray, AGM/COO Upadhyay, and LACSD Chief Engineer Robert Ferrante met with the Netherlands Consulate and their guests to discuss the Regional Recycled Water Program and tour the Advanced Purification Center. (June 16)
- Staff provided virtual tours of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center to the public in English and Spanish. (June 18 and June 22)

Provided virtual tours of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center as a part of the California Water Environment Association Conference and in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. (June 9 and June 19)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Objective #4 EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS - Facilitate public engagement in and understanding of water resource issues through community relations activities and education projects. Build awareness of and appreciation among Southern California for the value of clean, reliable water supplies and the importance of good water stewardship.

General Education

This month, Metropolitan staff virtually interacted with 460 teachers, students, and parents, and continued to provide online tours, scouting programs, and customized Zoom class presentations. Other projects included a webinar on Trends in Education and Outreach with the California Public Information Officials (CAPIO), a Diamond Valley Lake Docent meeting, and an Education Coordinators meeting that featured Metropolitan's "All About Water" new video resources.

Solar Cup 2021

Solar Cup 2021 culminated in a virtual awards ceremony. More than 300 students from 16 high schools throughout the service area were recognized for their work in online challenges that covered a wide range of STEAM fields including robotics, using CAD software, building an online game, social media messaging, and visual arts and dream job skills. (June 10) **(see image below)**



Community Partnering and Sponsorship Programs

Metropolitan sponsored and staff participated in the following events to promote water education, conservation, and sustainability initiatives:

- River LA's Unveiling Headworks Park (June 12)
- Climate Resolve Coolest in LA (June 24)

Objective #5 BUSINESS OUTREACH AND INNOVATION - Facilitate opportunities for small businesses to work with Metropolitan. Help position Metropolitan as a leader in water innovation.

Metropolitan supported small businesses and entrepreneurs throughout the region through its online participation and, in some cases, sponsorship of the following programs, online conferences, webinars and events:

- American Indian Chamber of Commerce's tribal summit (June 2)
- LA Chamber & the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber and National Association of Women Business Owners' event (June 9)
- US Green Building Council Los Angeles' Deep Dive into Net Zero workshop (June 10)
- US Green Building Council Los Angeles' Sustainability Summit (June 11-12)
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency and the Eastern Metropolitan "Making Money from Water" (June 17)
- Caltrans District 10's (Stockton, CA) Small Business construction quarterly workshop (June 18)
- California Office of Small Business and DVBE Services seminar on "Doing Business with Department of General Services" (June 22)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- American Society of Civil Engineers' conference on water infrastructure (June 23-24)
- Los Angeles County Professional Services and Commodities' Business Builder 2021 event (June 30)

Innovation

- Innovation staff met with East Bay Municipal Utilities District General Manager Clifford Chan. The GM also shared his vision of creating a partnership with UC Berkeley and co-funding a large pipeline testing facility. (June 10)
- Hosted the 27th Technology Approval Group (TAG) workshop, which showcased five emerging technologies that addressed water quality, metering, and leak detection. (June 23)
- Innovation staff hosted a "Pilots and Trials" workshop, which showcased four water utilities (June 30)

HUMAN RESOURCES

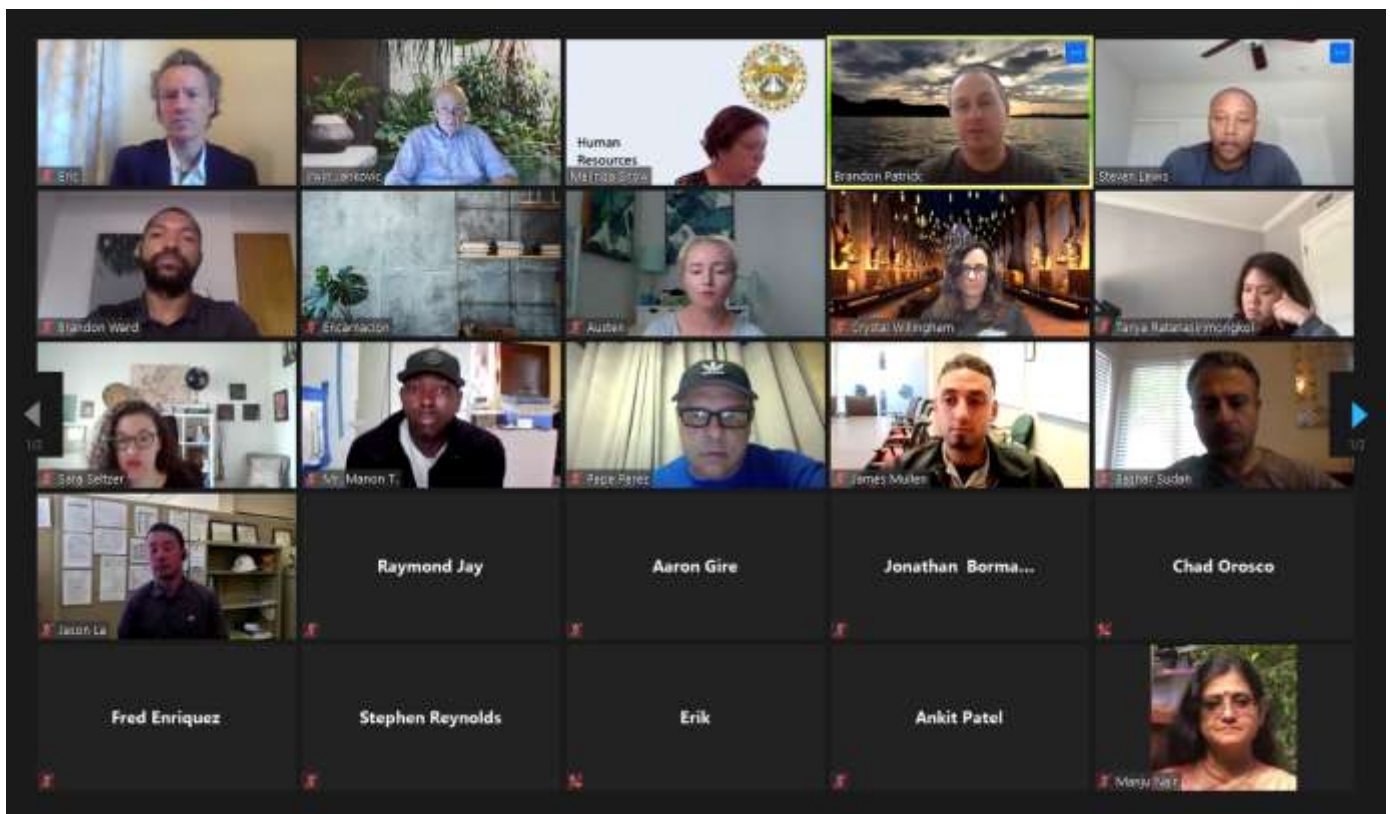
GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: RESILIENCY

Objective #1 Partner with Metropolitan leadership to support learning, development, and adaptive workforce planning initiatives.

The Organizational Development and Training Unit continued the 12th session of the Metropolitan Leadership Academy for 30 employees interested in moving into a management role. June's session focused on using clear communications, ensuring accountability, and providing coaching for employees that stresses connection and empathy but also centers on motivation and accountability.

This month, 224 Metropolitan employees attended other online classes, including Managing Emotions in the Workplace, Personal Security Awareness, Excel Databases, and Stress Management.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online e-learning content platform, was used for 51 classes, including such topics as Adding Value Through Diversity, Building Creative Organizations, Collaborative Leadership, and Women Helping Women Succeed in the Workplace.



Metropolitan's Leadership Academy – June 2 Session

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

Objective #2 Seek diverse, high-quality talent, and establish partnerships to discover additional outreach opportunities that aid in staffing positions.

Recruitment successfully filled 12 positions for the month of June. Eighteen new staffing requisitions were received, resulting in 94 positions currently in recruitment. Recruitment continues to successfully conduct virtual job interviews using Zoom.

The Human Resources Group Manager, working directly with the Board of Directors and executive search firm, finalized the selection of the new General Manager, Adel Hagekhalil. The final decision was announced and communicated to employees and the public. Human Resources (HR) is now finalizing arrangements with the goal of having Mr. Hagekhalil begin his new role in early July.

