

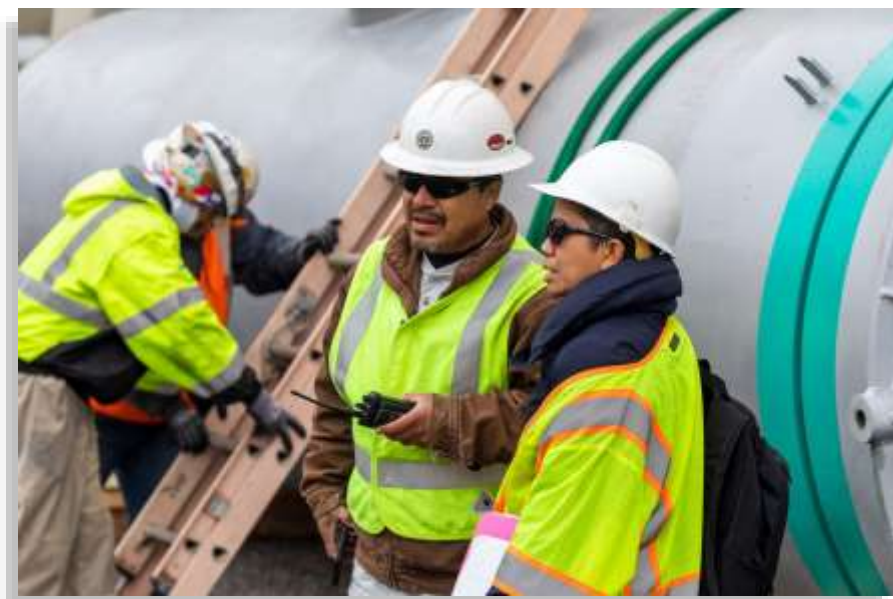


The GENERAL MANAGER Monthly Report

**Activities for the Month of
August 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.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021



Alfonso R. Ramirez, Team Manager and Jan L. Vu, Engineer
February 2020 Pre-COVID-19

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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.

Accomplishments

- Administrative Services takes great pride in the variety of support services it provides to Metropolitan. The table below represents a sample of the Section's efforts to complete support services in Fiscal Year of 2020-21.

Administrative Services Section Activity January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021		
Task	Transaction Type	Number
Mailroom	Postage	13,550
	UPS/FedEx (Incoming/Outgoing)	798
Business Resource Center	Facility Related Requests Recieved:	602
	Furniture, Moves, Lighting	1422
	Operator Facilitated Calls	
Rideshare	Transit Reimbursements	62
	Average Electric Vehicle Participants	83
ECM	Network files migrated	1,961,548
Procurement	Purchasing Documents Executed (Standard P.O., Blanket, Master, Informal Quotes, Requests for Bids & Sole Source)	1526
Professional Servicesq	Professional Services Agreements Executed (RFP, RfQ, Gov Agency, Sole Sorce & Small Purchase)	52
Warehouse	Materials Transactions, Incoming & Outgoing	28,734
Reprographics	Imaging Services Jobs	Total Jobs: 191
	100% Average on-time completion	Total Impressions:437,476

- Administrative Services Mailroom staff partnered with Information Technology to prepare approximately 930 Federal Express shipping labels to quickly send Yubi keys to employees within Water System Operations.

The YubiKey is a hardware authentication device that adds another level of security when accessing Metropolitan's computers, networks and online services. This was a challenging, multi-departmental, fast-paced project that was successfully executed with precision teamwork.

- Document Services Imaging Services staff participated in an insightful visit to Canon Business Enterprise in Irvine, CA. The team was introduced to the latest innovative Canon line-up, from walk-up copiers to production printers as potential replacements to Metropolitan's current equipment. The Imaging Services team was able to print and see different types of equipment and learn about the trends in the printing industry.

BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

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

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative groups called for in the 2019 Biological Opinions (BiOp) for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) and in the 2020 Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for Long-Term Operation of the SWP, to address science needs and inform management and operation of the water projects. In August, staff continued work with state and federal agencies to develop a Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE) for Spring-run Chinook salmon as a condition as required by the ITP. The group finalized the problem statement: “What is the best way to estimate juvenile production of spring-run chinook that supports different management needs (primarily measuring and managing take of spring-run) and permit requirements?” Current efforts are focused on developing objectives and performance metrics by having focused discussions of priorities for the group (e.g. costs, minimizing impacts to water project operation, and minimizing loss of fish when operating monitoring equipment) and specific metrics that can be used consistently to estimate and report the anticipated consequences of different monitoring alternatives to develop a JPE.

Staff also worked with state and federal agencies on development of a monitoring program for steelhead as a condition of the 2019 BiOp on Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP. The monitoring plan would encompass steelhead populations within the San Joaquin Basin and/or the San Joaquin River downstream of the confluence of the Stanislaus River, including steelhead and rainbow trout on non-project San Joaquin tributaries. The group is drafting an outline for the monitoring plan, discussing the spatial and temporal scope the plan will cover, and identifying required management actions that need to be monitored.

