The GENERAL MANAGER Monthly Report

Activities for the Month of July 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.

AUGUST 17, 2021

CRA

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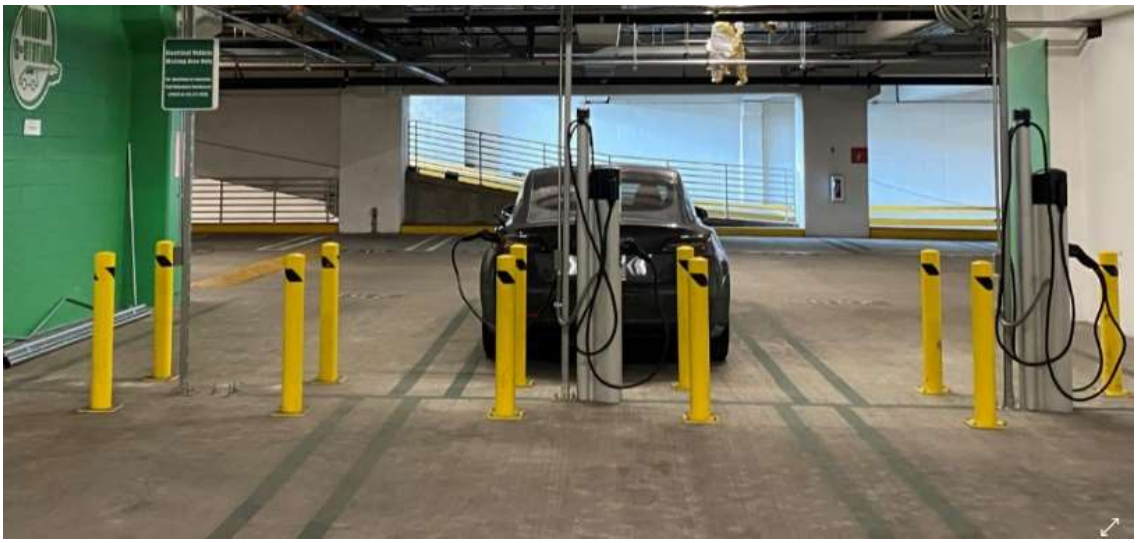
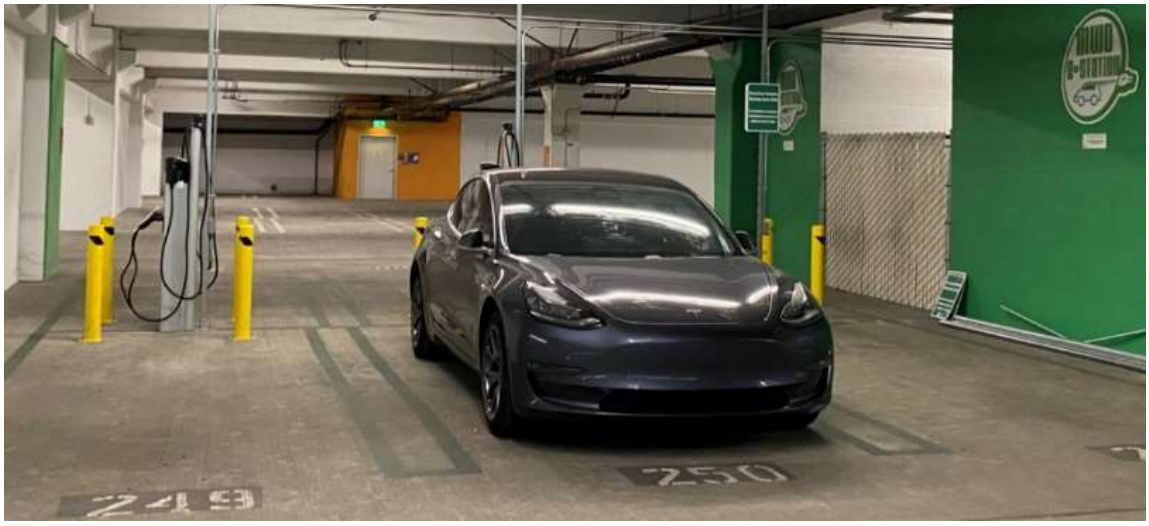
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION/CAO

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.

To continue sustainability efforts, and in support of the General Manager's objectives, Administrative Services Rideshare staff collaborated with the Facilities Team to replace a non-repairable dual (two ports) and single (one port) electric vehicle station with two dual (four ports) electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at Metropolitan headquarters located on P-1.

Seven dual stations (14 ports) are now available for Rideshare EV participants parking at Metropolitan headquarters. This is an important milestone that will ensure that the Rideshare Program continues to deliver value to its participants and that it remains compliant with current air quality regulatory requirements and Metropolitan.





Accomplishments

1. **Warehouse Security Improvement Project**
   Because of an uneven economic recovery stemming from COVID-19 and a statistical rise in theft, the Administrative Services staff and management partnered with the Security management to assess security improvements required to protect assets at all nine Metropolitan warehouses. Security and the warehouse staff collaborated with various departments at each facility to make modifications in and around the warehouse locations. This consisted of improved lighting, brush removal, trimming of trees, security cameras, signage, clean-up in the area, etc., as a deterrent from theft on Metropolitan property.

Skinner Filtration Plant
Removal of waist-high brush to reduce ability to cut fences and in view of security cameras

Lake Mathews
Improved lighting to assist with night vision and security cameras

Union Station
Pruning trees and reducing vegetation height to mitigate vulnerability of attractive targets

2. **Professional Services Contracting**
   Staff completed Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1273—Oracle Enterprise Business Suite (EBS) Module Implementation Services. The objective of this acquisition is to implement two EBS modules: The iSupplier Portal, for vendor self-service and other standard functionality, and Services Procurement, specifically for construction contracts and other standard features for contract management.

   The Capital Improvement Project committee has approved funding for the project for fiscal year(s) 2021-22.

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.

In July, staff continued work with state and federal agencies to develop a Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE) for Spring-run Chinook salmon as required by the Incidental Take Permit (ITP). Current efforts are focused on developing a problem statement through focused discussions on what triggered the problem, why a decision must be made, and why the decision matters. These discussions are to ensure that the multiple state, federal, and water agencies participating in this effort have scientific input regarding the need to develop a monitoring program to estimate juvenile production of spring-run and the goals and objectives of this monitoring before working on the details of an implementation plan.

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.

DWR conducted the first of four technical webinars to inform the public and interested stakeholders about the current progress related to the preparation of the Draft EIR. The first webinar on July 14 provided public information on the operations of the State Water Project and Delta Conveyance. More information regarding the webinars is available on DWR's website.

Joint Powers Authorities

During the July 15, 2021, Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors Meeting, the board approved an initial budget adjustment for fiscal year (FY) 2021/22. The budget change increased the adopted FY 2021/22 budget from $21.5 million to $23.5 million using funds remaining from the last fiscal year.

The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority regularly scheduled July meeting was canceled.

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

In July meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board (Authority Board) and the Sites Reservoir Committee (Reservoir Committee) authorized the release of the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) as soon as the document is ready, including authorizing the Executive Director to file a Notice of Completion with the State Clearinghouse and complete other noticing requirements to initiate the public review process.

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 continued collaboration with the State Water Contractors (SWC) Science Program. On July 15, the SWC released its FY 2020/21 Science Report (FHA200621_SWC_Annual_Report_Fact_Sheet_C3.indd) highlighting the importance of investing in research to provide a more reliable water supply for California while protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta ecosystem.

Staff also continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). At the July 20 meeting, CAMT discussions focused on the potential roles and responsibilities of a proposed Delta smelt science program manager that would assist CAMT with the interface between the investigators who generate the science and the managers who use the science. CAMT also discussed a possible approach to develop recommendations regarding Delta monitoring needs.

Staff is leading a 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 with experts in salmonid ecology to develop this definition.

CORE BUSINESS RELIABILITY
Objective # 1 Provide analysis of key regulations and legislation that may influence SWP supply reliability, Bay Delta water quality and environmental health.

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 ITP for Long-term Operation of the SWP, to address science needs and inform management and operation of the water projects. Staff participated in the Delta Coordination Group to provide input to the Delta smelt summer and fall habitat actions monitoring and science plan, and the Longfin smelt Technical Team to provide input to the development of lifecycle models and monitoring programs as decision support tools for water operations.

Staff provided analysis of state and federal legislation that may influence SWP supply reliability, drought preparedness, Delta water quality, and habitat restoration activities.

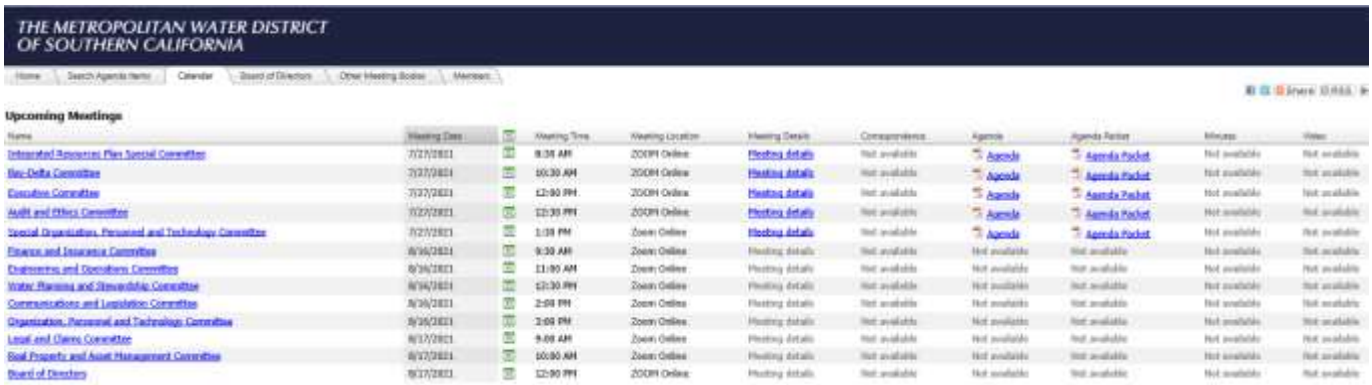
BOARD SUPPORT TEAM/CAO

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency
OBJECTIVE #1 Infrastructure Reliability

NEW Legistar Software!

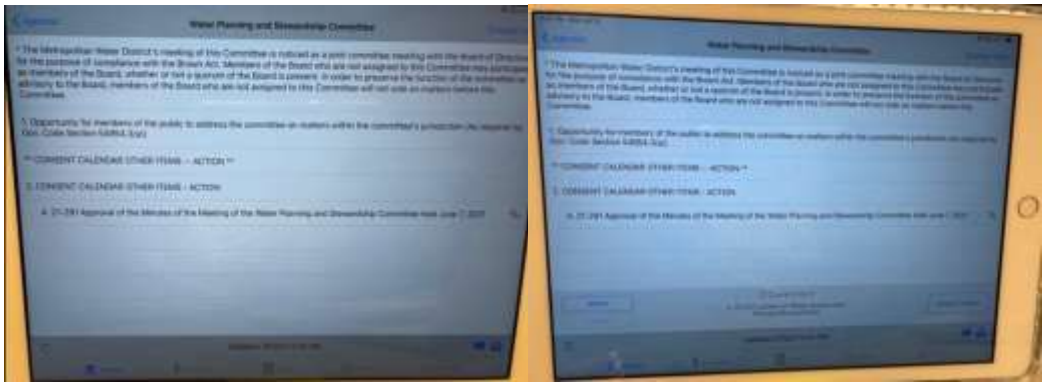
The Board Support Team transitioned our board agenda document management system to Legistar by Granicus. The new Legistar system will drastically reduce the amount of time staff and management spends tracking, preparing, and modifying agendas, uploading to the website, programming voting items, and drafting meeting minutes. Additionally, this streamlined software minimizes previously created errors by the number of places items were modified each time a subject line or voting option was changed.