In June, meetings of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council continued. A presentation was provided on the MOU Grievance Procedure, and how it compares and contrasts with the EEO Complaint Process. There were also reports from the various subcommittees of the DEI Council. The next full Council meeting is set for July 7, 2021.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: SUSTAINABILITY

Objective #1 Implement employee retention and engagement programs to ensure Metropolitan's investment in employees is supported.

Human Resources management presented a plan for converting Headquarters and other teleworking employees to a hybrid work environment. Discussions with bargaining units are ongoing, and monitoring the CalOSHA regulations affects the timing, but the tentative schedule is for an October 1, 2021, hybrid work environment.

Objective #2 Ensure Metropolitan managers have foundational knowledge, on-going support to effectively manage employees, and the tools to prepare for a changing workforce.

The Organizational Development and Training Unit facilitated the third session of the WSO Management Specialization Training Program for 13 new Operations managers. This program has been designed to continue leadership development within Operations once new managers have completed the Metropolitan Management University. This session covered trust building, clear communication, and how to create psychological safety in work teams.

Human Resources staff continued to provide one-on-one coaching and mediation services for managers and employees in the developmental areas of conflict resolution, self-awareness, employee engagement, and trust building.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: INNOVATION

Objective #1 Continue to upgrade HR's technological capabilities and continue to seek out improved technologies to better serve HR's customers.

HRIS is working on the Fluid User Interface project for MyHR that will improve user experience and provide users with simpler navigation and additional functionalities. This is part of the continuing effort to modernize self-service capabilities to improve user access to benefit enrollment information, forms, and self-service election changes to support a hybrid work environment.

HR continues to work with Risk Management, Health and Safety, IT, and Security staff to design and test a new Incident Reporting System.

HR and IT are partnering on SharePoint solutions for improved information sharing and process improvement.

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

HR CORE BUSINESS: Provide Excellent Human Resources Services

Human Resources provides a wide range of services and support from pre-hire to post retirement care. HR policies, procedures, and practices will be reviewed and revised as appropriate. HR will continually improve service and better utilize technologies.

Objective #1 Administer all HR services with efficiency and a focus on customer service excellence, consistency, and flexibility.

HR Benefits hosted the second quarterly Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC) meeting on June 9, in which the DCAC voted to update our current investment menu for plan participants by removing the Vanguard Money Market Fund, because of extremely low yields, and transitioning participant assets to the Putman Stable Value Fund, offering higher yields. The addition of an ESG fund to the core fund line as well as a ROTH option for both 401(k) and 457(b) plans will be discussed at the third quarterly DCAC meeting.

HR Staff launched the Fraud Prevention campaign on June 1, 2021 to provide participant education on the importance of registering their deferred compensation savings accounts, adding security measures, and defining the key steps to take when fraud is suspected. Various workshops were hosted on June 16 and June 23.

HR is collaborating with Legal staff on updating Administrative Code language various provisions pertaining to benefits to ensure that we remain compliant with recent state and federal legislative updates.

Benefits staff are continuing to administer the two emergency leave provisions passed by the federal government under the FFCRA, which are scheduled to expire on June 30, 2021, and the COVID-19 emergency leave (SPSLA) passed by the state, which is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2021.

As required by State regulations, HR prepared and submitted a summary of salaries for the 2020 Government Compensation in California (GCC) report to the State Controller's Office (SCO). This information includes pay and benefits information of all employees.

HR CORE BUSINESS: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations

Ensure all policies, programs, and practices comply with ever-changing laws and regulations. Compliance with applicable laws and policies requires monitoring and analyzing changing requirements, determining impact on Metropolitan management and staff, and implementing any changes necessary to maintain compliance. In addition, these changes must be clearly communicated to all customers as necessary, with any needed training provided, as appropriate.

Objective #1 Effectively administer all Human Resources policies, programs, and practices in compliance with applicable federal and state laws and Metropolitan's Administrative Code, Operating Policies, and Memorandum of Understanding.

In June, eight new workers' compensation claims were received, and one was resolved. Five employees remain off work because of an industrial injury or illness. This reflects Metropolitan's effort to accommodate injured workers while enabling them to be productive and on the job.

- Coordinated medical surveillance exams at two facilities (Jensen and Diemer). The exams included respirator exams, Department of Motor Vehicle exams, and hearing tests.
- Coordinated three random drug and alcohol tests
- Arranged five medical evaluations (DMV and medical surveillance)
- Addressed five Accommodation issues.

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

HR Metrics	June 2020	June 2021	Prior Month April
Headcount			
Regular Employees	1,799	1,806	1,807
Temporary Employees	29	30	30
Interns	9	3	5
Recurrents	21	20	20
Annuitants	17	16	16

	June 2021	May 2021
Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	94	88
Number of New Staffing Requisitions	18	15
	June 2021	May 2021
Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress	14	14
Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits	1	0
Number of New Job Audit Requests	1	0

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 19/20 Totals</u>	<u>June 2021</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	127	4	74
Temporary Employees	29	2	30
Interns	18	0	3
Internal Promotions	91	4	60
Management Requested Promotions	109	15	149
Retirements/Separations (regular employees)	124	5	78
Employee Requested Transfers	15	1	20

ID	Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Reason	Group
11348	Bailey	Shawn	Section Mgr- Power Ops&Planning	5/4/2021	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
05909	Kostelecky	James	Unit Mgr-Water Treatment Plant	5/15/2021	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
10862	Obegolu	Chisom	Engineer	4/30/2021	Resign- Accepted Other Employ	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP
09864	Urrutia	Joaquin	Sr Training Specialist (C)	5/1/2021	Resign- Accepted Other Employ	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
08237	King	Lisa	Admin Assistant II	5/6/2021	Resign-Diss w Work Conditions	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: RESILIENCY

OBJECTIVE #1 Strengthen Metropolitan’s cybersecurity capabilities by deploying new and emerging technologies, and implementing enhanced security countermeasures

Continued to implement Cybersecurity projects and initiatives to improve Metropolitan’s security posture and collaborate with stakeholders to further enhance network security capabilities for Metropolitan’s computing environments.

- Provided IT governance to strengthen capabilities to mitigate increasing cybersecurity threats to Metropolitan’s business systems and networks.
- Conducted ongoing cybersecurity initiatives to mitigate risks and vulnerabilities by working with business groups to implement security updates, protocols, and enhancements to address potential cyber vulnerabilities.
- Continued to deploy two-factor authentication and other security tools to safeguard Metropolitan’s computing environment and its assets.
- Enhanced remote connectivity to ensure secure and reliable service for Metropolitan employees’ teleworking.
- Issued IT Notification to communicate upgrades, software patching, and security enhancements to ensure system performance and protection against evolving cyber threats.



OBJECTIVE #2 Manage Information Technology Projects within the Capital Investment Plan to ensure reliability of Information Technology (IT) Systems and Infrastructure.

- Continued to execute IT capital projects in support of Metropolitan’s strategic priorities by replacing end-of-life infrastructure, upgrading applications, and delivering innovative solutions to ensure the reliability and resilience of IT systems. Selected activities include:
 - **Emergency Radio Communications System Upgrade**—As part of the Define phase, this project is currently conducting pilot testing at La Verne, Black Metal, and Pleasant Peak to address capacity and areas of poor reception as part of upgrading the Emergency Radio Communication System.
 - **Budget System Replacement**—Upgrade Metropolitan’s budgeting system to support the capital and O&M budget processes and Board deliverables. The development phase is substantially complete, and system testing with end-users is currently underway.
 - **Desert Microwave and Two-Way Radio projects**—Upgrade Desert microwave tower sites by replacing end-of-life equipment and providing sufficient capacity and reliability to Metropolitan’s wide area network in the Desert region. Based on completion of the initial work by staff on the technical specifications and requirements, final preparations are underway to proceed to the July Board to seek approval to proceed with the final design and procurement phase.
 - **Water Information System (WINS)**—The scope of this project is to upgrade the WINS system used for monthly billing to the member agencies, and the Board approved it in April. During the period, the project was kicked off with consultants and key stakeholders. Project plan development is underway while discovery meetings are being conducting with the key users.
 - **Enterprise Data Analytics**—The scope of this project is to develop a data and analytics strategy, create implementation best practices, and engage Metropolitan stakeholders on a technology blueprint to serve the data analytics needs of Metropolitan business groups. Selection of a consultant is underway as part of the RFP solicitation process.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

OBJECTIVE #3 Modernize Operational Technology and Control System Upgrades as part of the Capital Investment Plan.