GENERAL MANAGER'S 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 second of four technical webinars to inform the public and interested stakeholders about the current progress related to preparation of the Draft EIR. The second webinar was presented on August 3, 2021, and focused on fishery resources. The presentation included an overview and environmental setting, the fish species evaluated, migration patterns, fish life cycles, and methods being used for evaluating potential impacts. Upcoming webinars on climate change and environmental justice will continue to feature presentations from technical staff about the approaches, methodologies, and assumptions to be used in conducting impact analyses in the Draft EIR. All webinars are recorded and are available on DWR's website ([Informational Webinars \(ca.gov\)](https://www.water.ca.gov/informational-webinars)). Information about impact findings and specific mitigation measures is not available at this time but will be included in future outreach efforts following publication of the public Draft EIR.

BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES *continued*

Joint Powers Authorities

No Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) meeting or affiliated DCA Stakeholder Engagement Committee meeting was conducted in August.

The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority met on August 19 and approved the investment policy for fiscal year 2021/22.

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

In their August meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board (Authority Board) and the Sites Reservoir Committee (Reservoir Committee) accepted the Financial Auditor's Report, which found no significant or reportable findings. The anticipated August release of the Amended Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be behind schedule because of additional review of the Aquatic Biological Resources chapter by the Reclamation and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). These efforts are expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

Objective # 4 Develop and execute land use strategies for the Delta Islands that are consistent with board policies.

Staff continued efforts to develop studies to assist in preserving Delta smelt and evaluating existing ponds on Metropolitan's Delta Island properties to assess the suitability of the ponds for Delta smelt research. Development of studies on Metropolitan's Delta Islands has received positive technical feedback from state and federal agencies involved in the Supplementation of Delta smelt. Board approval was directed to implement surveys to determine the suitability of conducting those studies on the Metropolitan Delta Islands. Staff also participated in a tour of Bouldin Island with Reclamation staff to discuss potential collaboration regarding Delta smelt supplementation, waterfowl, and salmon habitat.

GENERAL MANAGER'S 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.

A recent publication in the *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* journal, titled "Use of the SmeltCam as an Efficient Fish-Sampling Alternative within the San Francisco Estuary," reported on a study funded by Metropolitan and other partners to evaluate the efficiency of a new fish-sampling device. The SmeltCam is an imaging apparatus developed as a potential sampling alternative to long-term trawling gear surveys within the San Francisco Estuary, to reduce handling stress on sensitive species like the Delta smelt. Researchers with the U.S. Geological Survey tested the efficiency of the SmeltCam by conducting trawls for Northern Anchovy as a surrogate for Delta smelt. They found that the SmeltCam had greater retention than traditional trawls and that turbidity did not affect the SmeltCam's retention efficiency.

Staff co-authored a paper with UC Davis researchers titled "Toxic Meals for Seabirds and Seals: Monitoring Mercury in the San Francisco Bay" in the *Frontiers for Young Minds* journal <https://kids.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frym.2021.611288>. The article targets elementary- to high school-level readers and explores the risks of mercury to aquatic life in the San Francisco Estuary as well as to humans. Staff from External Affairs also contributed graphics for the article.

Staff also continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). At the August 17 meeting, CAMT discussions included a progress update on the Delta smelt Structured Decision-Making project, which included discussion of the

BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES *continued*

pre-feasibility analysis of potential Delta smelt management actions and identification of actions to carry forward to the next step to evaluate estimated effects of the actions. CAMT also received a progress report on the CDFW Fish Monitoring Survey Re-Design project. This project includes the evaluation of five long-term CDFW pelagic fish monitoring studies conducted in the Bay-Delta. The objective of the project is to improve utility and efficiency and reduce redundancy of the monitoring surveys. The Design Team conducting the evaluation integrated the datasets for the five monitoring studies and is in the process of analyzing catch efficiency, survey designs, and regional abundance calculations. The Design Team also developed three pilot study options to evaluate and modified sampling approaches for the 2021/22 Fall Midwater Trawl Survey. Staff is reviewing the Design Team progress report and coordinating with other water agencies to develop comments.

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.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is currently conducting a Species Status Assessment (SSA) for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Distinct Population Segment of the longfin smelt, which will help inform their decision-making process under the Endangered Species Act. To support the SSA, USFWS held a workshop on August 27 to focus on new emerging longfin smelt science, address areas of scientific uncertainty, and foster expert elicitation that will help the USFWS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife complete the SSA with the most current scientific data and information. Staff participated in the workshop and provided input on Metropolitan's longfin smelt research that can be integrated into the SSA.

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

Risk Management completed 42 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 the District 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.
- Coordinated a business user test of critical applications in the new Disaster Recovery data center, scheduled to take place in September.