The NEW Legistar InSite webpage on Metropolitan's website now provides convenient access to the monthly agendas and corresponding board materials for Board members, Member Agencies, and the public.



This month we also tested our NEW Granicus VoteCast/iLegislate Voting!

- The new VoteCast/iLegislate voting system will reduce the time staff spend programming voting spreadsheets and eliminate errors. The software also integrates into the Agenda management system. This will allow staff to conduct the committee meeting votes live during the meeting.
- Committee members will also have iPads, which allow them to request to speak, make or second motions, and vote on agenda items during the meetings, all within the Granicus VoteCast/iLegislate Voting system.
- We have conducted several on-hands trainings in preparation for the new system and have also conducted live VoteCast/iLegislate votes for committee meetings in preparation for our hybrid meetings in August.



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 45 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 49 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 to Business Continuity Plans.
- Participated in the COVID-19 task force bi-weekly meetings, planning for return to work.
- Continued planning and design for Business Continuity exercises, using a cyber-attack scenario.
- Met with Information Technology to coordinate a business user test of critical applications in the new Disaster Recovery data center.

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 June 2021 totaled 153.8 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 7.6 TAF higher than the budget of 146.2 TAF. This translates to $139.9 million in revenues for June 2021, which were $9.2 million lower than the budget of $149.1 million.
- Year-to-date water transactions through June 2021 were 1,574.0 TAF, which was 26.0 TAF lower than the budget of 1,600.0 TAF. Year-to-date water transactions through June 2021 were $1,404.7 million, which were $39.8 million lower than the budget of $1,444.5 million.
- In June 2021, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,100 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about $25,100 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 June 4, 2021, TD Bank, N.A., replaced the existing Standby Bond Purchase Agreement (SBPA) for the $82,905,000, Special Variable Rate Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, 2016 Series B-1 and B-2, and the $90,070,000, Special Variable Rate Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, 2018 Series A-1 and A-2 ("The Bonds"). On June 4, 2021, TD Securities (USA) LLC, will be the remarketing agent for The Bonds.

On June 16, 2021, Metropolitan issued, $221,600,000, Variable Rate Subordinate Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, 2021 Series A (Federally Taxable). Bond proceeds refunded the $175,000,000, Subordinate Water Revenue Bonds, 2016 Authorization, Series A; $46,800,000, Short-Term Revenue Refunding Certificates, 2019 Series A; and funded costs of issuance. The 2021 Series A bonds will be supported by an SBPA with Bank of America, N.A., and BofA Securities will serve as remarketing agent for the bonds.

On June 30, 2021, Metropolitan issued, $35,645,000, Index Notes (Taxable and New Money), Subseries B-3, ("the Index Notes"), evidencing a $35,645,000 draw made by Metropolitan under the RBC Short-Term Revolving Credit Facility, for purposes of refunding $35,645,000, Subordinate Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, 2017 Series B, callable on July 1, 2021. The Index Notes mature on June 29, 2022 but are expected to be refunded from proceeds of the Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, 2021 Series B, to be issued in July 2021.

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

- As of June 30, 2021, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was $1,476.9 million; for the month of June 2021, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 26 trades.
- During the month of June 2021, Treasury staff processed 1,205 disbursements by check, 20 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 111 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 76 receipts by check, 29 receipts by ACH, and 53 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

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 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, cleared the area for the temporary feed system, and started the installation of the new system. Construction is 15 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 completed excavating for the storm drain piping at Areas 10 and 11 and has begun forming the concrete stilling basin at Area 10. The contractor also continued installing the fence and curb at Area 7. Construction is 60 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in November 2021.
- **Casa Loma Siphon Upgrades—**This project will mitigate leaks associated with long-term ground subsidence and will improve the seismic resilience of the siphon as it crosses the Casa Loma Fault. This project replaces approximately 1,200 feet of the Casa Loma Siphon Barrel No. 1 at a fault crossing using Earthquake Resistant Ductile Iron Pipe (ERDIP) and welded steel pipe (WSP). The delivery of ERDIP and WSP is complete. Final design of the pipe installation construction package is 98 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2021.
- **Etiwanda Pipeline Relining Stage 3—**This project will replace the mortar lining with a polyurethane coating that is more flexible and able to withstand the fluctuating pressures in the pipeline that resulted in the mortar delaminating from the steel pipe. Stages 1 and 2, which relined a total of 3 miles of pipeline, have been completed. Stage 3 is in the final design, which will reline the remaining 2.5 miles of pipeline, is 85 percent complete. A pipe procurement package to procure 1,300 feet of steel liner is planned to be awarded 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. Final design of Reach 3 is 97 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December

- 2021. Preliminary design continues for Reach 9, which includes a section of pipeline that will be tunneled under the Los Angeles River.
- **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 100 percent complete. Two valves were delivered for storage at La Verne on June 28 and 29, 2021. The final inspection of the third valve was completed on July 15, 2021, and is scheduled to be delivered in October 2021. Fabrication of the first two 54-inch conical plug valves is 90 percent complete, and they are scheduled to be delivered in January 2022.
- **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 and Reach 2 will occur concurrently and are scheduled to be complete by February 2023. A February 2022 Sepulveda Feeder inspection will determine the order of work. 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 is installing new transformer containment pads at the Iron Mountain and Hinds pump plants. Construction is 99 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by August 2021.
- **CRA Sumps Rehabilitation—**This project replaces the sump pumps, circulating water pumps which are integral to CRA pumping plants operation. In March 2020, under Metropolitan's response to Covid-19, the on-site construction activities were suspended, and then ultimately removed from the contract work scope. 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 20 percent complete. The contractor has scheduled the first delivery of the vertical turbine pumps for 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 continued preparation for the installation of the temporary underwater device to isolate the reservoir from the discharge structure during the rehabilitation work. Construction is 45 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by October 2021.

Garvey Reservoir Erosion Improvements Areas 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11—Excavation for Area 7 retaining wall

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 installing conduit and electrical panels in the existing maintenance shop, wire terminations, start-up activities, and dry testing/commissioning of new chlorine system. Staff is performing field testing of the chlorine leak detection system and preparing for the 21-day wet chlorine system testing/commissioning in late July 2021. Construction is 94 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. The contractor is currently installing analyzer panels, sample lines to the analyzer panels, and instrument drain piping; terminating electrical equipment wiring within the building, and performing MCC electrical testing. 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 actuators for the west filters and has completed rehabilitation work within the four west basins. Construction is substantially complete and final functional testing activities are scheduled to be complete this month.

- **Diemer Water Sampling System Improvements—**This project upgrades the existing Diemer water sampling system, composed of 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 92 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 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 completed cutting-over existing dry polymer equipment to the new MCCs and delivered two new MCCs. Construction is 85 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2022.

West Basin and Filter Building Rehabilitation—Newly installed walkway bridges and launders at the west basins (looking south-east over Basin 8)

System Reliability Program

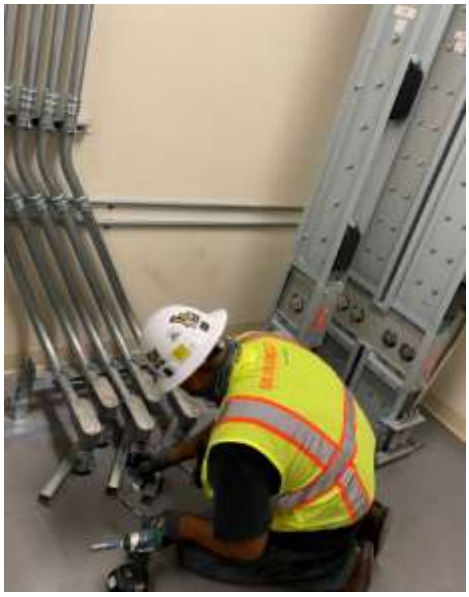
The System Reliability Program consists of projects to improve or modify facilities located throughout Metropolitan's service area in order to use new processes and/or technologies and improve facility safety and overall reliability. Recent activities include the following:

- **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 99 percent complete. The contractor completed the restoration of the 11th and 12th floors and completed and turned over the Cafeteria. The contractor continues to work on approved change order scope items such as the

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 audio/visual (A/V) systems in the board room, 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 has completed A/V equipment installation in the committee rooms and the board room and is currently performing commissioning and user acceptance activities. Construction is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by early 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 improvements 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 has completed electrical wiring for the security equipment on Floors 3 through 9 and is currently installing card readers and cameras. Stage 3 improvements are currently in the design phase and are scheduled to be complete by October 2021.

- **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 continuing installations of the electrical closet, fire alarm riser, and the Emergency Radio Responder System, and replacement of wallpaper with paint in the elevator lobbies. Construction is 15 percent complete and is planned to be complete by February 2023.



Headquarters Building Improvements—2nd floor electrical conduit installation

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.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Review

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program

- Provided design phase support for PCCP Second Lower Feeder Reach 3.

Weymouth Basins 5-8 Rehabilitation

- Finalized the project description for Addendum No. 1 to the 2015 Weymouth Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Regulatory Permitting

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Projects

- Received permits from Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the CRA Exposed Barrel Repairs Project.

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

Webinars attended by staff:

- Inland Empire/Orange County Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) Webinar: Regulatory Update Federal Waters and State Designation for Joshua Tree
- Association of Energy Engineers SoCal Chapter: MWD Energy Sustainability Plan and Climate Action Plan

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

- Reviewed and prepared comments on Administrative Draft EIR.

Lake Perris Seepage Recovery Project

- Provided assistance with review of and response to public comments on the Draft EIR.

Regional Recycled Water Program

- Finalized and released the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Environmental Planning Support Services.

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

- As part of the Reserve Management Committee (RMC), approved the fiscal year 2021/2022 Annual Work Plan and Annual Operating Budget.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Completed repairs on damaged reserve boundary fencing.
- Mowed approximately 10 acres of grassland to maintain Stephens' kangaroo rat habitat.
- Conducted maintenance on artificial burrowing owl burrows and banded three owl nestlings (see photo).
- As part of the RMC, approved the fiscal year 2021/2022 Annual Work Plan and Annual Operating Budget.
- Executed new agreement with Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District for reserve management services.

Burrowing owl banding in the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

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 draft CAP and Draft Program EIR in preparation for release of the draft documents for public review.

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)

- Completed protocol surveys for San Bernardino kangaroo rat in support of regional programmatic permits.

Environmental Planning staff conducting nighttime San Bernardino kangaroo rat surveys

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Compliance

- Completed review of Administrative Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- Reviewed draft Programmatic Reclamation Plan for San Bernardino County borrow sites.
- SMARA Legislation (AB442—Mayes):
  - Negotiated amendments with sponsor and stakeholders to clarify compliance with SMARA.
  - Testified as subject matter expert for the bill at the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee Hearing, where the bill was approved with an 8-0 vote.