- Automated Meter Reading (AMR) Upgrade—The AMR project will address equipment obsolescence as the current communication equipment used in the system is approaching end-of-life. During the period, staff continued with the Define phase of this project by evaluating design alternatives and technologies, including pilot testing of four radio frequency technologies for the AMR project. Current activities include:
 - Installation of endpoints (radio modems) at the Garvey Reservoir coverage area and Jensen.
 - Deployment of virtual server and cut over radio modems to a new system software.
 - Continued partnering with WSO resources on installation of field equipment for testing.

OBJECTIVE #4 Improve Metropolitan's IT Disaster Recovery and Response Capability

- Conducted ongoing planning and training of IT staff who support emergency response. As part of continuous improvement, staff performs DR testing and exercises that are executed throughout the year. Based on the recent IT ICP (Incident Command Post) Mid-Year Review, staff will continue to assess protocols and processes to address new “what-if” scenarios to prepare for emergencies.



Disaster Recovery Planning

OBJECTIVE #5 Provide leadership, planning, and solutions in support of Metropolitan's Strategic Priorities.

- As part of the strategic priority to enhance Metropolitan's resiliency, IT staff continued efforts to relocate Metropolitan's data centers to modernize and enhance operational uptime of data center processing to meet current and future capacity and reliability needs.
 - **Secondary site**—Completed the secondary datacenter relocation and transitioned operations to the IT Infrastructure Unit. The successful completion of this effort culminated in a complex set of activities, including relocation of equipment and applications while minimizing disruption of the day-to-day business at Metropolitan.
 - **Primary site**—The team continued to work on the procurement and development phase of the project while developing a comprehensive plan to address logistical challenges associated with migrating hardware, software, communication networks, and ancillary systems. The work is complex and must be done while current systems continue to support day-to-day operations, as staff must work behind the scene to support the existing environment while developing the new primary datacenter. Efforts to complete the secondary datacenter (before the primary) was strategic to ensuring that recovery capabilities are in place before moving the primary site. With the successful completion of the secondary site, resources have been shifted to focus on the work at the primary site and is expected to complete in 2022.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

OBJECTIVE #6 Deploy solutions to improve operations, promote collaboration, and provide business value.

- The project team is wrapping up the Personal Computer Replacement Project (PCRP) by continuing to deploy new laptops and workstations in a phased approach. Replacement of aging PCs and related equipment provides Metropolitan employees with computers that have greater processing speed, disc space, and improved reliability because the existing PCs have reached end-of-life.
- Beginning in Fiscal Year 2021/22, the plan is to transition to an ongoing refresh cycle by replacing a portion of the PCs at Metropolitan every year. This shift in strategy provides several benefits including:
 - Ongoing refresh cycle ensures that older PCs are replaced before they reach the end of their useful life.
 - Minimizing disruption to business operations because deployment will be more tactical (avoiding the challenges associated with a full-scale replacement).
 - Providing greater flexibility in meeting customer needs because of changing business requirements.
 - Normalizing the financial requirement and risk associated with mass purchase and deployment.
- Continued to partner with key stakeholders on exception conditions and special requirements on the upgrade to Windows 10 to maintain the currency of PC operating system and enhance security capabilities within Metropolitan's computing environment.

OBJECTIVE #7 Enhance workforce productivity by simplifying access to business information and deploy technologies to support our customers in making business decisions.

- The scope of the IT Service Management project is to deploy a new service desk software to centralize and modernize service management within the Information Technology Group. The service desk tool provides a self-service portal for work requests and improves operational reporting capabilities. This project is proceeding according to plan. To date:
 - Completed Phase One of the IT Service Management (ITSM) used by Metropolitan's IT Service Desk Team to manage service ticket requests generated by business users across the enterprise.
 - In June, the team performed functional testing for Phase Two, which will deploy the Change Management Database (to support IT change management) and the Asset Module (to provide integration to the Oracle asset tracking system). Implementation of Phase Two will provide the tools necessary to enhance IT Service Desk support of requests and incidents. Deployment of Phase Two is scheduled for July as the project has reached the substantial completion phase.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: SUSTAINABILITY

OBJECTIVE #1 Provide IT services in support of the Headquarters Improvements Program.

- IT resources continue to provide support and services for the Headquarters Improvements Program and the Physical Security Enhancement Program to ensure alignment of IT requirements. With changing and complex technologies, it is important to ensure that requirements are in place, allowing for integration of systems and data.
- Significant progress has been made as the IT Group continues infrastructure upgrades to replace end-of-life systems and deployment of innovative technologies at Metropolitan Headquarters. In addition, current efforts are underway to prepare the IT infrastructure/systems to support a hybrid work environment as staff begins transitioning back to headquarters during the voluntary period, beginning in July.

OBJECTIVE #2 Manage Information Technology Projects within the Capital Investment Plan to ensure sustainability of IT Systems and Infrastructure.

- Continued efforts to replace the end-of-life Incident Reporting tool used for compliance tracking by Risk Management, Workers Compensation, Safety and Regulatory Services, and Water System Operations. The project is currently in the design phase as the project team continues to document and review functional specifications with key stakeholders. Development of the new system will continue as deployment is scheduled for Q4 of 2021.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: INNOVATION

OBJECTIVE #1 Strengthen Metropolitan's cyber security capabilities by deploying new and emerging technologies and implementing enhanced security countermeasures.

- IT Cybersecurity maintains periodic briefings to the Board to keep them apprised of cyber activities (conducted in closed session). A briefing to the OP&T Committee is planned for July.
- Continued key initiatives as cybersecurity remains a high priority and is a key part of the Information Technology Strategic Roadmap. Elements of the Security Operations Center project are underway to implement countermeasures to protect Metropolitan's computing infrastructure. These cyber capabilities include initiating new tools, monitoring capabilities, and managed services to identify and remediate threats and malicious activities.



Cybersecurity Portal

OBJECTIVE #2 Manage Information Technology Projects within the Capital Investment Plan to ensure sustainability of IT Systems and Infrastructure.

- IT continued to work in close collaboration with Engineering and Facility resources. Significant milestones on the installation of new Boardroom audio/video (AV) equipment has been completed. IT resources have initiated testing of the new system. Current efforts include final configuration and user acceptance of the AV system in US1-102, in preparation for placing the system into production.



New Video Screen (Rotunda)



AV System in US1-102

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

OBJECTIVE #3 Modernize Operational Technology and Control System Upgrades as part of the Capital Investment Plan.

- Continued the capital improvement project to upgrade Metropolitan's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to ensure continued reliability of the system-wide control system by addressing cybersecurity and technology obsolescence risks. During the period, staff continued to work with key stakeholders during the current RFP advertisement period.

OBJECTIVE #4 Provide Leadership, planning, and solutions in support of Metropolitan's Strategic Priorities.

- Continued to promote IT governance through the IT Executive Council and Operation Technology Governance Committee to ensure alignment with Metropolitan's strategic priorities.
- For the period ending in June, IT continued to deploy its cloud initiative. Staff continued to work and plan new cloud migrations that allow for the decommissioning of legacy servers and those that have reached end-of-life (and will no longer need to be replaced). Other benefits include reducing Metropolitan's physical server footprint, risk profile, and potential vulnerabilities associated with legacy hardware and operating systems.

OBJECTIVE #5 Deploy innovative solutions to improve operations, promote collaboration, and provide business value.

- Partnered with HR to provide business value, technology, and solutions. The IT Enterprise Applications Team provides PeopleSoft technical support to assist with various operational requirements. The work conducted by IT staff behind the scenes include preparing the PeopleSoft system for the upcoming annual open enrollment, system updates to facilitate the COLA increase, retro pay, leave payoff, W2, and tax updates as well as special processing for COVID-19-related earning codes.
- Developed the Service Connection Portal to provide an innovative solution in support of member agencies. The web-based portal allows member agencies to report any service connection issues like calibration errors, billing errors, shutdown outages, and high/low flow changes. This new method replaces the prior process, which was manual and prone to human errors. The benefits of the new portal include secure and easy access, routing to the right resource efficiently providing email acknowledgment, is fully documented, and creates a knowledgebase of service connect issues.