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 July 2021 totaled 170.5 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 17.6 TAF higher than the budget of 152.9 TAF. This translates to \$155.7 million in revenues, which were \$12.5 million higher than the budget of \$143.2 million.
- In July 2021, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,400 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$14,300 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 July 8, 2021, Metropolitan issued 98.41 million of Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, 2021 Series B, at a true interest cost of 0.85%. Projected debt service savings for this refunding were \$23.4 million. Proceeds refunded \$92.2 million of outstanding senior lien bonds, prepaid \$35.6 million of a Short-Term Credit Facility with the Royal Bank of Canada, and funded costs of issuance.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER *continued*

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

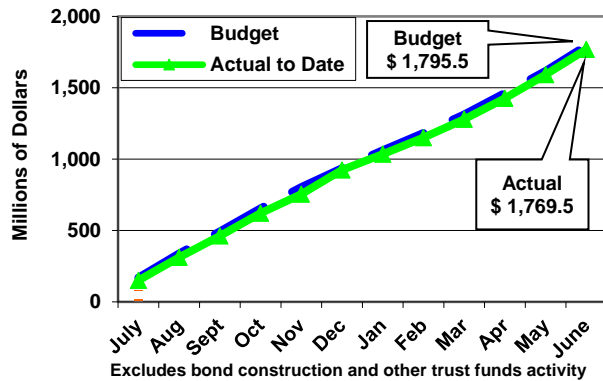
- As of July 31, 2021, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1,255.2 million; for the month of July 2021, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 20 trades.
- During the month of July 2021, Treasury staff processed 1,073 disbursements by check, 26 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 116 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 68 receipts by check, 31 receipts by ACH, and 55 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

Financial Summary - Charts & Graphics	
Receipts	Expenditures
O&M Expenditures	Construction Costs
Cash and Investments	Summary of Financial Statistics

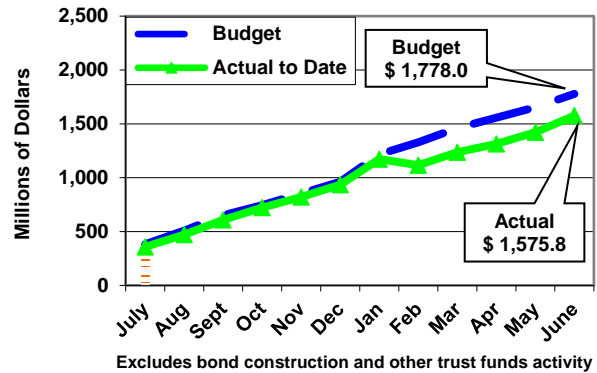
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER *continued*

The actual balances reflected in the graphs below are preliminary until completion of the fiscal year 2021 financial audit in October 2021.

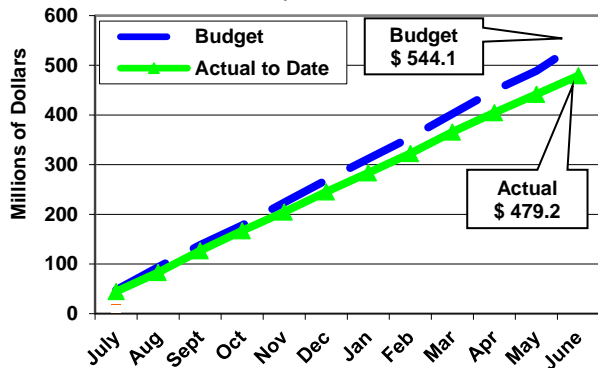
Revenues are \$26.0M under budget at year end primarily due to \$39.8M lower water revenues due to 26 TAF lower than budgeted water transactions and \$8.2M lower interest income, offset by \$20.9M higher tax revenue and \$6.0M higher other revenues.



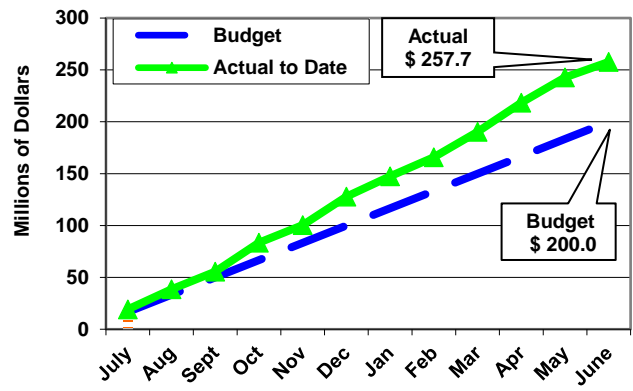
Expenses are \$202.2M under budget primarily due to \$94.0M lower State Water Contract costs, \$64.9M lower O&M costs (see O&M expenses table below), \$13.8M lower RRWPP costs, \$13.7M lower demand management costs, \$11.6M lower debt service costs, \$2.5M lower Supply Program costs and \$1.7M lower CRA power costs.



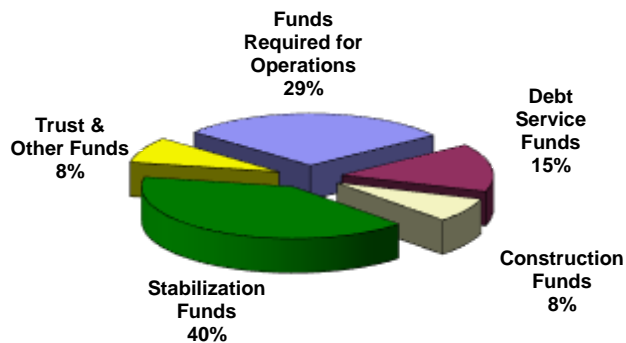
O&M expenses are \$64.9M under budget primarily due to lower than budgeted treated water transactions which resulted in lower variable treatment costs. In addition, professional services and other O&M costs are lower than budget primarily due to timing and the Sep-2020 Board approved cost containment measures to address the financial impacts of COVID-19.