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

- Collaborated with the Technical Control Team to finalize new checklists and Eforms for streamlining ESG and Environmental Planning coordination.
- Attended a kickoff meeting and workshop for development of a new permitting database and data management system to be piloted at Metropolitan by Environmental Planning.
- Attended a monthly meeting of the Employee Innovation Council.
- Attended a weekly IdeaScale Basecamp Meeting.

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.

- Collaborated with Riverside County to facilitate repairs to Metropolitan's Box Springs Feeder access road through Sycamore Canyon Creek in Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park to ensure public safety and fire access.
- Inventoried artifacts and fossils used in the Metropolitan education program and coordinated with the Western Science Center regarding the Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) Visitor's Center conversion to Apprenticeship Program Facility (see photos).
- Participated in permittee meetings for the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and draft EIR and participated in meetings regarding the development of the Joint Powers Authority agreement.

Mano, metate, and chipped stone artifacts display from DVL Visitor's Center education exhibit

Photo display from DVL Visitor's Center education exhibit showing an excavation unit at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building circa 1996 (US Route 101 in background)

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:
  - Black Metal Mountain 2.4 kV Line Electrical Rehab
  - Copper and Gene Sluiceways Rehabilitation
  - Copper Basin Access Road and Discharge Valve Repair
  - CRA Reliability Program
  - CRA Mile 12 Flow and Chlorine Station Upgrades
  - CRA Pump Plant 2.3 kV and 480V Rehab
  - CRA 69kV and 230kV Transformers Replacement Projects
  - Foothill Hydroelectric Power Plant Seismic
  - Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project
  - Headquarters Building Stage 3 Physical Security Improvements
  - Irvine Regulating Structure
  - Jensen Ozone Power Supply Units Replacement
  - Jensen Vehicle Maintenance Building Roof Replacement
  - La Verne Water Quality Building
  - Lake Perris Seepage, Perris Valley Pipeline
  - Live Oak Reservoir Piezometer projects
  - Mills Electrical Upgrades Stage 2
  - San Gabriel Tower Seismic Upgrades
  - Upper Feeder Blowoff at 2858+91 Rehabilitation
  - Video Room Renovation at Union Station
  - West Orange County Feeder Cathodic Protect Systems
  - Western San Bernardino RWIPP
  - Weymouth Basin 5-8 Rehabilitation
  - Weymouth Administration Building Seismic Upgrades
  - Weymouth Project - Battery Energy Storage Systems
  - Weymouth Facility Natural Gas System Improvement

- Provide CEQA analysis and environmental planning clearances for Safety of Dam activities for:
  - Cajalco Spillway Safety of Dams Maintenance

- Provided construction phase support for:
  - Orange County RWIPP
  - Garvey Reservoir Permanent Drainage and Erosion Control Project
  - Lake Mathews Disaster Recovery Facility
  - Headquarters Building Fire Alarm, Smoke Control, and BMS Improvements
  - Weymouth Gas Line Replacement

- Attended a Value Engineering Workshop for the Whitewater Tunnel No. 2 Seismic Upgrades Project.

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 Projects

Water System Operations

- Submitted a major amendment request to CDFW for the Long-Term Routine Maintenance Streambed Alteration Agreement for the Cajalco Creek Dam and Detention Basin.
- Provided biological resource surveys, CEQA analysis, and/or environmental planning support for:
  - Barrier placement to discourage encampment encroachment on Metropolitan property (Mead Valley)
  - Cajalco Creek Spillway Vegetation and Debris Removal as required by the State Division of Safety of Dams
  - Middle Feeder North shutdown (scheduled for November 2021) preconstruction constraints analysis
  - Etiwanda Feeder and Rialto Feeder Long-Term Maintenance
  - Palos Verdes Reservoir Conduit Repair
  - Upper Feeder Fence Installation
  - Upper Feeder Emergency Leak
  - Vegetation maintenance at Jensen Water Treatment Plant, Diemer Treatment Plant, and along the Middle Cross Feeder

Water Resource Management

- Began initial CEQA analysis of pilot fallowing program with the Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe.

External Reviews

- Reviewed and began preparing comments on the Whitewater River Groundwater Replenishment Facility Environmental Impact Statement, for which Metropolitan is a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Cooperating Agency.
- Reviewed 16 notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.

Legislative/External Affairs Support

- Provided legislative analysis for AB 897, AB 1183, SB 27, and HR972.
- Monitored status of pending state legislation and federal legislation affecting Metropolitan.

Real Property Support

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

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.

Media and public response to drought conditions continued at a high level in response to the third drought emergency declaration by Gov. Newsom and shortage projections for the Colorado River system. GM Hagekhalil and Metropolitan staff were interviewed by numerous media outlets and shared the message that Metropolitan's water future is a One Water future that requires all to work together to address the challenges. Drought messaging and conservation resources were regularly updated and shared with member agencies.

- Press release: GM Statement on Governor Newsom's Expanded Drought Proclamation.
- GM Hagekhalil and Spectrum 1 News Inside the Issues host Alex Cohen about top priorities at Metropolitan and the future of water in Southern California.
- WRM Group Manager Coffey and KFI-AM reporter Chris Ankarlo regarding expansion of governor's drought declaration and call for a voluntary 15 percent reduction in water use throughout the state.
- Operations Group Manager Yamasaki and ABC-TV Channel 7's Rob McMillan and Spectrum News' Jo Kwon regarding value of Diamond Valley Lake in drought preparedness efforts.
- WRM Manager Coffey and Los Angeles Times intern Ari Plachata regarding water-use restrictions.
- COO/AGM Upadhyay and KTLA-TV Channel 5's Chip Yost regarding Lake Mead levels and pending shortage declaration.
- Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp and Los Angeles Times reporter Tom Curwen regarding Lake Mead levels, the pending shortage declaration, and impacts on Southern California.

Examples of Media Coverage and Metropolitan Resources on Drought Conditions

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.

Federal

Metropolitan staff continues to advocate for a new Bureau of Reclamation program to fund large-scale water recycling projects. Senator Padilla introduced S.2344, the Large-Scale Water Recycling and Drought Resiliency Investment Act along with Senators Cortez Masto (D-NV) and Rosen (D-NV) (July 13). Senator Padilla's press release on the measure included a quote from GM Hagekhalil. A companion bill, H.R. 4099, the Large-Scale Water Recycling Investment Act, by Reps. Napolitano (D-El Monte), Grijalva (D-AZ), Huffman (D-Eureka), and Lee (D-NV) would also authorize funding for large regional recycled water projects.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee draft infrastructure bill provides $1 billion for water recycling projects over five years. This includes $550 million for local Title XVI water recycling projects and $450 million for large-scale water recycling projects. This draft bill was approved by the Committee on July 14 and now awaits action by the full Senate.

Chairwoman Gray, Director Cordero, GM Hagekhalil, and staff held virtual briefings with Senator Padilla and Calvert (R-Corona) to introduce our new GM and discuss Metropolitan's legislative priorities including funding opportunities for the Regional Recycled Water Project. (July 28)

State

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee voted to audit Metropolitan's personnel policies and practices including recruitment, promotions and transfers, workplace training, prevention of workplace discrimination, non-disclosure agreements, workplace safety, and employee housing. The Audit will take approximately seven months.

SB 480 (Stern, D-Los Angeles) that would amend the Metropolitan Act to require the Ethics Office to address inappropriate conduct is on the Assembly Floor and will not be acted upon until after the summer recess. Chairwoman Gray and staff met with Senator Stern about the bill and agreed to work together after the Shaw Law Group report is public and the Board has decided on the next steps to address employee concerns.

Metropolitan's sponsored bill, AB 442 (Mayes, I-Rancho Mirage) that creates a more efficient way to comply with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act passed out of Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee.

SB 559 (Hurtado, D-Fresno), which would create the canal conveyance capacity restoration fund to cover subsidence repair costs for portions of the California Aqueduct, the Friant Kern Canal, and the Delta Mendota Canal and request a $785 million appropriation, passed out of Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife and has been referred to Appropriations. Some environmental groups are seeking amendments to address concerns about further subsidence impacts and how the public funds will be spent.

Other legislation being monitored by Metropolitan:

- SB 626 (Dodd, D-Napa) that would authorize DWR to use construction manager/general contractor and design build procurement methods.
- Brown Act legislation AB 361 (Rivas, D-Hollister) to allow virtual public meetings during a state declared emergency.
- SB 222 (Dodd, D-Napa) that would create a water rate assistance program for low-income households.

The state budget plan was signed into law by Gov. Newsom and authorizes up to $3.75 billion for water and drought relief this fiscal year. Initial appropriations include:

- $663 million for urban and small community drought relief, water conveyance projects and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation.
- $650 million for drinking water infrastructure in disadvantaged communities.
- $85 million for recycled water and groundwater remediation (including $50 million for the San Diego Pure Water Recycled Water Project).

An additional $730.7 million for water and drought relief will be detailed in a future budget trailer bill. Metropolitan staff continue to advocate for Metropolitan priorities, including additional funding for recycled water projects, conservation rebates, drinking water treatment for PFAS and other constituents of emerging concern, and habitat restoration in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Local

Chairwoman Gray, Directors Ackerman, Lefevre, Peterson, Ramos, and staff attended the Municipal Water District of Orange County's Water Policy Dinner featuring former Metropolitan General Manager Kightlinger. (July 14)

Chairwoman Gray and Director Lefevre attended the Southern California Water Coalition luncheon, which included topics on equity, access, and affordability. (July 23)

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

- Glendale Chamber of Commerce Business Advocacy/Legislative Review Committee (July 1).
- Oxnard Leadership Steering Committee (July 1).
- West Ventura County Business Alliance Opening Event (July 1).
- Water Associations of Orange County (July 2).
- Los Angeles Business Council Energy & Environment Committee (July 7).
- Ventura County Economic Development Alliance Policy Committee (July 7).
- Ventura County Council of Governments (July 8).
- Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (July 8).
- Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Government Policy Committee (July 8).
- OC Forum (July 8).
- Orange County Business Council Government Affairs Committee (July 9).
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Congressional Forum with U.S. Representatives Garamendi (D-Fairfield), Garcia (R-Simi Valley), Gomez (D-Los Angeles) and Sherman (D-Sherman Oaks) (July 9).
- League of Cities Riverside County Chapter presentation on Metropolitan and local water issues (July 12).
- West Ventura County Business Alliance Government Affairs Committee (July 12).
- Orange County Business Council Infrastructure Committee (July 13).
- Central City Association meeting with Los Angeles City Councilmember O'Farrell (July 13).
- California Building Industry Association Government Affair Committee (July 13).