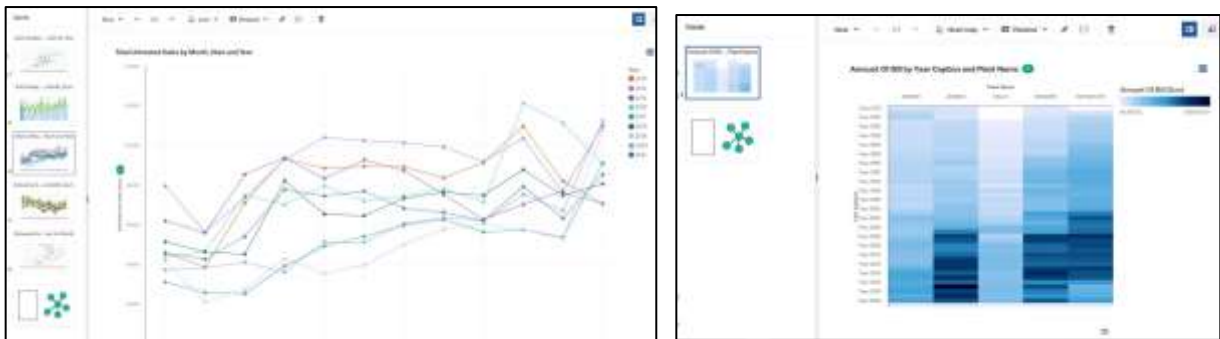
Service Connection Portal

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

OBJECTIVE #6 Enhance workforce productivity by simplifying access to business information and deploy technologies to support our customers in business decisions.

Through June, examples of productivity enhancements and deployment of technologies to support Metropolitan business include:

- Developed a new Water Ordering System to allow operators to initiate changes to existing water delivery orders using an online web application for member agencies. The system puts into place defined protocols and electronic logging of the transaction and replaces the prior manual method of calling into Eagle Rock.
- Rolled out the new energy scheduling system for WSO to meet regulatory requirements of reporting Metropolitan energy production. The new .NET application replaced an older legacy system that was unsupported.
- Improved certification processes by replacing manual forms (storage certs) to SharePoint forms for WSO and Storm Water Certs for WRM.
- Continued ongoing development of data analytics and dashboard reporting and embarked upon the first step towards self-service analytics. This technology allows users to leverage powerful analytics to generate a host of reports based on user data and requirements.



Sample Analytic Reporting

REAL PROPERTY

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Provide right-of-way planning, valuation, and real property acquisition support services for the protection and reliability of existing infrastructure.

Staff completed a fallowing easement exchange request through escrow for a landowner in the Palo Verde region. Metropolitan and Palo Verde Irrigation District's 35-year Fallowing Program allows participating landowners the opportunity to exchange their existing lands enrolled within the program with new land that qualifies for the program. A new easement for 45 water toll acres was obtained, and in exchange, Metropolitan and Palo Verde Irrigation District quitclaimed the same number of water toll acres.

Staff exchanged approximately 37 acres of an existing permanent easement area in one location within a city park for another within the same park from the City of Long Beach. This transaction was in support of the Second Lower Feeder Pre-Stressed Concrete Cylinder Pipeline Rehabilitation Program to include the enlarged footprint of a new blow-off structure constructed within the park. The City of Long Beach required a net zero impact to the existing encumbrances on the park.

Objective #2 Foster staff training and development.

Staff completed the following:

- International Right of Way Association-sponsored conference and courses: IRWA's 67th Annual International Education Conference; Introduction to Property/Asset Management; and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

CORE BUSINESS: Real Property Acquisition, Management and Revenue Enhancement

Objective #3 Efficiently maintain and operate assets not related to the treatment and distribution of water.

Staff completed an elevator cab refresh on 11 passenger elevators at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. The wall panels began showing signs of wear and require replacement. The new fabric is more durable and allows for greater cleaning efficiency.



Before



After

REAL PROPERTY *continued*

Staff completed the replacement of a wayfinder sign at the Diamond Valley Lake facility. The original sign located at the intersection of Sanderson and Domenigoni was damaged during a vehicular accident.



Objective #4 District Housing Maintenance and Management.

Staff completed a total of 45 work orders, including 19 resident requests, 5 preventive maintenance tasks, and 21 general and corrective maintenance items associated with Metropolitan housing.

In effort to support WSO's housing needs, two Metropolitan houses were prepared for occupancy in June. The houses were prepared for employees whose positions require them to have an onsite Metropolitan residence.



Porch Refurbishment at House 127-E

REAL PROPERTY *continued*

In an effort to reduce the potable water temperature during the summer months at Eagle Mountain, a Cool-Seal road coating was applied to the asphalt above the buried potable waterlines. Water temperature readings will be taken around the village area to track temperature differentials.



GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Develop and Refine Security's Strategic Plan

Metropolitan's Security team collaborated with Western Region Conveyance and Distribution (C&D) staff in a virtual tour of proposed CIPs. Though most dealt with engineering maintenance remediation, many proposals also included security components vital to water system operations and system integrity.

Several C&D remote substructures on the fringes of Metropolitan's service area were vandalized for potable water and electric power. Innovative products, such as reinforced stainless-steel vault lids, were designed by Security staff and deployed to ensure safe, intact, and reliable drinking water distribution to member agencies. These installations resulted in a 100 percent decrease in the breeches of substructure lids.



**Old substructure lids were vulnerable to cutting at the hinges.
New reinforced lids have no exposed hardware.**

Objective #2 Improve Security and Emergency Response

Security staff closely partnered with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Protective Security Advisors and collection specialists to conduct a security vulnerability assessment of the Iron Mountain Pumping Plant facility. DHS used a special camera system called the Infrastructure Visualization Platform (IVP) to collect geospatial data.

The immersive imagery was then integrated with hypermedia data of Iron Mountain's key critical infrastructure, surrounding areas, and roads. The final product's 3D rendering of the site will assist security personnel in planning, protection, and response efforts. This was the first of several planned IVPs that will be conducted in the Desert Region at key facilities over the next year.



**Security Unit Manager Tomer Benito (left) assessing vulnerabilities
with DHS Protective Security Advisor at Iron Mountain**

SECURITY/CAO *continued*

Objective #3 Improve Employee Readiness for All Hazards Emergencies

Catalytic converter theft has skyrocketed over the last several months throughout Southern California. As emission standards increase around the globe, the demand for catalytic converters and their encased precious metals has surged. Platinum, palladium, and rhodium are all extremely rare and expensive. Five years ago, rhodium was \$600 an ounce; today it is \$21K an ounce. One converter contains several thousand dollars' worth of rare metals, making it a very lucrative target for thieves, who remove them using battery-powered saws in just minutes, usually at night.

Utilities are starting to get hit because of their vast, high-ground-clearance vehicle fleets. The operational impact is that fleet vehicles could be out of service for three to four weeks awaiting parts and repairs. Metropolitan has experienced only one theft, disrupted a second theft, and is enacting swift deterrence measures to protect fleet and employee vehicles. Preventative measures include parking vehicles inside locked garages, increased lighting, additional security cameras, extra electronic detection devices, adding additional security patrols, and etching and welding converter parts together, using converter security clamps, and other proactive deterrents.



Catalytic converter from Metropolitan utility truck stolen by thieves using battery-powered saw

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #6 Ensure access to sufficient water supplies to operate a full Colorado River Aqueduct in times of drought.

Metropolitan staff participated in the biannual meeting of the Colorado River Salinity Control Forum (Forum). Participants discussed plans for the existing Paradox Valley Unit—a brine injection well owned and operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The well has been largely dormant since a magnitude 4.6 earthquake, believed to have been induced by the well, struck the surrounding Paradox Valley in March 2019. USBR reported that seismic investigations of the well and surrounding area are ongoing. Target completion date for the studies is summer 2023. USBR also reported on ideas for a replacement alternative for the well, including salt evaporation ponds operated by a private partner who would market the resulting salt byproduct.