Capital Program expenses are \$57.7M over budget as projects no longer experienced delays due to COVID-19 and additional work were completed during shut-down schedules.



Cash and Investments at Fair Value \$1,481.9 million



Summary Financial Statistics

	Target	Year-End Projected
Fixed Charge Coverage	≥ 1.20 x	2.22
Revenue Bond Coverage	> 2.00 x	2.02
Revenue Bond Debt / Equity Ratio	< 100.0%	55.5%

Senior Lien Revenue Bond Credit Ratings

	Target	Current
- Moody's Investors Service	Aa2	Aa1
- Fitch Ratings	AA	AA+
- Standard & Poor's	AA	AAA

ENGINEERING SERVICES

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

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

Distribution System Reliability Program

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

- **Lake Mathews Disaster Recovery Facility Upgrades**—This project makes structural upgrades to the building's roof and interior walls to resist seismic events; upgrades fire suppression system; constructs a new stormwater drainage line and retaining wall to ensure the stability of the nearby slope; and installs a building access system to permit the local firefighting agency to enter the facility. The contractor has completed the structural improvements to the building and will begin excavating for the retaining wall. Construction is 60 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by October 2021.
- **West Valley Feeder No.1 Improvements Stage 3**—As the last stage of improvements along West Valley Feeder 1, this project adds new valve vaults at five locations along the pipeline alignment; replaces existing deteriorated valves; modifies air release/vacuum valve installations; and constructs an access road to the new vaults described above. Preliminary design was completed in August 2021. Final Design is scheduled to be completed by April 2022.
- **Orange & Riverside/San Diego County Operating Regions Valve Replacement**—This project replaces approximately 120 valves in the Orange, Riverside, and San Diego County distribution system areas, including high-pressure butterfly valves, combination air release vacuum valves, swing check valves, plug valves, air release valves, and globe valves. The first phase of valve installation by Metropolitan forces is planned to begin in Fall 2021.
- **Electrical Upgrades at 290 Structures in OC**—This project replaces deteriorated electrical components at 290 structures within the Orange County operating region. The electrical components need to be replaced to maintain safe working conditions and prevent the potential loss of flow and control data. Preliminary investigation is 50 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2022.

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:

ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

- **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 this pipeline is being staged over a period of eight to ten years, with multiple construction and procurement contracts. Final design of Reach 3, the westernmost portion of Second Lower Feeder, spanning approximately 4.7 miles through the cities of Lomita, Torrance, Los Angeles, and Rolling Hills Estates, is 97 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed by December 2021. Study efforts continue for Reach 9, an approximately 0.8-mile-long portion of the Second Lower Feeder in western Long Beach that crosses the Los Angeles River.
- **Second Lower Feeder Isolation Valve Procurement**—This fabrication contract provides 13 conical plug valves for the Second Lower Feeder PCCP rehabilitation. These valves, which range in diameter from 48 inches to 54 inches, provide primary isolation for maintenance activities, inspections, and repairs required to maintain reliable water deliveries within 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 the delivery date to Lake Matthews was updated from October 2021 to September 24, 2021. Fabrication of the first two 54-inch conical plug valves is 95 percent complete and are scheduled to be delivered in January 2022. Fabrication of five 54-inch conical plug valves is 25 percent complete and are scheduled to be delivered in October 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. Reach 1 final design has started. A March 2022 Sepulveda Feeder inspection will determine the order of work on these two reaches. 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. The contractor is completing the punch list contract work, including installation of new transformer containment pads at the Hinds pump plant. Construction of Stage 2 is 99.5 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by September 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. The contractor has completed installation of the temporary underwater device. The reservoir is now isolated from the discharge structure, the discharge tunnel has been dewatered, and the contractor is performing rehabilitation work. Construction is 58 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by October 2021.
- **CRA Domestic Water Treatment System**—This project replaces the membrane filtration system and associated water treatment equipment at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. Procurement of water treatment equipment is complete with expected deliveries in May 2022. Design of the installation contract is 98 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed by November 2021.



Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Structure Rehabilitation—Draining the sluiceway to seat the isolation device

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, dry testing/commissioning of new chlorine system, and punch list items. Staff is performing field testing of the chlorine leak detection system and preparing for the 21-day wet chlorine system testing in mid-August 2021. Construction is 96 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by November 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 performing MCC electrical, pump, and other equipment testing, punch list items, and termination of electrical equipment inside and outside of the building. Construction is 98 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 all work at the west basins and filters. 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, comprising 13 sample locations, and will improve the accuracy and timeliness of collected data. At each location, the sample pump, piping, and field analyzers will be upgraded by Metropolitan staff. All materials and equipment have been procured for this project, and Metropolitan staff continues installation and commissioning activities for water quality field analyzers. Construction is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by November 2021.

ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

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 commissioning of three new MCCs and continues to work on start-up and testing of the new irrigation system. Construction is 87 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2022.