- South Orange County Economic Coalition Legislative Meeting (July 14).
- Townhall Meeting with Senator Stern (D-Calabasas) (July 14).
- Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce Town Hall with U.S. Representative Waters (D-Los Angeles) (July 15).
- Anaheim Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (July 16).
- Association of California Cities—Orange County Environmental, Energy and Water Committee (July 20).
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Water Issues Committee (July 20).
- California Women for Agricultura (July 20).
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Governmental Affairs Committee (July 21).
- Coalition of Labor, Agricultural and Water Association Wheel Committee (July 21).
- Los Angeles Business Council Legislative Affairs Committee with Senator Kamlager (D-Los Angeles) (July 21).
- SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee (July 21).
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Legislative Committee (July 21).
- West Ventura County Business Alliance Board Meeting (July 22).
- Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce Government Affairs Committee (July 22).
- United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley Executive Committee (July 26).
- Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (July 27).
- Tri-Chamber Alliance of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties Business Alliance (July 27).
- Gateway Chambers Alliance Governing Board (July 27).
- Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (July 28).
- Simi Valley Chamber Government Affairs Committee (July 28).
- Valley Industry and Board Association Board Meeting (July 28).
- Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality Board of Directors/Regulatory Affairs Committee (July 28).
- San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network (July 28).
- Building Industry Association of Southern California Board Meeting (July 29).
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce (July 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

- Held LA Times Editorial Board meeting with GM Hagekhalil.
- Coordinated an interview with GM Hagekhalil and Los Angeles Times reporter Adam Elmahrek regarding Metropolitan employee concerns.
- Arranged a tour of Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center for The River Radius podcast producer Sam Carter and a separate interview with Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp regarding Metropolitan's efforts to reduce reliance on the Colorado River.
- Coordinated an interview between WRM Group Manager Coffey and Spectrum 1 News Reporter Sarah Pilla regarding the Regional Recycled Water Program and conservation for Southern California's future.
- Arranged an interview between WRM Group Manager Coffey and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts with Wired Magazine for a news story on the importance of the Regional Recycled Water Program.

Press Release

Metropolitan Releases Independent Report on Workplace Harassment (July 20)

Website

- Generated more than 21,000 views on bewaterwise.com, with the turf replacement and California Friendly® and native plant profiles the most visited pages.

Creative Design

- Created a new Colorado River Aqueduct fact sheet that will be used for the website and inspection trip program.
- Supported events celebrating the retirement of former General Manager Kightlinger, including the production of a tribute video featuring taped remembrances from Chairwoman Gray, U.S. Senator Feinstein, Gov. Jerry Brown, as well as local, state, and federal officials and water industry leaders.

Social Media

- Launched a new series of 'We're California Friendly Plants' tips, while rolling out new animated characters including the Santa Ana Cardinal and Sage.

- Posted a video and photos in remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the San Fernando Tunnel explosion, including an image of Freddy Carrasco paying tribute to his father, Jose, who was killed by the blast. That post drove the most organic engagement on Instagram during the reporting period, with nearly 3,000 impressions and more than 270 likes. The video commemorating the blast received more than 1,000 views on YouTube.

San Fernando Tunnel Memorial at HQ Courtyard

- Featured several posts on the Regional Recycled Water Program, including COO/AGM Upadhyay's testimony before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans & Wildlife. (June 29)

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 held a retreat with the Member Agency Managers to discuss priorities including drought conditions and messaging. DWR Director Nemeth participated and offered a statewide perspective on current State Water Project operations and opportunities for the state and water agencies to collaborate on drought resiliency projects. (July 16)

Regional Recycled Water Program

- Metropolitan provided public tours of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center (July 13 & 14).
- Metropolitan provided an update to City of Cerritos staff on the Regional Recycled Water Program (July 27).

Construction Outreach
Metropolitan staff met with City of Lomita officials regarding the Second Lower Feeder—Reach 3 project (July 14)

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
Metropolitan staff virtually interacted with 4,100 teachers, students, and parents and continued to provide online tours, water-focused scouting programs, and customized Zoom class presentations. Other projects included work with Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) to support career technical education activities through the Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA) and a student solar education presentation at the American Indian Chamber Expo in Agua Caliente.

Diamond Valley Lake
Metropolitan staff recognized and celebrated the Diamond Valley Lake docents at a final appreciation luncheon held at the DVL Visitor Center. For the past 26 years, more than 200 dedicated volunteers have provided 150,000 volunteer hours to educate the public and students about water issues, Metropolitan's role as a regional provider, and water conservation. As a final gesture of appreciation, each of the 20 current volunteers' names and photos were featured on the electronic billboard at the entrance to the facility in Hemet. (July 14)

Showcasing the DVL Docents

La Opinion Advertising
Staff partnered with La Opinion to feature full-page Spanish language advertisements on drought, conservation rebates, and the district's Regional Recycled Water Program. The advertisements were included in the newspaper's print and web editions on July 14, 21, and 28 as part of a month-long Water and Energy Series.

Drought Messaging Placement for La Opinion Water Series

Flow Monitor Rebate – "No More Surprises" Campaign

A new social media campaign promoted the Metropolitan's new Flow Monitor Rebate Pilot Program. The pilot offers a $100 rebate for devices that identify household leaks and is designed to determine consumer acceptance of the technology and the water savings potential from providing real-time water-use information.

Social Media Campaign to Promote New Rebate Program

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 with online participation and, in some cases, sponsorship of the following programs, online conferences, webinars, and events:

- American Indian Chamber of Commerce Trade Expo (July 12-13).
- Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundation event (July 12).
- State of California Small Business Advisory Council meeting. (July 14).
- San Diego Procurement Technical Assistance Center certification virtual workshop (July 22).
- Valley Economic Alliance Sustainable Strategies for Profitable Growth event (July 29).
- Contractor liaison meeting to discuss small business contracting issues at Metropolitan (July 27).
- California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 'Latinas Who Mean Business' workshop (July 30).

Metropolitan staff met with the East Bay Municipal Utilities District general manager and staff to discuss a possible collaboration for regional pipe testing and valve testing facilities. (July 14)

To promote innovation and collaboration with other agencies, Metropolitan staff engaged in many activities including:

- WaterStart Global Water Utilities meeting on agencies' responses to advancing innovation projects during COVID-19.
- Bi-weekly meetings with LADWP to discuss pilot projects and partnering opportunities
- Ongoing Metropolitan pilot projects using:
    - Laser technology for on-site calibration of sensors for flow meters in large pipes.
    - SAT technology to remotely monitor reservoir and embankment dams, clean and wastewater pipeline networks and water quality.
    - Sensors to analyze levee integrity.
    - Environmental design permitting improvements.

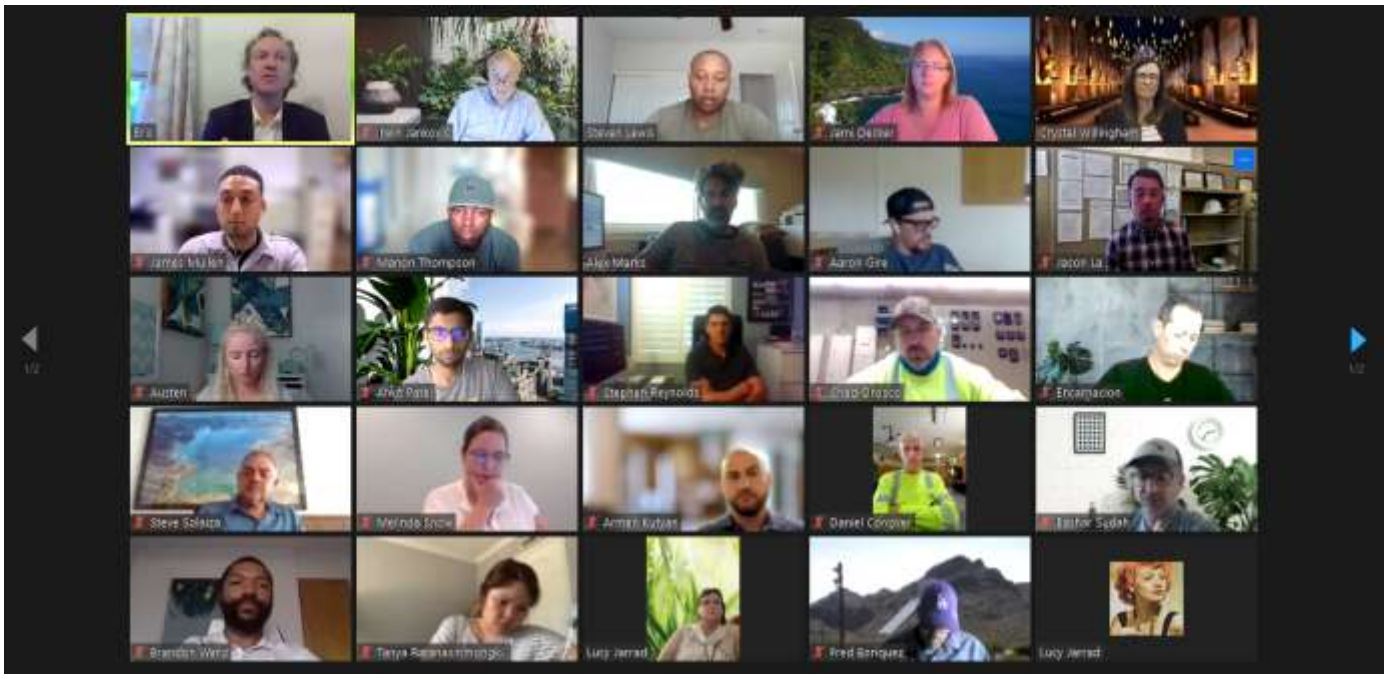
HUMAN RESOURCES

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 14th session of the Metropolitan Leadership Academy for 30 employees interested in moving into a management role. July's session focused on Metropolitan's budget practices and how to encourage innovative thinking in teams. There was also a homework assignment debriefing where participants worked in small groups to strategize a recommended coaching solution for common workplace scenarios.

This month, 237 Metropolitan employees attended other online classes, including Crucial Conversations, Effective Business Writing, Project Management Fundamentals, Communication Skills, and Advanced Excel.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online, e-learning content platform, was used for 78 classes, including topics on Effective Listening, Enhancing Team Innovation, Time Management Fundamentals, Extreme Productivity, Leadership Mindsets, Practical Influencing Techniques, and The Six Morning Habits of High Performers.



Metropolitan's Leadership Academy—July 13 Session

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

Recruitment successfully filled 16 positions for the month of July. We received 33 new staffing requisitions resulting in 111 positions currently in recruitment. Recruitment continues to successfully conduct virtual job interviews using Zoom.

In July, meetings of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council continued. Council members were introduced to Adel Hagekhalil, Metropolitan's new General Manager, who shared his thoughts on the Council's activities. A year in review was presented to the Council members discussion about Subcommittee size and structure resulted in revisions to the Subcommittee size.

Equal Employment Opportunity Program Manager, Olivia Sanchez, presented the Organization, Personal, and Technology Committee with the Semi-annual Report on Equal Employment Opportunity Policy for calendar year 2020. The report addressed workforce and job action demographics and recruitment outreach strategies using applicant data and workforce development partnerships. Persons of color increased to 56 percent, which is the fifth year that people of color made up a majority percentage of the workforce.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: SUSTAINABILITY

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

Human Resources continues to monitor the CalOSHA regulations to determine whether any protocols or policies need to be revised and, if so, communicate to management, employees, and the bargaining units. Converting Headquarters and other teleworking employees to a hybrid work environment is still scheduled for October 1, 2021.

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 latest 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 coaching, emotional intelligence (self-awareness, situational awareness, and relationship building), and empathic listening skills.

Human Resources staff continued to provide one-on-one coaching and mediation services for managers and employees in the developmental areas of trust building, conflict resolution, strategic planning, and giving effective feedback.

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.