Metropolitan staff also participated in a forum to provide input into revised streamflow modeling for runoff within the Colorado River watershed. The modeling effort, funded and led by NASA, Arizona State University, and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District seeks to improve streamflow projections by incorporating up-to-date science of climate change in the basin.

Metropolitan staff participated in a Colorado River Basin States Work Group meeting in Denver, Colorado. The meeting served as a kickoff of interstate negotiations over the new set of Colorado River reservoir operation guidelines that will take effect after the expiration of the 2007 Interim Guidelines in 2026. The meeting focused on familiarizing state agency staff with USBR's main river model and the sensitivity of that model to changes in key elements of the 2007 Guidelines and Drought Contingency Plan (DCP).

Objective #7 Support Capital Investment Program planning.

WRM staff participated in ten virtual site visits instead of the traditional in-person tours because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Capital Investment Program (CIP) review committee members also attended presentations given by the treatment plant, conveyance, and distribution teams. These presentations provided information on the teams' responsibilities and showcased the proposed major CIP projects for the upcoming two-year CIP cycle (FY 2022/23 and FY 2023/24).

Objective #8 Implement Local Resources Program

Metropolitan brought the proposed Las Flores Recycled Water System Expansion Local Resources Program project to the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee. The project will construct recycled water pipeline to deliver up to 209 acre-feet per year to the Las Flores community for irrigation uses. Metropolitan will enter an agreement for the proposed project with the Santa Margarita Water District and the Municipal Water District of Orange County. The Board approved the project on June 8, 2021.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #2 Complete the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.

On May 11, 2021, the Metropolitan Board unanimously adopted Metropolitan's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), and Addendum to 2015 UWMP on Reduced Delta Reliance reporting (Addendum to 2015 UWMP). Following adoption, staff prepared the final plans for submittal to the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

On June 4, 2021, staff submitted the UWMP and related documents to the cities and counties within the service area. In addition, Metropolitan also submitted electronic and hardcopies of the plans to the California State Library, member agencies, and DWR. The final plans are also available on Metropolitan's website for access by the public at <http://www.mwdh2o.com/AboutYourWater/Planning/Planning-Documents>.

Objective #4 Manage existing and develop new regional water management programs to maintain water supply reliability in the face of increasing water supply volatility.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) mailed a notice on June 15, 2021, to water right holders in the Delta watershed to inform all post-1914 appropriative water right holders that the best available data indicates that water is currently unavailable to serve their priority of right. SWRCB also sent a letter to pre-1914 appropriative and riparian claimants to warn them of impending water unavailability for a subgroup of those senior water right claimants and the likelihood of future notices of water unavailability or notices of curtailment that may affect their ability to divert. The curtailment of post-1914 water rights will reduce the amount of State Water Contractors (SWC) Dry Year Water Transfers available in 2021 to Metropolitan, which could be around half of the projected transfer supply.

Objective #5 Support development of Regional Recycled Water Program (RRWP).

Staff presented to the Board a resolution to support Metropolitan's \$6.25 million WaterSMART: Title XVI Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Water Reclamation and Reuse Project grant application. Staff also coordinated submittal of resolution and grant application support letter from our RRWP program partner Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD) to the USBR.

Objective #6 Maintain and enhance groundwater production in Metropolitan's service area.

Metropolitan staff made presentations on the Stormwater for Direct Use Pilot Program and the On-Site Retrofit Program presented at the WaterReuse San Diego Chapter Meeting. The presentation provided background on the programs and information on how to apply. Staff is seeking greater participation in both of the programs.

Objective #8 Implement Regional Conservation Program.

Metropolitan prepared to launch two new water efficiency programs by signing agreements with the Member Agencies. These programs, the Residential Leak Detection and Flow Monitoring Program and the Pre-1994 Multi-Family Property Toilet Replacement Program will advance residential water efficiency in the region.

Metropolitan staff hosted a virtual Conservation Program Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting with member and retail agency representatives. The PAC considers potential new devices and technologies for inclusion in Metropolitan's rebate and incentive programs and recommends programmatic changes to the overall Conservation Credits Program. The majority of discussion at the June PAC meeting centered on Metropolitan's potential support for member and retail agencies to comply with the forthcoming standards for outdoor commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) water use with dedicated irrigation meters as a result of the State's 2018 legislation on Water Conservation and Drought Planning: Senate Bill 606 (Hertzberg) and Assembly Bill 1668 (Friedman). The volumetric standards apply to urban retail water suppliers who will use them to calculate urban water use objectives for reporting purposes. Agencies may incur significant costs determining meter locations and estimating irrigation needs for areas served. Staff's participation in the PAC meetings help Metropolitan improve and implement its regional conservation programs. The PAC is scheduled to meet again in September 2021.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

The California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) held its 5th Annual Peer to Peer event virtually. General session topics included California water use trends, climate trends, media messaging and the State's new proposed legislation to lower the indoor gallons per capita per day (GPCD) standard, and development of outdoor landscape area measurements to meet the upcoming new standards. Metropolitan staff attended the CalWEP event, and co-presented on topics including: school "greening" and challenges/lessons learned in getting schools to participate in water efficiency incentive programs; a panel discussion on how climate, media, and customer behavior shape our work in water efficiency and conservation; moderating a panel on emerging technologies; and "How-to" workshops for new conservation coordinators. Metropolitan was a co-sponsor of the event.

OBJECTIVE #9 Ensure cost-effective State Water Project supplies

Staff participated in the Department of Water Resources (DWR)'s Castaic Dam Stakeholder Engagement meeting. In this meeting, DWR staff informed stakeholders on the current status of the Castaic Dam High Intake Tower Bridge Seismic Retrofit project. The Castaic Lake drawdown began on May 1, 2021 and DWR's contractor is currently assisting Los Angeles County Park & Recreation to remove the excess sand exposed by the lower lake elevation. Metropolitan staff is working closely with DWR to coordinate the drawdown to allow for the seismic retrofit work to begin in November 2021. There will be no interruption of deliveries to Metropolitan's Jensen treatment plant during the seismic work.



DWR contractor removes excess sand from the shores of Castaic Lake on June 9, 2021 (photo credit: DWR).

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

Objective #1 Adaptively Prepare for a Range of Possible Futures through the Incorporation of Scenario Planning in the IRP.

Staff continued engagement with member agencies and the board on work for the 2020 IRP. The Board IRP Special Committee held a meeting on June 22 to discuss refined scenario assumptions and gap analyses for the 2020 IRP. Findings from the refined scenarios and reliability analyses enable the IRP process to progress towards identifying portfolio actions and an adaptive management strategy.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

Objective #2 Collaborate with member agencies, water agencies and associations, and provide leadership for policy development, advocacy, outreach and education.

Staff participated in board meetings of the Southern California Salinity Coalition and CalDesal.

Staff provided a presentation on the Future Supply Actions Funding Program (FSA) to the Southern California Water Coalition Stormwater Taskforce meeting on May 27. The presentation included a review of the goals of the FSA and a description of the stormwater projects that Metropolitan is funding under the FSA.

Staff provided a recycled water legislation and regulation update via an on-line webinar to approximately 55 members of the Los Angeles WaterReuse Chapter. Staff highlighted the proposed State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB DDW) Direct Potable Regulations (DPR) that may affect development of new recycled water programs. SWRCB recently published an addendum to the second edition of A Proposed Framework for Regulating Direct Potable Reuse in California, which provides an update on SWRCB DDW's thinking on the development of uniform water recycling criteria for DPR and will help SWRCB establish a framework for the regulation of potable reuse projects. The DPR regulations would regulate the planned introduction of recycled water either into a raw water supply or directly into a public drinking water system. The regulations are scheduled to be adopted by December 31, 2023.

Staff are negotiating updated terms for an extension of Minute 322 of the 1944 Mexican Water Treaty. This Minute and its associated agreements provide deliveries of Mexico's treaty water to Tijuana during emergency conditions in Mexico. Water is wheeled through Metropolitan, SDCWA, and Otay Water District distribution systems. Updated terms are focused on streamlining administration of the agreement and updating terms related to payment for energy costs. This agreement improves bi-national cooperation on the river as the U.S. and Mexico work to address common issues.