Weymouth Water Quality Instrumentation Improvements—Pump start-up and testing

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 substantially complete, pending exterior façade cleaning. The contractor continues to work on approved change order scope items such as the electrical work for the power door assist devices and UVC air disinfection system. Staff is working with the contractor to complete the change order work while the building remains lightly occupied. The anticipated completion date of this contract is in the first quarter of 2022.
- **Board and Committee Room Upgrades**—This project upgrades and enhances the reliability of the audio/visual (A/V) systems in the boardroom, three committee rooms and the rotunda at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. Engineering Services, IT, and Facilities Management are working collaboratively on this technology replacement project. Installation of the A/V equipment has been included as a board-approved change order to the original Headquarters Building Improvement contract, described in the previous paragraph. The contractor has completed A/V equipment installation, commissioning, and user acceptance activities in the committee rooms and the boardroom. Construction is substantially complete, and all systems are fully operational, pending redundant network installations scheduled to be complete by December 2021.

ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

- **Headquarters Physical Security Upgrades**—This project implements comprehensive security upgrades for the Metropolitan’s 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 complete. Construction of Stage 2 improvements is 50 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by January 2022. The contractor has completed electrical wiring for the security equipment, card reader, and camera installation, and is scheduled to begin cutover to the new security system. 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, the Emergency Radio Responder System, and replacement of wallpaper with paint in the elevator lobbies. Construction is 21 percent complete and is planned to be complete by February 2023.



Headquarters Building Improvements—New emergency phone on parking level P-1

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.

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Projects

- Received draft Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and final Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) permit from Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for the CRA Conduit Structural Protection Project.
- Executed professional services agreement for environmental planning support and preparation of the Program Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the District Housing and Property Improvements Program.

Foothill Feeder

- Coordinated with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority regarding the Implementation Plan and agency approvals for permit mitigation at the Stickleback River Ranch conservation site.

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program

- Completed 60 percent design review for the Valve Storage Building at Lake Mathews.
- Submitted Revegetation Plan to CDFW, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Nature Reserve of Orange County and other stakeholders for the PCCP Allen McColloch Pipeline Urgent Relining.

Weymouth Basins 5-8 Rehabilitation

- Reviewed draft Addendum No. 1 to the 2015 Weymouth Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for minor modifications to the Weymouth Basins 5-8 Project.

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

Webinars attended by staff:

- California Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) Annual Conference
- Power Operations and Planning Part 1: Metropolitan's "New Normal" in the CAISO Marketplace Best Practices for Linear Construction Migratory Bird Act Compliance Confirmation

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 commented on Administrative Draft EIR sections.

Regional Recycled Water Program (RRWP)

- Evaluated submittals to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Environmental Planning Support Services.
- Attended community briefings to support public outreach.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION/CAO *continued*

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

Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Conducted Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) monitoring in the northern section of the reserve; results indicated higher species populations in areas subject to more intensive habitat management activities.
- Continued mapping invasive vegetation (i.e., tree tobacco and castor bean) and entered data/areas to be treated into a geodatabase for future reference and planning purposes.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Conducted weed abatement activities in SKR habitat areas and fire management activities at various locations.
- Coordinated with San Diego Zoo biologists on SKR research.
- Conducted vegetation and habitat maintenance at the Tualota Creek restoration site.

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.

- Planned outreach and peer review effort.
- In coordination with Administrative Services and WSO Safety and Regulatory Services sections, drafted the Zero and Near-Zero Emissions Fleet Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program RFP.

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.

Desert Programmatic Permitting

- Met with ESG staff to discuss potential programmatic permitting for the desert region through the CRA Erosion Protection Project.

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Compliance

- Reviewed Administrative Draft IS/MND.

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.

- Continued participation in a series of meetings to develop the Joint Powers Authority agreement for the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).
- Continued working with CDFW management to execute a new agreement for dedicated staff resources to expedite execution of SAAs for Metropolitan projects.
- Requested assistance from Bureau of Land Management to remove and relocate burros from CRA facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION/CAO *continued*

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 support to ESG Technical Control Team on the Project Design Deliverables Checklist.
- Provided design phase support for:
 - Black Metal Mountain 2.4 kV Electrical Rehab
 - CRA 69kV and 230kV Transformers Replacement
 - CRA Delivery Line Rehabilitation
 - CRA Erosion Protection
 - CRA Mile 12 Flow Monitoring Station Upgrades
 - CRA Overhead Cranes
 - CRA Pump Plant 2.3 kV and 480V Rehab
 - Copper Basin Access Road and Discharge Valve Repair
 - Foothill Hydroelectric Power Plant Seismic
 - Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project
 - Gene Wash Discharge Valve Rehabilitation
 - Jensen Ozone Power Supply Units Replacement
 - Lake Perris Seepage
 - Lake Mathews Electrical Upgrades and New Pressure Control Structure
 - Perris Valley Pipeline
 - San Gabriel Tower Seismic Upgrades
 - Santa Monica Feeder Cathodic Protection
 - Sepulveda-East Valley Feeder Interconnection
 - Service Connection P-05
 - Service Connection Sepulveda Feeder WB-23A
 - Video Room Renovation at Union Station
 - Western San Bernardino Right-of-Way Infrastructure Protection Program
 - Weymouth Administration Building Seismic Upgrades
 - Weymouth Basin 5-8 Rehabilitation
- Provided construction phase support for:
 - CRA 6.9kV Cable Replacement
 - CRA Overhead Cranes Replacement
 - CRA Discharge Line Isolation and Couplings Repair Projects
 - Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Valve Replacement
 - Garvey Reservoir Permanent Drainage and Erosion Control Project