HRIS staff updated salary schedule and implemented the negotiated Cost of Living adjustment for all employees in addition to processing the annual MyPerformance employee evaluations, including any merit increases.

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.

The CalPERS audit was completed on Metropolitan's reporting of Employer-Paid Member Contributions with no findings, which confirms compliance with CalPERS regulations.

CalPERS recently approved new medical rates and restructured the provided PPO plans. Staff is researching the impact to employees and negotiated MOUs.

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.

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 July, ten new workers' compensation claims were received and nine were 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 remain on the job.

- Coordinated medical surveillance exams at two facilities (LaVerne and Lake Mathews) which included respirator exams, Department of Motor Vehicle(DMV) exams, and hearing tests.
- Coordinated one Return-to-Duty drug test.
- Arranged five medical evaluations (DMV and medical surveillance).
- Addressed two accommodation issues.

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

HR Metrics	June 2021	July 2021	Prior Month June 2021
Headcount			
Regular Employees	1,806	1,811	1,806
Temporary Employees	30	32	30
Interns	3	5	3
Recurrents	20	20	20
Annuitants	16	16	16

	July 2021	June 2021
Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	111	94
Number of New Staffing Requisitions	33	18
	July 2021	**June 2021**
Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress	11	14
Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits	2	1
Number of New Job Audit Requests	1	1

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
External Hires	**FY 20/21 Totals**	**July 2021**	**FISCAL YTD**
Regular Employees	**74**	6	**6**
Temporary Employees	**30**	4	**4**
Interns	**3**	2	**2**
Internal Promotions	**60**	3	**3**
Management Requested Promotions	**149**	10	**10**
Retirements/Separations (regular employees)	**78**	1	**1**
Employee Requested Transfers	**20**	0	**0**

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 to collaborate with stakeholders to further enhance network security capabilities for Metropolitan's computing environments.

- Promoted IT governance to strengthen capabilities to mitigate increasing cybersecurity threats to Metropolitan's business systems and networks.
- Conducted software patching and security enhancements to ensure system performance and protection against evolving cyber threats.
- Continued deployment of two-factor authentication and other security tools, and methods to safeguard Metropolitan's computing environment and its assets.
- Monitored IT network and remote connectivity to ensure secure and reliable service for Metropolitan employees' teleworking.
- Conducted on-going cybersecurity initiatives to mitigate risks and vulnerabilities by working with business groups to implement security updates, protocols, and enhancements to address potential cyber vulnerabilities.
- Ongoing risk mitigation through vulnerability assessments and advanced network monitoring of Metropolitan's computing environment and deployed countermeasures against identified 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 reliability and resilience of IT systems. Selected project activities include:
    - **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. Final selection is underway as part of a competitive RFP solicitation process to select a vendor to provide data analytics consulting services.
    - **Desert Microwave and Two-Way Radio projects**—In July, the Board approved a project to 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 on the technical specifications and requirements, the team is proceeding with the equipment procurement and the installation phase of the project.

Metropolitan's Microwave Wide-Area Network

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. Staff continued with the definition phase of this project by evaluating design alternatives and technologies, including pilot testing of four radio frequency technologies for the AMR project.
    - Partnered with WSO resources on installation of field equipment for testing at designated test sites at installation of endpoints (radio modems) at the Garvey Reservoir coverage area and Jensen.
    - Pilot testing and assessment to determine the effectiveness of design alternatives among four radio frequency technologies is scheduled to continue through 2021.
- Gene Communication Systems Upgrade—Staff received board approval in July to proceed with a project to install a new high-speed Internet connection (Fiber) between Gene and Parker Dam to enhance resiliency and support SCADA, Business Applications, and Surveillance Networks. IT staff will be partnering with ESG on this project to provide critical redundancy to the existing desert wide-area network system.

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

- IT continued to evaluate solutions and design options, while assessing enterprise-wide backup requirements as part of replacing end-of-life and obsolete technology. Requirements to replace Metropolitan's backup infrastructure with newer and faster technology and redesign the backup/restore procedures is underway.
- Continued to conduct disaster preparedness planning and future recovery exercises as part of validating Metropolitan's recovery capabilities in the event of a disaster.

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—**The successful completion of the secondary datacenter site culminated a complex set of activities, including relocation of equipment and applications while minimizing disruption to the day-to-day business at Metropolitan. Efforts to complete the secondary datacenter (before the primary) was strategic to ensuring that recovery capabilities are in place before moving the primary site.
    - **Primary site—**The team continued to work on the procurement and development phase of the primary site 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 and resources continue to support day-to-day operations.
        - During the period, IT staff continued to work behind the scenes to support the existing environment while developing the new primary datacenter. Detailed requirements definition and planning are underway to determine logistics and the sequence for shutdown and de-installation of affected hardware and systems. In addition, IT resources continued to work on configuration and testing of new hardware/equipment to support the datacenter relocation. The primary site is expected to be complete and to go live in 2022.

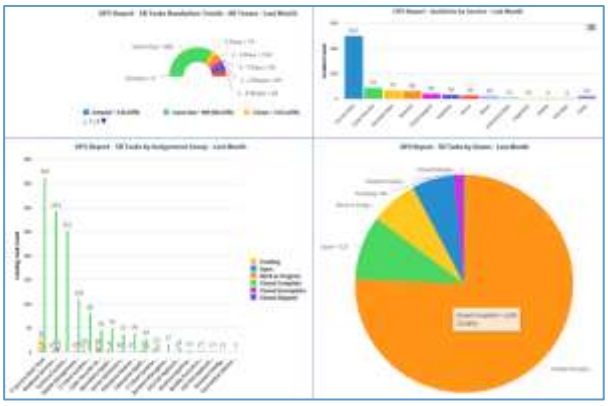
OBJECTIVE #6 Deploy solutions to improve operations, promote collaboration, and provide business value.

- The Personal Computer Replacement Project (PCRP) team has wrapped up deployment and transitioned to salvaging the old PC equipment. 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 many benefits including:
    - Ongoing refresh cycle to ensure that PCs are replaced before they reach the end of their useful life.
    - Minimizes disruption to operations because deployment is more tactical (avoids the challenges associated with a full-scale replacement affecting every business unit at the same time).
    - Provides greater flexibility in meeting customer needs and changing business requirements.
    - Normalizes the financial requirement and risk associated with mass purchase and deployment.
- Continued to implement the Enterprise Content Management project by optimizing existing digital data (cleanup of Network Storage Drives). The cleanup of file storage on the shared drives includes removing redundant and obsolete data. The effort has been completed for selected business units and current efforts are underway for the External Affairs Group.

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 (ITSM) 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. With the recent completion of the Change Management Database and Asset Management Module, the project is now substantially complete and is in production. ITSM is used by the IT Service Desk Team to manage service ticket requests generated by users across the enterprise.

IT Service Portal



Performance Dashboard

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: SUSTAINABILITY

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

- With the substantial completion of relocation efforts for the Headquarters Improvements Program, IT services required for equipment relocation, network configuration, and other IT support services is winding down. Throughout the relocation process, staff worked in collaboration with ESG and Facilities to provide the necessary IT services because of the office moves affected by the seismic retrofit upgrades.
- Resources continued to provide support and services for the Headquarters Improvements Program related to physical security enhancements and requirements for integration of IT systems and data.
- Continued end-of-life equipment replacement and deployment of innovative technologies at Metropolitan Headquarters. In addition, staff monitored IT infrastructure/systems to support a hybrid work environment as staff began transitioning back to headquarters during the current voluntary period.

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

- As part of the Fuel Management System Project, staff continued to work with the Contracting Team to finalize the agreement with the selected vendor, as approved by the Board. Project kickoff will commence upon execution of the contract.

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 Security conducted a briefing to the OP&T Committee in July, as part of keeping the Board apprised of cybersecurity initiatives and related activities.
- 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 and monitoring capabilities and managed services to identify and remediate threats to protect Metropolitan and its assets.

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

- As part of the board room audio/video (AV) upgrade project, significant milestones have been completed. Current efforts include testing of hardware, software, and integration of the audio and video systems. Deployment planning of the new AV system is underway as IT technical staff and iHUB continue to work collaboratively with key stakeholders for upcoming on-site board and committee meetings.

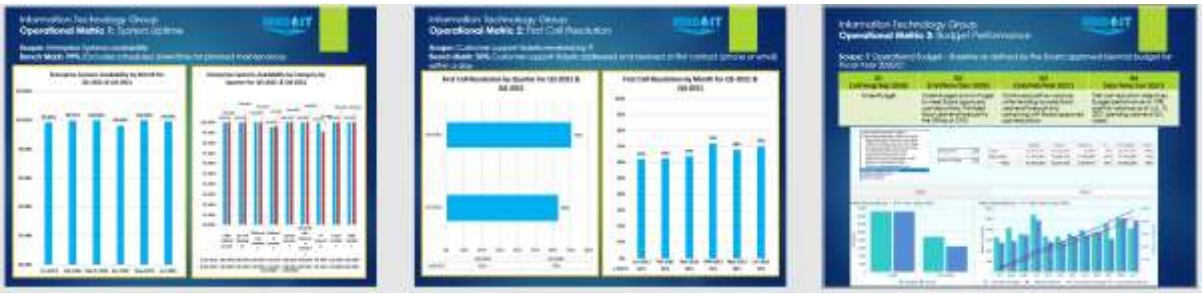
US2-145 Committee Room

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. Staff continued to work with key stakeholders during the RFP advertisement period, as the posting is scheduled to close in July.

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

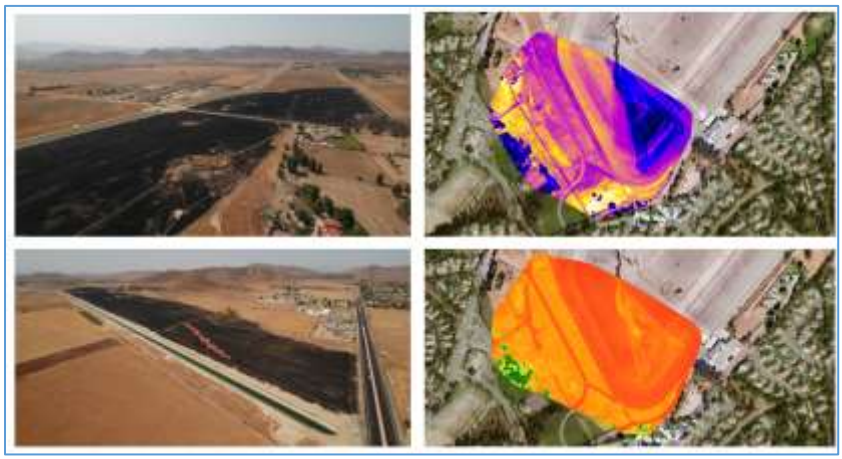
- Information Technology participated in Capital Investment Planning Committee meetings to ensure alignment with Metropolitan's strategic priorities. IT projects are an essential part of Metropolitan's capital investments to replace aging infrastructure, systems and applications, and is essential to application/system reliability and IT resiliency.
- Provided CAO Quarterly Operational Report to communicate with executive management about Information Technology operations related to systems uptime, first call resolution of customer support tickets, and financial budget performance.



Quarterly IT Performance Metrics

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

- Expanded the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) to support Metropolitan's key business objectives including infrastructure and property inspection, environmental land monitoring and videos for educational/ promotional opportunities.