Objective #3 Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Staff participated in a Water Research Foundation (WRF) webcast on two Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) studies co-funded under Metropolitan's Future Supply Actions Funding Program. SWRCB co-sponsored the two studies, which were used in the development of the draft DPR regulations released in May. COO Deven Upadhyay delivered a keynote address for the webcast along with SWRCB Chair Joaquin Esquivel. The webcast was attended by 391 individuals.

Upcoming webinars FSA webinars include:

- July 22: Application of Closed-Circuit Reverse Osmosis for increasing brackish groundwater recovery.
- August 10: Whitepaper assessing the potential for introducing stormwater flows into existing recycled water treatment plants. The Southern California Water Coalition is hosting this webinar and expert panel discussion.

All FSA webinars are free and open to the public.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

Objective #4 Promote Metropolitan’s technical capabilities and innovation efforts to advance the understanding of water resources management.

Staff participated in a three-day Desalination Research Needs Survey workshop hosted by the Water Research Foundation (WRF). The workshop developed recommendations for future research supporting the development of brackish groundwater and seawater desalination. WRF will use the study results to prioritize research funding opportunities. The Southern California Salinity Coalition provided \$10k in co-funding for the study.

Staff remotely attended New Mexico’s “Next Generation Water Summit.” Staff presented on Metropolitan’s innovative conservation programs on a panel alongside the St. Johns River Water Management District titled “Drought Growth and Water Conservation.” The Summit had about 300 attendees.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Provide Reliable Water Deliveries.

Metropolitan delivered approximately 151,800 acre-feet (AF) of water to member agencies in June. Deliveries averaged approximately 5,060 AF per day, which was 502 AF per day higher than May's deliveries. Treated water deliveries totaled 78,476 AF, or 52 percent of total deliveries for the month. This was an increase of about 7,649 AF from May's treated water deliveries. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) continued its maximum eight-pump flow with a total of 103,275 AF pumped for the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,600 AF per day, totaling about 48,000 AF for the month, which accounted for about 32 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. The target SWP blend remained at zero percent for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

Objective #2 Ensure Water Quality Compliance, Worker Safety, and Environmental Protection.

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during May 2021.

Staff completed the 2020 Consumer Confidence Report for the domestic water systems at each of Metropolitan's desert pumping plants.

Staff hosted a virtual meeting of the Safety Forum. The Safety Forum comprises all facility safety committee chairs and co-chairs. This month, discussion topics included new safety suggestions, lessons-learned during shutdowns, and an Innovation Council update.

June marks the 25th Anniversary of National Safety Month. In observance of this, Metropolitan is having a "Safety is Essential" themed T-shirt Design Contest, a Safety Awareness Quiz for employees to place their T-shirt orders, and a Brown Bag event on June 30 featuring various managers discussing how they promote a safety culture at their facilities and an update on safety improvements at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. All of these events are focused on improving safety awareness and performance.



Flyer of Brown Bag Celebration for National Safety Month

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Desert Guest Services staff performs a wide variety of tasks including operating a series of lodges and kitchens to support visiting staff, contractors, and dignitaries. These facilities are held to the same health and safety standards as commercial restaurants or hotels. County inspectors often make impromptu visits to ensure compliance. This month, a county inspector performed an unplanned inspection of the kitchen at Gene Camp. The facility was given a near-perfect score, firmly securing the A rating.



Desert Guest Services staff displaying the A rating card following inspection of the Gene kitchen

Staff installed warehouse motion sensors and lights to improve safety and security at the Diemer plant. Security experts identified a recent increase in security-related incidents throughout Metropolitan. The improved lighting will serve as an effective deterrent while improving warehouse and area illumination.



Staff installing new exterior lighting on the warehouse at the Diemer plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Objective #3 Actively Engage in Capital Project Planning and Execution.

Staff installed a remote terminal unit (RTU) for the new Water Quality Instrumentation Building capital project located at the finished water reservoir at the Weymouth plant. The input/output signal cabling was installed between the RTU and field wiring termination cabinets. Each cable was labeled to match the SCADA point tag names to make future troubleshooting easier. Each signal loop is tested and verified to ensure that all water quality instrumentation is connected correctly.



Staff connecting signaling cables from the RTU to the field terminals at the new water quality instrumentation building at the Weymouth plant

Objective #4 Optimize Maintenance.

The environmental conditions in the Desert region are hard on local Metropolitan infrastructure requiring continuous efforts to keep roads passable, washes cleaned, and barriers maintained to protect Metropolitan property. Desert staff, in close coordination with environmental specialists, maintain these roads routinely with trained operators and heavy equipment.



Staff repairing a CRA access road using a water truck to minimize dust

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff identified a circulating water pump with excessive vibration and noise at Hinds pumping plant and removed it from service for inspection and repair. The circulating water pump provides cooling water to the cooling coils and heat exchangers that carry off heat from the transformers, motor bearing surfaces, and motor windings. The cooling water system is vital to ensure that the 12,500 hp pumps do not overheat.



Staff securing a 2,300V circulating water pump at Hinds pumping plant

Each of the CRA pump units include a pump discharge shutoff valve that is used to isolate the pump and prevent it from spinning in reverse when the pump is not in service. During an unplanned shutoff of a pump, the large discharge valve closes in approximately 10 seconds to ensure that the pump is not damaged by water backspinning the unit. This month, staff performed maintenance on a pump discharge shutoff valve at Eagle Mountain pumping plant to ensure reliable operation.



Staff lubricating the pump discharge valve at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

The La Verne Shops manufactured multiple components for Greg Avenue pump station, located in Sun Valley. These components will be used to facilitate the testing and operation of two new 3,000 hp pumps that are part of Metropolitan's robust drought response effort. The components consisted of new discharge bypass piping segments, a future pump surge tank connection, and a refurbished 300-pound slanted disc check valve for surge attenuation. Water surges in the pipeline can occur when rapid flow changes are made, such as when a pump unexpectedly trips upon loss of power.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Bypass piping for Greg Avenue pump station



Installed bypass piping for Greg Avenue pump station



La Verne Shops staff fabricating a surge tank connection for the Greg Avenue pump station

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Finished 300 lb. slanted disc check valve ready to be shipped to the Greg Avenue pump station

During routine coating maintenance, staff discovered and repaired a small leak on a drain pipe located inside the sectionalizing valve structure of the East Valley Feeder. Staff performed metallurgy testing, surface preparation, patch plate welding, and dye penetrant weld-testing to complete the repair.



Staff welding patch plate inside the sectionalizing valve structure of the East Valley Feeder

Staff replaced approximately 6,700 square feet of deteriorated asphalt liner at Live Oak Reservoir. Work included repairing 19 locations inside the reservoir that were identified as critical to its operation.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff completing the excavation and paving of repair patches inside Live Oak Reservoir

Staff completed erosion repair maintenance for the earth embankment of the Inland Feeder pressure control structure PC-1, emergency detention basin, and access roads. The detention basin and emergency spillway are used during dewatering for pipeline maintenance and required routine maintenance on basin slopes that have been slowly eroding from heavy rains in past years.



Staff repairing the slopes and perimeter fence line using a motor grader and dozer at Inland Feeder Pressure Control Structure PC-1

Staff refurbished a worn 1930's vintage rheostat for the Eagle Mountain pumping plant. A rheostat is a large variable resistor which is analogous to the volume control on an old radio. The device is integral to the efficiency and operation of the CRA pumps, and the pumps will not run without it. Components within the device can generate temperatures as high as 1,400 °F and require an insulating compound that can both withstand high heat and maintain electrical insulation to prevent shorting of the conductive wires. After determining a suitable replacement material, staff tested the material and process and installed the refurbished rheostat.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff taking temperature readings during testing (left) and new insulation material filled (right) for the rheostat at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

Staff performed scheduled maintenance on high-voltage equipment at the Skinner plant. The high-voltage maintenance included cleaning, inspecting, and testing of cables, disconnecting switches, and transformers for a unit power center. Maintenance, cleaning, and testing of electrical equipment are critical to ensure that the equipment will continue to operate reliably.