Water System Operations

- Provided CEQA analysis and environmental planning support for the following WSO projects:
 - Cajalco Creek Dam and Detention Basin—Lake Mathews Annual Routine Maintenance
 - CRA Fan Hill and Thousand Palms Access Road Erosion Repairs (see photo)
 - CRA MM 128.16 Sodium Hypochlorite Injection Site Tanker Pad Construction (see photo)
 - Diemer Treatment Plant Erosion Repair (adjacent to Gardenia Reservoir)
 - Etiwanda Feeder Long-Term Maintenance
 - Fan Hill Erosion Repairs
 - Iron Mountain Wind Break and Erosion Control
 - Lake Mathews Seepage Line Maintenance
 - Lower Feeder Asphalt Repairs
 - Rialto Feeder Long-Term Maintenance
 - Palos Verdes Reservoir Dewatering
 - Santiago Lateral Patrol Road Maintenance
 - Sepulveda PCS Slope Clearance Lower Area
 - Upper Feeder Clearing Under 15 Freeway
 - Upper Feeder Leak Repair
 - Conducted routine environmental monitoring for maintenance activities in the desert region
 - Conducted biological resources assessment and monitoring for the dewatering of Inland Feeder (IF) for Department of Water Resources-led IF valve replacement



Environmental Planning provided surveys and monitoring in support of repairs resulting from storm damage and erosion on the access road to Fan Hill and Thousand Palms siphons along the CRA.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION/CAO *continued*



First desert tortoise observation by Metropolitan this year on August 3, 2021, at CRA MM 128. As a result of the drought, tortoises are emerging from their burrows later in the season than normal.

External Affairs

- Provided staff to participate in an Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) working group regarding the petition to list steelhead trout under California Endangered Species Act and its impacts on Metropolitan operations.

External Reviews

- Reviewed 17 notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.
- Provided review and coordinated responses for the following two Federal Register notices that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations:
 - Economic Analysis for Proposed Regulations Governing the Take of Migratory Birds
 - Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Foreign Species That Are Candidates for Listing as Endangered or Threatened

Legislative Support

- Clarified language in Metropolitan-sponsored AB 442 to ensure SMARA cost containment.
- Monitored status of pending state and federal legislation; provided legislative analysis for state bills AB 223, AB 1183, and AB 442, and federal bills H.R. 972 and H.R. 803.

Real Property Support

- Provided CEQA analysis and determinations in support of five 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 emergency declaration by Gov. Newsom, shortage announcement for the Colorado River system, and Metropolitan's response to current water supply conditions. Interviews included:

- KTLA-TV's Gene Kang and KNX-AM 1070 reporter Donald Morrison interviewed GM Hagekhalil regarding Colorado River shortage declaration and impacts on Southern California.
- Al Arabiya News Channel interviewed GM Hagekhalil on drought conditions.
- Live interview with NBC4-TV and GM Hagekhalil on Water Supply Alert.
- Arizona Daily Star reporter Tony Davis and Desert Sun reporter Janet Wilson spoke with Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp regarding Colorado River issues and ongoing state/tribal negotiations.
- Spanish language coverage included separate interviews with Univision reporter Gabriela Teissier for "Al Punto California," CNN en Espanol's Liliana Escalante, KMEX34's Julio César Ortiz, and Telemundo reporters Maria Paula Ochoa and Erika Flores.
- San Diego Union Tribune NewsFix podcast with AGM/COO Upadhyay on Water Supply Alert.

A press conference announcing Metropolitan's declaration of a Water Supply Alert was attended by more than a dozen news organizations including the Los Angeles Times, KNBC-TV Channel 4, KABC-TV Channel 7, KCBS-TV Channel 2/KCAL-TV Channel 9, KTLA-TV Channel 5, Fox11 News, Telemundo, La Opinion, and KNX-AM and KFI-AM. The press conference, which featured GM Hagekhalil, AGM/COO Upadhyay, Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp, and WRM Water Efficiency Manager McDonnell, was streamed live on Facebook with supporting posts on social media platforms. (August 17)



Press Conference and Media Coverage on Water Supply Alert Announcement, Drought Conditions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Chairwoman Gray authored an opinion piece, “15% Solution, Use Water More Wisely” that ran in the Long Beach community Gazette newspapers. (August 9)

GM Hagekhalil participated in a panel discussion for the Sacramento Press Club event, “California’s Forever Drought,” with Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture Ross, Westlands Water District General Manager Birmingham, and State Water Contractors General Manager Pierre. (August 25)

Metropolitan launched its new conservation advertising and outreach campaign on social and digital media, out of home (billboards and transit), radio, and print. The campaign features new creative assets in English, Spanish, and Chinese languages with placements throughout Southern California. Messaging was informed by input from member agencies and research, including a poll conducted in the service area.