UAV Aerial Imagery

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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

- On-going development of Enterprise Data Warehouse and Analytics to support operational and strategic decision-making at Metropolitan.
- Continued IT initiative to migrate to cloud services to enhance access to business applications and improve system reliability and resiliency.
- Continued to deploy and support mobile technologies such as the use of iPads to simplify access to information and improve workforce productivity.

iPad—Mobile Technology

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.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation granted a permanent pipeline easement that perfects legal rights over an existing portion of the Allen McColloch Pipeline in the city of Irvine as part of the Right of Way and Infrastructure Protection Program in Orange County. This easement ensures that Metropolitan has the standard pipeline easement rights to construct, maintain, and operate over this area.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority granted a permanent easement for the construction and maintenance of fencing and gates around Metropolitan's courtyard and bollards around the Metropolitan Headquarters Building in support of Stage 3 of the Headquarters Security Project. Obtaining this easement is a crucial step in further enhancing physical security at the headquarters building and better protecting Metropolitan employees, visitors and assets.

Objective #2 Foster staff training and development.

- International Right of Way Association-sponsored courses: Bargaining Negotiations. This course provided staff with the basic skills to prepare for successful negotiations, including problem-solving and "win-win" techniques, which helps staff more effectively conduct negotiations in support of Metropolitan real estate-related projects.
- One staff member achieved the Right of Way Agent (RWA) certification, and another, the Right of Way Professional (RWP) certification from the International Right of Way Association. These certifications, and the effort put into achieving them, effectively bolsters staff industry knowledge and allows for more meaningful contributions to Metropolitan projects.
- One staff member obtained the Certified General Appraisal designation from the California Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers.

Objective #2 Provide valuation, land management, and real property disposition support services for the maximum return or use of Metropolitan-owned land and facilities.

An amendment to the lease was executed to extend the term of Western Science Center's occupancy of Buildings 1, 3, and 4 at the Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) site from July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021. The amendment will allow the continued subleasing of the subject buildings to Western Center Academy.

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

Installation of heat-resistant neolith stone countertops was completed in the committee rooms and executive dining room. The new stone countertops cover the original wood and leather tops which had warped and bubbled because of hot food and spilled liquids.

The Diamond Valley Marina hosted fishing tournaments every weekend during the month of July as part of its summer night fishing tournament series. These events have drawn over 150 anglers to DVL to enjoy an evening on the lake and allowed fisherman to cast their lines for a chance to win a prize. The American Bass and National Bass West fishing tournaments sponsored these events that offered fisherman the opportunity to compete in teams for awards ranging from cash prizes to qualifying for positions at their year-end championship tournaments.

Objective #4 District Housing Maintenance and Management.

During this month, thirty work orders were completed, including seven resident requests, three preventive maintenance tasks, and twenty corrective maintenance items associated with employee housing.

One desert residence has been prepared for occupancy. This house has gone through the required assessment, and repair work was performed to ensure that it is ready for safe and sanitary occupancy.

REAL PROPERTY *continued*

The distribution of 78 MiFi hotspot Wi-Fi devices has been provided to residents at each of the four-employee village locations. Because of unreliable Internet service at each of the villages, Real Property purchased the hotspot devices for the residents' households' use as a short-term solution. IT is working on future infrastructure projects to provide a long-term solution.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency
Objective #5 Ensure reliable State Water Project (SWP).

Staff participated virtually in the DWR Operations, Maintenance and Engineering Committee (OME) meeting. DWR staff provided SWP contractors with updates from the Oroville Field Division, specifically on the Oroville Hyatt River Valve Outlet System (RVOS) rehabilitation project status. DWR extended the pre-construction schedule from 7 to 14 months and delayed the construction schedule by a year. The target completion date for the RVOS rehabilitation project is now August 2024. This is a critical project as it allows DWR to operate safely and meet water delivery requirements during periods of low water elevations at Lake Oroville.

DWR staff inspect the Oroville Hyatt RVOS (2021)

Staff participated in DWR's virtual Dam Safety Subcommittee meeting. DWR is working on the Palermo Canal Relining Project, one of the early implementation projects identified in the Oroville Dam Safety Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA). DWR is performing liner maintenance to reduce the likelihood of canal seepage and failure. The estimated total cost is under $3.5 million and is scheduled to be completed by 2024. Early geotechnical investigation is underway for another CNA early implementation project—to raise the Parish Camp saddle dam by about 3 feet to reduce the likelihood of overtopping. The total estimated project cost for the new project is approximately $6 million.

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

Staff submitted the Metropolitan 2022 Plan for the Creation of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (Plan of ICS Creation) to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). Metropolitan is seeking approval to create up to 450,000 acre-feet of ICS to store in Lake Mead during 2022. This Plan of ICS Creation demonstrates how Metropolitan will meet all requirements for the creation of ICS and maximize California's available ICS creation capacity.

Metropolitan staff participated in a meeting of Lower Basin stakeholders to discuss issues related to the upcoming negotiations over the new guidelines that will govern operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead after 2026. Issues included which future hydrology to use in modeling studies, short-term versus long-term challenges, the role of USBR in the negotiations, relations between Lower Basin and Upper Basin partners, public messaging, and the schedule of negotiations and future meetings.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #3 Monitor development of climate science and incorporate updated information into Integrated Water Resources Planning approach.

Staff participated in a July 14 webinar on UCLA's Sustainable LA Grand Challenge report card on ecosystem health in L.A. County. The webinar reviewed UCLA's evaluation of ecosystem health and proposed strategies and actions for a sustainable Los Angeles. In addition, staff is reviewing the companion report, "Sustainable LA Grand Challenge, Sustainability Report Card for Los Angeles County, Ecosystem Health, 2021." Staff participated in the webinar to assess the linkage between water resource development and sustainability.

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

Staff participated in the first workshop of a Brine Management Peer-2-Peer (P2P) partnership hosted by ISLE Inc. The workshop featured water utilities from across the country, including several member agencies. The Orange County Water District and Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority also participated. Metropolitan is collaborating with Los Angeles County Sanitation District in the partnership to address brine management for the Regional Recycled Water Project. Advances in brine management can also benefit the region by removing a barrier to the development of brackish groundwater and other high-salinity local resources. Additionally, new brine management approaches can also help Metropolitan and its partners manage Colorado River salinity. The P2P collaboration will include additional workshops along with a comprehensive technology scan of brine management technologies.

Objective #8 Implement Regional Conservation Program.

Water Efficiency Staff collaborated with Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) to resume the educational seminar series "Energy Smart Landscaping." The SoCalGas seminars designed for landscape professionals provide participants with strategies for developing and maintaining water and energy-efficient landscapes. This recent webinar session covered Fire Protection and how appropriate landscaping can help to mitigate fire risk. Landscape strategies to improve fire protection include installing drought-tolerant and native plants, properly maintaining landscapes, and including fire-resistant buffer zones around structures, particularly at urban-wildland boundaries. Metropolitan staff also presented a summary of current regional water supply conditions and Metropolitan's ongoing conservation incentives that are available. Future seminars will cover plant selection strategies, stormwater management, and other landscaping conservation topics. These SoCalGas seminars help Metropolitan implement regional conservation programs and increase the conservation of water supply in the region.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

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

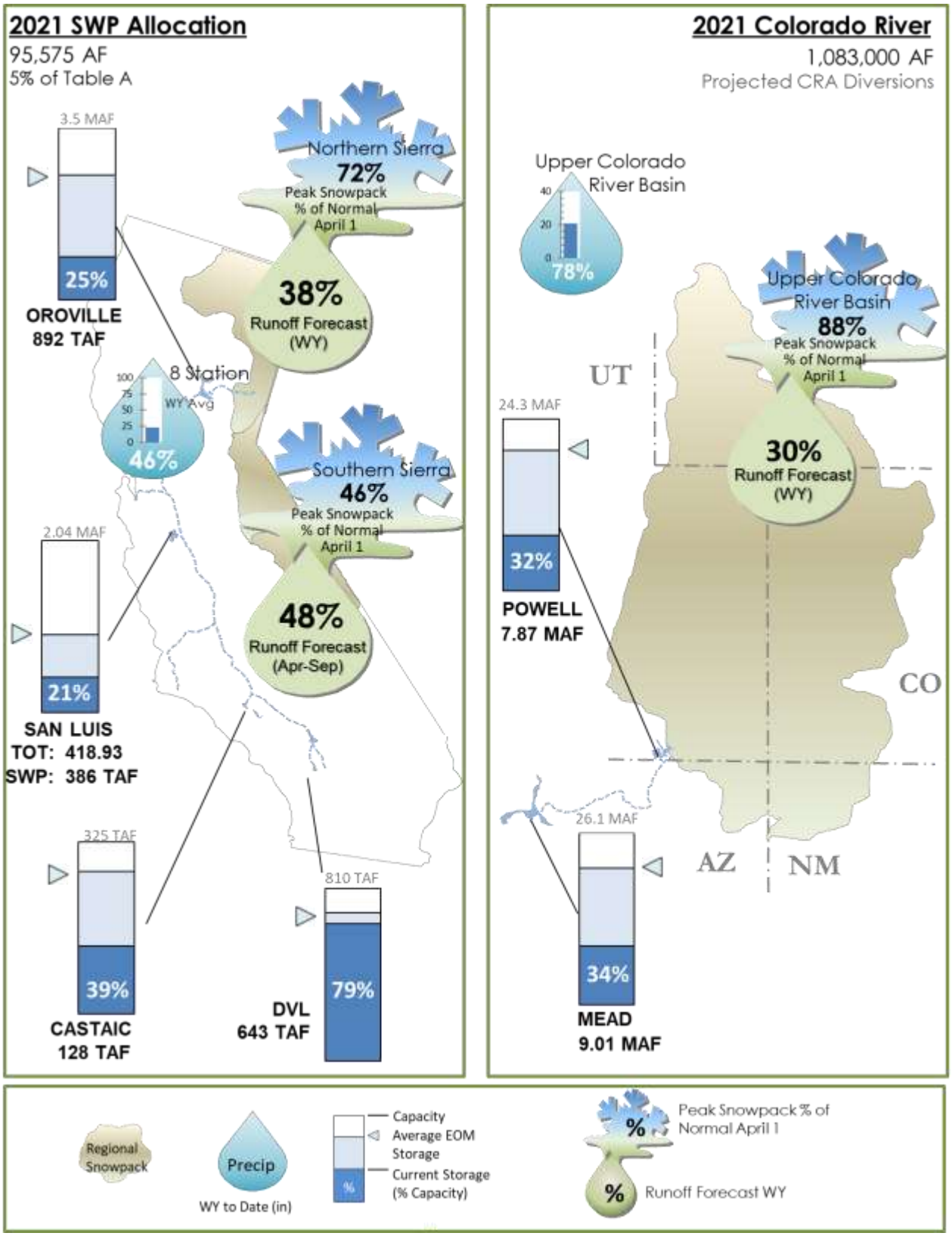
Staff continued engagement with member agencies and the board on work for the 2020 IRP. Meetings were held with the IRP Member Agency Technical Workgroup on July 14 and the Board IRP Committee on July 27. Meeting topics were focused on approaches for developing and evaluating portfolios of actions to address the water reliability challenges identified by the IRP scenario analyses.