High-voltage equipment at the Skinner plant

Staff made improvements to the Process Safety Management (PSM) area painted boundary striping at the Skinner plant. PSM covers requirements for the management of dangers associated with handling highly hazardous chemicals. In areas around highly hazardous chemicals where there is a potential for accidental release, PSM painted boundary striping notifies staff of the hazardous area. The orange and yellow painted striping fades over time and needs to be periodically recoated. Staff power washed the area in preparation for repainting to improve visibility of the PSM boundary.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff power washing PSM boundary area striping at the Skinner plant



Repainted boundary area striping at the Skinner plant

Staff is in the process of replacing a valve that was found inoperable during an annual operational exercise that involves flushing of the domestic water system at the Weymouth plant. The annual maintenance is performed to ensure that equipment on this system properly functions and that any "dead legs" on the system are flushed, ensuring good quality water for the domestic system.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff removing an inoperable valve from the domestic water system at the Weymouth plant

Staff replaced 12 sump drain valve extensions and operators at Wadsworth pumping plant. The gate valves are at the bottom of each pump enclosure and are normally under water. It is critical that these valves be operated from above to drain each enclosure when establishing clearances for maintenance work. The existing drain valve extensions and operators were 20 years old and had corroded to the point of failure. Because the system ties each of the 12 pump enclosures into a common drain, any operator or extension failure would make isolation of the pump units impossible without taking all units out of service. The replacement extensions and operators are made of stainless steel and will not corrode, increasing the reliability of the sump operating system and the pumping plant for decades to come.



Sump drain valve extensions and operators before replacement (left) and after replacement (right) at the Wadsworth pumping plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff replaced the expansion joint around trench lids located at the Skinner plant to protect a treatment chemical process piping trench carrying alum, sodium hypochlorite, and polymer. The chemical- and ultraviolet (UV)-resistant expansion joint material that is used seals the trench from water intrusion, improving overall reliability.



Staff during expansion joint replacement (left) and after replacement (right) around chemical process piping trench at Skinner plant

Staff continued the system-wide coatings program aimed at preventing corrosion and extending the life of pipelines and other infrastructure. Staff recently completed coating maintenance of the turnout valve and meter structure for service connection OC-48 on East Orange County Feeder No. 2.



Turnout valve and meter structure before (left) and after coating (right) of OC-48 service connection

Staff completed corrective maintenance to remove, rebuild, and reinstall a pressure relief globe valve at the Ramona pressure control structure on the Middle Feeder. While performing routine preventative maintenance on one of the lines, staff identified leaking seating components on the regulating globe pressure relief valve. Staff removed the line from service to rebuild the valve in place. The valve body required internal coatings and weld-filling of deep pits in the steel material. Upon completing the internal valve body repairs, the valve was refurbished with new components, transported back to Ramona PCS, reinstalled, and returned to service.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Refurbished globe valve being lowered and reinstalled at the Ramona PCS on the Middle Feeder

Objective #5 Manage the Power System.

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) issued multiple flex alerts calling for energy because of unseasonably hot weather from June 15 through June 18, and issued a grid warning because of an Insufficient Resource forecast on June 17. In preparation for the possibility of CAISO activation of the CRA pumping load shed program, Metropolitan power scheduling and CRA operations staff met to review the status of the reservoir at Copper Basin and the load shed procedure, to ensure that any directive from the CAISO or Metropolitan's transmission operator (Arizona Electric Power Co-Op, AEPCO) would be implemented quickly and effectively without risking water delivery operations.

Staff continued other preparations to ensure electric reliability during the upcoming peak load season in August and September, including development of improved communications channels with AEPCO and CAISO, and development of training for staff unfamiliar with the CAISO market.

The CRA requires a significant amount of power to operate, and a large portion of that power comes from renewable hydroelectric sources at Hoover and Parker Dams. Once a year, as part of an agreement between Metropolitan and Western Area Power Association (WAPA), Desert staff are given the opportunity to witness WAPA's billing meter calibrations at Parker Dam. These meters monitor and record the power supplied to Metropolitan for CRA operations. By sending trained hydroelectric specialists to witness these calibrations, Desert staff help ensure that all parties agree when payments are requested.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Desert staff witnessing meter calibration at Parker Dam

Objective #6 Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response.

As of June 15, the State of California relaxed many COVID-19 health mandates and restrictions. Currently, Metropolitan staff continues to communicate with outside health and emergency management agencies in its six-county service area to monitor for any significant changes in COVID-19 case numbers or other threats. Staff will update management on a regular basis of any trends that could affect staffing and operations.

Objective #7 Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution.

The State Project water (SPW) target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants, and Lake Skinner was zero percent in June 2021.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from April 2020 through March 2021 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of SPW and CRA water were 568, 569, and 527 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Piping and process labeling is used throughout the treatment plants to provide critical process information and for overall safety. Existing labels at the various chemical tank farms have deteriorated in the sunlight, making them illegible. Staff printed out new labels and installed them on the existing ammonia piping in the chemical tank farm. Labeling on the piping will help staff identify the piping and provide quick and easy troubleshooting when needed.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff installing new piping labels at a chemical tank farm

Staff worked with a contractor to replace the insulation on the liquid oxygen (LOX) feed system at the Skinner plant. The insulation prevents frost from building up on cryogenic piping that may stress and cause damage to the pipes. Earlier in the year, a small leak occurred in the LOX feed line with the drip, damaging the insulation. The insulation had to be removed to repair the leak, but replacement of the insulation was challenging, as it is a specialty service. Staff closely coordinated with a contractor to successfully replace the insulation.



LOX leak with insulation removed at the Skinner plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



LOX feed line with newly replaced insulation at the Skinner plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Objective #8 Manage Water Reserves.

Water reserves continued to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles, operational objectives, and the current 5-percent SWP allocation. Deliveries of SWP supply were minimized to preserve SWP Carryover and Flexible Storage. Releases from Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) through PC-1 to connections on the Lakeview Pipeline, as well as the DVL to Mills plant operation, continued in June to conserve SWP use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in June. Staff coordinated additional special operational actions to minimize SWP usage including operating the Greg Avenue pumps beginning on June 6. In addition, staff continued coordination with member agencies shifting their deliveries from SWP connections to Colorado River connections, when possible. Along with these actions being taken to respond to drought conditions, Metropolitan's record high storage levels at the end of 2020 provide significant water supply reliability in 2021.

Objective #10 Manage Vacancies.

WSO filled four vacant positions in May 2021.

Objective #11 Prepare Employees for New Opportunities.

The Water System Operations Apprentice and Technical Training Program develops and trains personnel to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, the Class of 2023 electrical apprentices were taught by subject matter experts. During the training session, apprentices learned about electrical equipment sizing and motor controls. Motor control simulators are used to help the apprentices wire to written specifications in a safe environment. The subject matter expert then checks the accuracy of the wiring before powering up to test for proper operation. This process helps develop the apprentice's ability to troubleshoot and repair equipment in the field.



Class of 2023 apprentice and subject matter expert reviewing wiring specifications on motor control simulator

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Objective #12 Enhance Support Infrastructure at the Desert Facilities

The CRA is a 242-mile engineering marvel. The length and remote location of the aqueduct necessitates that villages along the aqueduct be available for staff to live and work. The remote locations are not only far from large metropolitan areas but are also in an extremely hot part of the state. Ambient temperatures can regularly reach 120 °F in the summer months. The sustained temperatures heat-soak the ground and increase the temperature in the domestic water lines. In an effort to improve the quality of life for village residents, staff cover the roadways in a heat reflecting “cool seal” coating. This effort helps to provide heat relief for residents at the pumping plant while projects are underway to fully renovate the villages and associated water systems.



“Cool-Seal”-covered road at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

The recreation hall’s asphalt roof shingles were recently damaged by high winds at Eagle Mountain pumping plant. While the recreation hall is scheduled to be replaced as part of the Desert Housing project, an immediate interim repair was necessary. Staff inspected the roof and determined that applying elastomeric roof coating will extend its life, keep shingles from being displaced in high winds, and prevent leaks until the new building is constructed.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff applying a coating to the recreation hall roof at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #1 Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation.

From June 1–3, staff attended the inaugural California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) Conference. The conference highlighted the accreditation process under the newly adopted environmental laboratory regulations and discussed topics pertaining to laboratory efficiency and performance improvement. Metropolitan has initiated the accreditation process for the Water Quality Laboratory and the five water treatment plant laboratories. The laboratories will be accredited under the new regulations by October 2023.