Sample of new water conservation assets for summer advertising campaign

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

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. The Senate bipartisan infrastructure bill, H.R. 3864: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, provides \$450 million over the next five years for this new program. Additionally, \$550 million for Reclamation's Title XVI water recycling program brings the total water recycling investment to \$1 billion. The bill passed the Senate on August 10 and now awaits a vote in the House of Representatives.

State

Metropolitan organized a coalition of water agencies, business, labor, and environmental groups to send a letter to the Governor and legislative leadership requesting \$1.3 billion over the next three years for water use efficiency rebates and investment in climate resilient water infrastructure. The letter emphasized that, while Southern California is not part of the drought emergency, thanks to sound investments in storage and water use efficiency, the region can do more to conserve with equitable access to state drought relief funding.

As the first year of the two-year session closes, most bills are now awaiting passage by the entire Senate or Assembly. Metropolitan's sponsored bill, AB 442 (Mayes, I-Rancho Mirage) passed out of Senate Appropriations and is on the Senate Floor awaiting a final vote. Other priority bills SB 626 (Dodd, D-Napa): Department of Water Resources: procurement methods is on the Assembly Floor. SB 559 (Hurtado, D-Fresno): Department of Water Resources: conveyance systems: Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Fund is scheduled to be heard in Assembly Appropriations. The legislation to amend the Brown Act, AB 361 (Rivas, D-Hollister), which would allow the continuation of virtual meetings during a state-declared emergency, is on the Senate Floor.

Local

GM Hagekhalil was the featured speaker at a MWDOC Board workshop where he shared his vision of One Water and his views on regional reliability and resilience. (August 4)

Metropolitan sponsored the Building Industry Association's annual Southern California Water Conference. AGM/COO Upadhyay was an invited panelist and discussed water supply conditions, water recycling, conservation, and innovation. (August 13)

GM Hagekhalil spoke at a breakfast hosted by the Upper District for the San Gabriel Valley water community. More than 50 city, business, mutual, wholesale, and Metropolitan member agency representatives were introduced to the GM, who shared his thoughts on challenges and possible solutions to supply concerns faced by Valley purveyors. (August 18)

Directors Luna, Quinn, and Repenning attended the Los Angeles Business Council's Sustainability Summit event. The event recognized the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's LA100 study, which provides a roadmap to zero emissions by 2035. (August 18)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Resource Planning Team Manager Polyzos presented Metropolitan's drought preparedness to the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed) Water Committee. (August 25)

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

- South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce Board and Government Affairs Committee (August 3)
- Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee (August 3)
- Southern California Contractors Association Legislative Committee (August 3)
- Westside Councils of Chambers of Commerce (August 4)
- Glendale Chamber of Commerce Business Advocacy/Legislative Review Committee (August 5)
- Oxnard Leadership Steering Committee (August 5)
- LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee (August 5)
- Los Angeles County Business Federation Advocacy Committee (August 5)
- Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (August 5)
- Glendora Chamber Legislative Action & Economic Development Committee (August 5)
- Regional Chamber of Commerce—San Gabriel Valley, Government Affairs Committee (August 9)
- SGVCOG Water Committee & Water Technical Advisory Committee (August 10)
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Government & Fiscal Affairs Committee (August 10)
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee (August 10)
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Water Symposium Steering Committee (August 10)
- VICA Environment, Energy, Municipal and Utility Committee (August 11)
- Construction Managers Association of America, Southern California Chapter Meeting (August 11)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition (August 11)
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Pancakes & Politics with Los Angeles City Council President Martinez (August 12)
- Los Angeles Business Council Energy & Environment Committee (August 12)
- Central City Association Executive Member meeting with Los Angeles County Supervisor Mitchell (August 12)
- Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (August 12)
- Upland Chamber of Commerce, Legislative Advocacy Committee (August 12)
- Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (August 12)
- Building Industry Association of Southern California Annual Water Conference (August 13)
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce ACCESS Sacramento with State Treasurer Ma (August 16)
- El Segundo Chamber of Commerce Government and Military Affairs Committee (August 16)
- United Chamber of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley Governmental Affairs Committee (August 16)
- Southern California Water Coalition Task Force (August 16)
- Orange County Taxpayers Association Meeting (August 17)
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Water Issues Committee (August 17)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Sacramento Advocacy Day (August 17)
- Ventura County California Women for Agricultural (August 17)
- BIZFED—Leadership Roundtable with Senator Allen (D-Santa Monica) (August 18)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Governmental Affairs Committee (August 18)
- Coalition of Labor, Agriculture, and Water Committee (August 18)
- Association of California Cities Orange County Energy, Environment, and Water Committee (August 18)
- SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee (August 18)
- San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers (August 18)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Board (August 19)
- Anaheim Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Council (August 19)
- United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley Board (August 23)
- West Ventura County Business Alliance Board (August 24)
- Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (August 24)
- Gateway Chambers Alliance Board (August 24)
- San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network (August 24)
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Legislative Committee (August 25)
- Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality Committee (August 25)
- City of Torrance Water Commission (August 25)
- Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee (August 25)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Board (August 25)
- Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (August 25)
- Association of Orange County Legislative Affairs Committee (August 26)
- Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce Government Affairs Committee (August 26)
- BIZFED Leadership Roundtable with Representative Lieu (D-Los Angeles) (August 26)
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce ACCESS Los Angeles (August 26)
- West Ventura County Business Alliance Board (August 26)
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Economic Briefing (August 26)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition (August 27)

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.