Objective #3 Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Staff hosted a Future Supply Actions Funding Program (FSA Program) webinar with Calleguas MWD and the City of Thousand Oaks. The webinar shared the results of a pilot test of Closed-Circuit Reverse Osmosis (CCRO) for brackish groundwater recovery. The study will help Calleguas, and its member agencies maximize the use of brackish groundwater in its service area and benefit other water agencies considering CCRO for increasing recovery rates from new and existing desalters.

Staff monitored a pilot test of a novel technique for characterizing groundwater recharge basins using electro resistivity tomography (ERT), temperature probes, and other sensors. The new approach provides the equivalent of an "Ultrasound" for recharge basins. The test is a component of Calleguas MWD's Arroyo Las Posas Stormwater Diversion Feasibility Study and Percolation Test co-funded through the FSA Program. The new approach could help local groundwater and stormwater agencies improve the efficiency of existing groundwater recharge basins.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*



As of July 31, 2021

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency
Objective #1 Provide Reliable Water Deliveries.

Metropolitan delivered approximately 170,400 acre-feet (AF) of water to member agencies in July. Deliveries averaged approximately 5,497 AF per day, which was 437 AF per day higher than in June. Treated water deliveries increased by 8,766 AF from June, with a total of 87,242 AF or 51 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct continued its maximum eight-pump flow with a total of 106,100 AF pumped for the month. State Water Project imports averaged 1,596 AF per day, totaling about 49,476 AF for the month, which accounted for about 29 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 June 2021.

The California Revised Total Coliform Rule became effective on July 1, 2021. The revised rule includes a new coliform Treatment Technique requirement instead of the total coliform maximum contaminant level (MCL), a new *E. coli* MCL (based on repeat samples), and establishes a find-and-fix approach for investigating and correcting problems in the event of coliform-positive samples within the distribution system. Metropolitan is modifying its coliform monitoring sampling plan in compliance with the revised regulation.

Metropolitan hosted a virtual quarterly meeting with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water on July 21. Key discussion topics included regulatory, engineering and water quality updates; the 2020 electronic Annual Report; dry well separation guidance for drinking water pipelines; an update on TNI laboratory accreditation for the treatment plant laboratories and a status update on Metropolitan's system operations.

Staff published a new Safety Talk explaining that "speaking up for safety" is the rule of thumb at Metropolitan and how every employee is empowered to speak up about safety issues. The Safety Talk is posted on the SRS IntraMet webpage.

MWD Safety Talk

Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Communicating Safety

SPEAK UP FOR SAFETY

Workplace Safety Culture

The strongest and most effective safety cultures are those where safety is a shared responsibility by everyone.

"Speaking up for safety" is the rule of thumb at Metropolitan. Everyone is empowered to speak up about safety issues without fear of reprisal. We all need to be respectful, objective, open-minded, understanding and patient when listening to each other's point of view, concerns, and suggestions.

Why We Stay Quiet

So often, it seems so much easier to sit back and say nothing.

- We feel that it is someone else's responsibility to speak up.
- We assume that others are too experienced to put themselves at risk.
- We fear being judged or ridiculed by others for speaking up.
- We fear repercussions from others, and from our managers.

SAFETY FIRST
FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY
TALK SAFETY

But by not speaking up we become part of the problem, rather than part of the solution. Communicating a safety concern gives us the opportunity to fix it and continue to improve safety.

Reasons to Say Something

1. **Silence is deemed as approval.** We may think that keeping quiet keeps us from being involved in any conflict or problem, but it is quite the opposite. Staying quiet means that we are OK with the situation, even when we know or suspect it may be wrong.
2. **No one else may realize the issue.** When we notice a hazard that could cause an accident, we cannot assume what is obvious to you is obvious to others. Our experience and knowledge may have value in each situation because no one else has our unique perspective.
3. **You may not be alone in your concerns.** It is possible that your observations and conclusions are shared by others, but they are also unwilling to speak up. By speaking up first, you may give others the confidence to also speak up and voice their concerns and opinions as well.

New "Speak Up for Safety" Safety Talk

In keeping with the commitment to enhance safety, staff modified an underdrain structure for the Diamond Valley Lake Forebay to provide safer access for personnel. The modifications included replacing the older hatch opening with a larger lid which can be easily removed when staff enter the structure to perform maintenance.

Staff replacing hatch for DVL Forebay underdrain structure to improve access and worker safety

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

As the initial step for a Capital Investment Plan (CIP) project, staff is assessing 290 structures in the Orange County region to identify, prioritize and schedule rehabilitation work. The project will inspect mechanical and electrical equipment within pipeline structures to focus rehabilitation efforts. The project will comprehensively restore aging equipment; including valves, sump pumps, control panels, and associated electrical and instrumentation appurtenances to ensure reliable operation.

Staff inspecting electrical and control cabinets for facilities in the Orange County region

Objective #4 Optimize Maintenance.

Staff upgraded a 480-volt electrical circuit at the Intake pumping plant. The circuit breaker, conductors, and receptacle were upgraded to facilitate larger loads such as heaters, fans, welders, and other equipment.

Staff replacing 480-volt electrical circuit breaker at Intake pumping plant

Staff removed and disassembled a circulating water pump at Hinds pumping plant. The pump will be rebuilt and coated before being returned to service. The circulating water pumps provide cooling water to the motors, pumps and transformers at the facility.

Staff removing a vertical turbine pump for repair at Hinds pumping plant

Staff performed preventative maintenance on a 2,300-volt circuit breaker at Eagle Mountain pumping plant. These breakers provide power to the circulating water pumps for the plant. The breakers are removed from service annually to assess condition and perform maintenance such as lubrication and electrical testing.

Staff performing preventative maintenance on a 2,300V circuit breaker at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

Inspection is an important part of maintenance. Crane inspections occur before each use, monthly and quarterly; cranes are also certified by a third party annually. Staff inspected a transformer crane at the Eagle Mountain pumping plant and checked for proper operation of safety devices, wire rope condition, and other areas of potential concern.

Staff inspecting a crane at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

The age of the facilities in the Desert requires enhancements to improve operations, maintainability and accessibility. Two projects in the region, meeting all three of these criteria, are happening close enough together that the heavy equipment portion can be tackled simultaneously. Staff are grading an area adjacent to the high-voltage switchyard to improve drainage and equipment accessibility at Iron Mountain pumping plant.

Staff using heavy equipment to create access and drainage improvements at Iron Mountain pumping plant

During the summer months in the Desert, it is not unusual for ambient temperatures near the remote pumping plants to exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit; therefore, HVAC issues quickly become a high priority during equipment failure. The HVAC unit at the Gene pumping plant began failing and could not be repaired. Staff brought in small emergency HVAC systems for the pumping plant and coordinated with a contractor to replace the old unit.

Staff working with contractors to replace the control room HVAC system at Gene pumping plant

Staff began rehabilitation of meter control equipment on San Diego Pipeline No. 4. The rehabilitation included the replacement of corroded conduits, junction boxes, panels, receptacles, and switches with new replacement parts that will restore the capabilities of the mainline meter control structure.

Staff threading conduit (left) and installing new conduit inside the structure (right) on San Diego Pipeline No. 4

This month, staff replaced the station battery charger at the Hinds pumping plant. The station battery charger ensures that the station battery system is operating optimally and is fully charged at all times. This helps to ensure the reliable and safe operation of critical DC-powered equipment, including high-voltage protection relays, circuit breakers and emergency equipment that need to operate in the event of a loss of station power. The new station battery charging system includes additional maintenance features that will allow flexibility to replace station battery cells in the future.

Staff placing new battery charger into position (left) and wiring new battery charger (right) at Hinds pumping plant

Staff restored the earth berm of the San Andreas retention basin along with the CRA because of the effects of heavy rains in 2019. Staff imported approximately 2,000 tons of fill material, processed and compacted the material, and repaired the slope. Repairs at this location were reimbursable through FEMA.

Staff placing and compacting fill materials (left) and completed berm repair (right) of San Andreas retention basin

Staff continued the system-wide coatings program aimed at preventing corrosion and extending the life of pipelines and other infrastructure. Staff recently completed coating projects on San Diego Pipeline No. 3 and East Orange County Feeder No. 2.

Turnout valve before (left) and after (right) coating at the OC-39 service connection on the East Orange County Feeder No. 2

Meter piping before (left) and after (right) coating at the OC-39 service connection on the East Orange County Feeder No. 2

Staff located a ground fault in the electrical distribution system at the Mills plant. The electrical system is protected by a high-resistance ground, which helps prevent equipment failures due to ground faults in motors and conductors. The fault was located using a clamp-on ammeter (an instrument to measure electric current), and a pump motor was found to have degraded winding insulation. An outage was scheduled to repair the equipment without impacting operations.

Staff locating a ground fault at the Mills plant

Objective #5 Manage the Power System.

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) issued multiple flex alerts calling for energy conservation because of unseasonably hot weather and loss of system resources during the period of July 8–12. CAISO issued a Stage 2 emergency on June 9. The loss of system resources was due to transmission lines forced out of service by the Bootleg Fire in eastern Oregon.

Staff continued other preparations to ensure electric reliability during the upcoming peak load season in August and September, including development of improved communication channels with the Arizona Electric Power Cooperative and CAISO, and development of training for staff on the CAISO market. These preparations included a presentation to the Board's Engineering and Operations committee on July 12 on anticipated energy costs and operating conditions for summer 2021.

Staff participated in a virtual workshop hosted by the California Energy Commission (CEC) on demand-side resource adequacy. This workshop is a stakeholder process involving the CEC, California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and CAISO to provide input to the CEC and CPUC's treatment of demand-side resources for meeting resource adequacy requirements. Metropolitan's resource adequacy requirements and demand-side management programs fall under the purview of CAISO and are not within the jurisdiction of the CEC or CPUC; however, participation in this stakeholder process is an opportunity to provide indirect input to the CAISO on this issue.

Objective #6 Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Metropolitan staff participated in the regular meeting of the Southern California Lifelines Working Group. The goal of these meetings is to provide a platform for representatives from various private and public utilities to collaborate with public emergency management agencies on various emergency preparedness and response issues. This meeting focused on topics such as rotating power outages and wildfire preparedness and provided a valuable opportunity for Metropolitan to work with our emergency response counterparts in the utility and emergency management sectors.

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 July 2021.