From June 7–11, the Water Quality Laboratory and the Weymouth Treatment Plant laboratory were evaluated by an independent environmental laboratory assessor. The assessment helps Metropolitan prepare for compliance under the new ELAP laboratory accreditation regulations. Water Quality and IT support personnel also attended laboratory ethics and data integrity training provided by the laboratory assessor. This annual training is mandatory for all laboratory and support staff under the new regulations.

By invitation from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on June 24, 2021, staff participated in the virtual meeting with other stakeholders to provide additional feedback on EPA’s guidance in accordance with the Supreme Court’s ruling in the *County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund* case. The invitation was in response to staff’s comments disagreeing with the EPA’s previous interpretation over how to determine “functional equivalency”—a test to determine whether a permit is needed when a pollutant is discharged from a point source and reaches a jurisdictional surface water via groundwater or other subsurface flow. In order to better protect source water quality, Metropolitan recommended that the EPA develop guidance consistent with both the Court’s ruling and the intent of the Clean Water Act.

On June 9, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers announced their intent to revise the definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS). The EPA is requesting to remand the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, as the agencies have determined that the rule significantly reduced clean water protections—particularly in the arid southwest. The EPA intends to develop a new rule that redefines WOTUS and combines elements of the pre-2015 rule, the Obama-era Clean Water Rule, and the Trump-era Navigable Waters Protection Rule. Staff will continue to monitor and engage on this issue as warranted.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

On June 17, Cal/OSHA adopted the third draft iteration of its COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS). The revised ETS, among other things, requires employers to provide respirators (i.e., N95 or equivalent) to unvaccinated employees upon request; allows fully vaccinated employees not to wear face coverings indoors provided they show vaccination documentation; and removes—with certain exceptions such as major outbreaks—outdoor face covering requirements, as well as physical distancing and barrier requirements regardless of vaccination status. Shortly after adoption, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-09-21y, waiving the normal 10-day Office of Administrative Law (OAL) review process, thereby making the revised ETS effective immediately. Staff are working on implementing the newly adopted ETS. In the meantime, employees must continue to follow existing Metropolitan policies and procedures.

On June 25, staff submitted a joint comment letter with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) to the SWRCB on its early draft criteria for regulating direct potable reuse (DPR) in California. The draft criteria address both the raw and treated water augmentation forms of DPR. Metropolitan is supportive of the state's efforts to develop these criteria but offered several comments to further strengthen the criteria and help expand potable reuse development in California. Key comments included in the Metropolitan-LACSD letter included requesting the state to (1) identify differing risks and requirements between different forms of DPR, (2) ensure jurisdiction and compliance requirements between partnering agencies in a DPR project do not overlap, (3) provide flexibility for existing drinking water plants to achieve pathogen removal credits, (4) allow flexibility in operator certification and staffing requirements, and (5) streamline reporting and minimize redundancies with existing water/wastewater reporting requirements. During the review period, staff also coordinated with industry partners including WaterReuse California in sharing feedback on the draft criteria. Metropolitan will continue to engage with the SWRCB and other industry partners during the regulatory development process. Final DPR regulations are anticipated by the end of 2023.

Objective #3 Support the Regional Recycled Water Program

Staff continued testing, operations, monitoring, and maintenance at the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center (RRWAPC) demonstration facility. The third phase of challenge testing continued in June to assess system performance with damaged fibers. An operational change at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant caused higher than usual solids and organics loading in the demonstration plant influent. However, staff managed the demonstration facility biological system throughout the transient event to ensure that operational performance and water quality targets were achieved.

Staff finalized a new testing and monitoring plan for the next phase of RRWAPC testing, which is expected to begin in late 2021 and will treat primary effluent with the membrane bioreactor (MBR) in a secondary mode of operation. The plan incorporates comments from the project's Independent Science Advisory Panel and will be submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water later in the summer.

Staff completed various onsite projects to enhance site safety and ease of operations including chemical system maintenance and improvements, and installation of a reagent-grade water supply system in the onsite laboratory. Staff also began modifications to facility handrails to improve safe access to equipment, and installed a 250 kW portable generator to provide temporary electrical supply to the demonstration facility during scheduled preventative maintenance on the main power supply.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Consultant staff perform 1,4-dioxane challenge testing on the advanced oxidation process at the demonstration facility



Staff remove a membrane cassette for additional fiber cutting at the demonstration facility

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff confirm power supply through the portable generator during a scheduled electrical outage at the demonstration facility

Staff supported the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center (RRWAPC) in Carson by providing temporary power to the entire facility during a scheduled electrical outage. The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) requested the outage to perform high-voltage maintenance to the equipment that supplies power to the RRWAPC. The outage required the use of a generator from the Construction Services Unit (CSU) with adequate capacity to supply power to the entire facility. The work required staff to coordinate with the RRWAPC, LACSD, and CSU staff to arrange the outage, as well as to develop the operational plans for transition to and from normal to generator power.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff applying locks and tags at an electrical breaker (left) and staff adjusting generator voltage (right) at the RRWAPC



Staff verifying correct voltage and rotation at the generator power inlet at the RRWAPC

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Objective #5 Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner.

Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of about 17 megawatts or over 12,510 megawatt-hours and about \$596,990 in revenue for the month of May 2021. Metropolitan's solar facilities, totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated just over 940 megawatt-hours in May 2021.

Objective #6 Protect Source Water Quality.

On June 16, staff participated in a stakeholder meeting for the Topock Chromium-6 Groundwater Remediation Project. Pacific Gas & Electric provided updates on project activities including the soil remediation investigation report and Phase 1 groundwater remedy construction, startup, and initial operations. Construction of the groundwater remediation facility is expected to be completed in 2025, followed by long-term operation and maintenance of the system.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

Objective #1 Develop New Solutions to Enhance Operational and Business Processes.

The Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant won Best in U.S. Municipal Drinking Water at this year's Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting competition. The competition, held in West Virginia, included entries from 19 states and 14 countries. This recognition highlights and validates the high quality of Metropolitan's treated drinking water. Over the past six months, Jensen plant staff has ramped up its optimization efforts. These efforts included the installation and close monitoring of new water quality monitoring instruments, and implementation of condition-based maintenance of biological filters.



Sedimentation basin at the Jensen plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Objective #2 Support and Engage with Member Agencies on Technical Matters.

Metropolitan hosted a virtual meeting with Member Agency Water Quality Managers on June 10, with more than 150 participants. Key discussion topics included a regulatory update; revision of the Lead and Copper Rule; occurrence, treatment, and regulation of manganese in drinking water; an update on the Regional Recycled Water Program; and an update on Metropolitan's water system operations. Metropolitan has been holding these forums to coordinate with member agencies on key water quality issues since the late 1980s.

Objective #3 Advance Education and Outreach Initiatives.

In June, Metropolitan's departing General Manager visited field facilities at La Verne and at all five of the Colorado River Aqueduct pump plants, speaking with staff and touring the facilities. Staff appreciated the time General Manager Kightlinger took from his busy schedule to engage with staff on the essential work being performed to ensure Metropolitan's safe and reliable water deliveries.



General Manager Kightlinger visting Metropolitan's La Verne and Desert field facilities



WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Monthly Update as of:

7/1/2021

Reservoir **Current Storage** **Percent of Capacity**

Colorado River Basin

Lake Powell	8,334,000	34%
Lake Mead	9,102,000	35%

DWR

Lake Oroville	1,128,042	32%
Shasta Lake	1,733,407	38%
San Luis Total	667,845	33%
San Luis CDWR	535,364	50%
Castaic Lake	171,995	53%
Silverwood Lake	66,529	89%
Lake Perris	115,645	88%

MWD

DVL	654,616	81%
Lake Mathews	158,115	87%
Lake Skinner	37,321	85%



Hoover Dam



Metropolitan’s Mission is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

General Manager: Jeffrey Kightlinger
Office of the GM No. (213) 217-6139
Email: OfficeoftheGeneralManager@mwdh2o.com

700 No. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
General No. (213) 217-6000

www.mwdh2o.com

www.bewaterwise.com