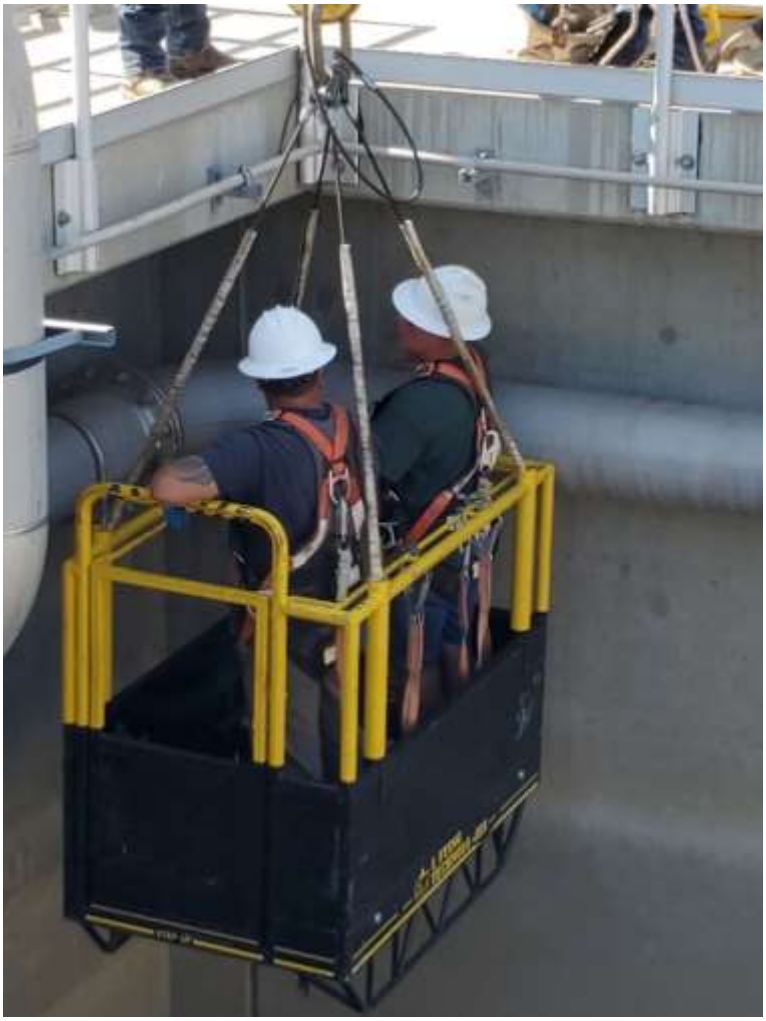
Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from May 2020 through April 2021 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of SPW and CRA water were 570, 570, and 533 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Staff coordinated cleaning and neutralizing of the interior of the 80,000-gallon sulfuric acid tank using a hazardous waste contractor for an internal corrosion inspection at the Jensen plant. Over 9,000 gallons of concrete-like sludge were removed. The project involved several months of planning, job safety reviews, site inspections, sludge sampling and incorporation of all COVID-19 protocols for site vendors and Metropolitan staff.

Sludge removal progress on 6-foot deep concrete-like sludge in a chemical tank at the Jensen plant

Hazardous waste vendor working in the decontamination zone to clean a chemical tank at the Jensen plant

Staff repaired the surface wash header line on Module 7 at the Skinner plant. The surface wash header carries potable water to the filters, where it is sprayed down on the filter media to disburse particulates that have been trapped in the filter media, improving filter cleaning during the backwash process. The surface wash header had developed a leak, and accessing it for repairs would require either a shutdown or the use of a large crane with a man basket. The leak developed in the warmer season with higher water demands; therefore, accessing with a crane allowed the module to remain in service while the repairs were made.



Staff repairing the surface wash header on Module 7 at the Skinner plant

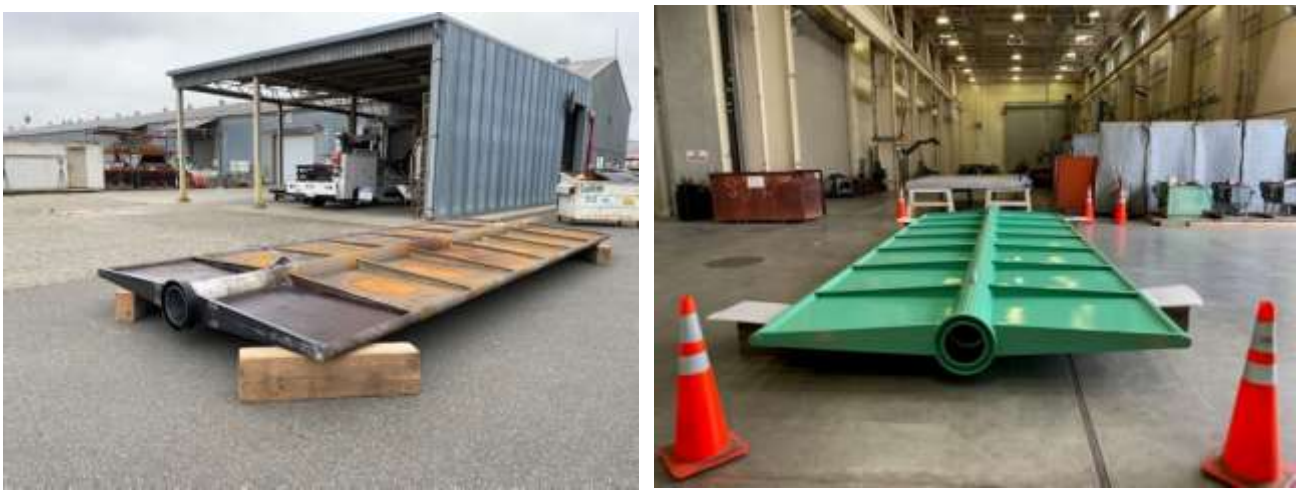
Crane extended to hold man basket for Module 7 surface wash header repair at the Skinner plant

Objective #8 Manage Water Reserves.

Water reserves continued to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management 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 DVL through PC-1 to connections on the Lakeview Pipeline, as well as the DVL to Mills plant operation, continued in July to conserve SWP use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in July. Staff continued with Greg Avenue pump operations to minimize SWP usage by about 3,300 AF per month. 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 #9 Support Imported Supply Reliability.

The La Verne Shops completed refurbishment of two flow control wing gates for the DWR Banks Pumping Plant. Each 10-foot wide by 30-foot tall gate weighs 8,000 pounds and is used to help divert fish away from the pumps at Banks Pumping Plant that lifts water into the California Aqueduct. This work is part of a continued collaboration effort with DWR to refurbish a total of 14 gates that began in 2019. The two refurbished gates were shipped to DWR on July 7 and included new welded gate sections and two new shafts, fully coated with a corrosion-resistant coating. The next two gates set for refurbishment are expected to be shipped to the La Verne Shops in August.



DWR's wing gate before (left) and after (right) refurbishment at the La Verne Shops

Replacement of gate section (left) and new center post (right) for DWR's Banks Pumping Plant

Gate bearings (left) and new gate shafts (right) for DWR's Banks Pumping Plant

Objective #10 Manage Vacancies.

WSO filled seven vacant positions in June 2021.

Objective #11 Prepare Employees for New Opportunities.

The Water System Operations Apprenticeship Program develops and trains personnel to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, apprentices concluded their Spring 2021 semester by successfully completing final written and practical exams.

Staff developed and published an online Tunnel/Confined Space Entry training class. This training meets regulatory requirements to prepare employees for entering confined spaces before entering a Metropolitan tunnel or confined space. Previous training was available in person and scheduled periodically. The online version allows employees to attend training immediately upon employment. Several of Metropolitan's training courses transitioned to an online format during the COVID-19 pandemic. This course brings the total number of online safety classes to 34.

Screen view of online Tunnel/Confined Space Entry training

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability
Objective #1 Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation.

On July 7, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency in response to the excessive heatwave affecting California to help alleviate stress on the electrical grid. The Proclamation suspends certain regulations and permit conditions for stationary and portable generators to free up standby generation capacity. The order expired on July 13. Metropolitan did not need to operate any of its emergency generators in response to the heatwave.

On July 7, staff participated in South Coast Air Quality Management District's fourth working group meeting for Proposed Rule (PR) 118.1 and Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 1470. PR 118.1 allows "critical service facilities" (such as Metropolitan) to operate emergency generators beyond the annual 200-hour limit in response to Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events, and PAR 1470 allows agencies in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to average the maintenance and testing hours over a three-year period for their older emergency generators. Staff are supportive of these rule changes because they could benefit Metropolitan's member agencies, allowing them to continue to actively participate in the rule development.

On July 12, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a pre-publication draft of its Fifth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 5)—a list of contaminants not currently subject to any proposed or promulgated regulations under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The draft CCL 5 includes 66 chemicals (including 1,4-dioxane, chlorpyrifos, manganese, and molybdenum), three chemical groups (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), cyanotoxins, and disinfection byproducts), and 12 microbial contaminants. The PFAS group excluded PFOA and PFOS, as EPA already decided to regulate those chemicals in March 2021 under the fourth Regulatory Determination process. Staff are reviewing the CCL 5 for any potential impacts on Metropolitan or its member agencies. Comments will be due 60 days after the draft list is published in the Federal Register.

On July 13, operations and engineering staff met to discuss potential impacts of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) draft language for the Statewide NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit (CGP). The CGP regulates stormwater discharges associated with construction activities disturbing one or more acres. Key updates to the draft CGP include the introduction of passive treatment technology requirements for turbidity control, adding 68 Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) with corresponding implementation requirements, and updating sampling and monitoring requirements. Staff will monitor the SWRCB's informational hearing on August 4 and are evaluating whether Metropolitan will submit written comments by the August 13 comment deadline.

On July 14, staff provided input on the Western Urban Water Coalition's letter requesting Congress to exempt water and wastewater utilities from strict liability requirements, similar to that granted to airports, should it designate PFAS as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. In this fashion, water agencies would not be held liable for PFAS contamination when upstream industrial and other sources are the responsible parties. The letter also emphasized that Congress should maintain a science-based, data-driven, peer-reviewed process when setting regulatory standards for PFAS. Staff will continue to engage in PFAS-related issues that affect the water industry.

Objective #3 Support the Regional Recycled Water Program

During the month of July, staff continued testing, operations, monitoring and maintenance at the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center demonstration facility in the third phase of challenge testing to assess system performance with damaged fibers. The facility's biological treatment system was closely monitored to determine when it would return to target operational conditions, following an operational change in late May at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant that caused higher than usual solids and organics loading to the demonstration plant. Microbial sampling to determine pathogen removal through the membrane bioreactor (MBR) is anticipated to resume by early August once these target biological system conditions are met.

Staff met with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and Divison of Drinking Water to discuss their comments on the update to the tertiary MBR testing and monitoring plan. Staff also presented the secondary MBR testing and monitoring plan to DDW and the Los Angeles and Santa Ana RWQCBs for initial comments ahead of plan submission anticipated in early August for testing that will begin in early 2022.

Staff completed various onsite projects to augment site safety, including the establishment of a local safety committee. In addition, staff continued to perform repairs on chemical feed skids, as well as work on new chemical system manifolds to simplify operations and improve safety of chemical handling. Staff also completed modifications to the MBR handrails to improve safe access to equipment. In addition, staff began to access the demonstration facility Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system following four days of training in June to transition control system support from consultants to Metropolitan staff.

Staff participate in consultant-led training on SCADA support for the demonstration facility

Safety handrail improvements providing ease of access to the MBR system equipment at the demonstration facility

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

Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of about 13 megawatts, or more than 9,090 megawatt-hours, and approximately $489,770 in revenue, for the month of June 2021. Metropolitan's solar facilities totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity generated over 880 megawatt-hours in June 2021.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Monthly Update as of: **7/30/2021**

Reservoir	Current Storage	Percent of Capacity
Colorado River Basin		
Lake Powell	7,887,000	32%
Lake Mead	9,003,000	35%
DWR		
Lake Oroville	902,040	25%
Shasta Lake	1,468,609	32%
San Luis Total	431,375	21%
San Luis CDWR	388,906	37%
Castaic Lake	130,108	40%
Silverwood Lake	66,447	89%
Lake Perris	113,946	87%
MWD		
DVL	643,489	79%
Lake Mathews	150,696	83%
Lake Skinner	38,011	86%

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.

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