Website

The completely redesigned mwdh2o.com website was launched, featuring a modern, clean look that offers a mobile-friendly, user-centered approach with enhanced engagement tools, interactive tours, multiple language capabilities, and full ADA compliance.



English and Spanish language home pages. Site is also available in 14 other languages

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Received more than 32,000 views on mwdh2o.com, with careers pages among the most popular.
- Generated more than 26,000 views on bewaterwise.com, with the turf replacement and California Friendly and native plant profiles the most visited pages.

Interviews

In addition to the media interviews directly related to the Colorado River shortage declaration and Board's water supply alert action, the following interviews also occurred:

- Coordinated background interview with freelance writer Annie Osburn of Grassroots Research and WRM Imported Supply Manager Safely on proposed Cadiz project.
- Set up interview with Governing magazine reporter Carl Smith regarding Regional Recycled Water Program and the role water recycling will play in meeting regional water demands in the future.
- Coordinated background meetings/interviews with Los Angeles Times reporter Julia Wick and GM Hagekhalil, Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp, Bay-Delta Initiatives' Arakawa, WRM Resource Planning Manager Polyzos, and Water System Operations' Treatment Manager Collins to provide general background information on California water issues.
- Arranged interview with Las Vegas Review-Journal reporter Blake Apgar and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp regarding system conservation agreement between Lower Basin partners and Palo Verde Irrigation District.
- Coordinated interview with New York Times California Today reporter Jill Cowan and GM Hagekhalil on current water supply conditions, Metropolitan actions to promote drought resiliency and conservation, and other general background information.
- Live interview on GoodDay LA with WRM Water Efficiency Manager McDonnell on water conservation tips and Metropolitan rebates.
- Scheduled interview with UCLA Blueprint magazine and WRM Group Manager Coffey on RRWP, coastal desalination, and water supply conditions.

Press Releases

- Issued press release on release of Shaw Law Group's independent report on allegations of workplace harassment, discrimination, and retaliation at Metropolitan.
- Released statement from GM Hagekhalil on Colorado River shortage declaration.
- Issued press release on board's declaration of Water Supply Alert.
- Issued joint press with Reclamation, CAP, and Southern Nevada on Palo Verde system conservation agreement.

Social Media

- Featured a link to the ABC7-TV story on Diamond Valley Lake's emergency storage capacity on Facebook that reached more than 60,000 viewers with 5,000 reactions, comments and shares.
- Two employee-specific posts on LinkedIn performed well. A post welcoming GM Hagekhalil received more than 17,000 impressions and a post congratulating Water System Operations manager Collins for her AWWA position received more than 8,000 impressions.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*



Social media post congratulating Metropolitan's Heather Collins on her election to Vice President for the AWWA Board of Directors

- Introduced three new characters for our *We're California Friendly Plants* tips series—Jelly Bean Lemon Monkeyflower, Santa Ana Cardinal and White Sage. Posts reached 50,000 users on Facebook and Instagram.



**Metropolitan's newest social media stars:
Jelly Bean Lemon Monkeyflower, White Sage, and Santa Ana Cardinal**

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

Met with the member agency managers to discuss water supply conditions, Colorado River issues, the Water Supply Alert action and messaging, and the proposed Delta Smelt Augmentation Study. (August 6)

Met with member agency education coordinators to discuss new K-12 curriculum offerings and the education strategic plan. At a meeting with member agency public information officers, staff shared recent polling results on drought awareness and attitudes, and new conservation messaging.

Regional Recycled Water Program

- Hosted WaterReuse California Communications Collaborative Group statewide virtual meeting (August 4)
- Met with management and staff of local cities to provide an update on the Regional Recycled Water Program: Carson (August 3), Irwindale (August 3), South Gate (August 9), Paramount (August 10), Downey (August 12)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Provided public virtual tours of the Regional Recycled Water Center in English and Spanish (August 24-25)



Spanish social media post on RRWP tours

Construction Outreach

- Met with the city of La Verne staff to discuss upcoming projects at the Weymouth Treatment Plant. (August 5)
- Notified residents near the Palos Verdes Reservoir of upcoming dewatering activities. (August 13)
- Met with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to discuss upcoming projects affecting the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. (August 17)

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.

Metropolitan staff virtually interacted with 200 teachers, students, and parents and continued to provide online tours, water-focused scouting programs, and customized Zoom class presentations.

MWDOC and the Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA) offered two teacher workshops on water career technical education. WEEA sponsors include the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Moulton Niguel Water District, Water Replenishment District, Western Municipal Water District and MWDOC.

Staff hosted virtual presentations for the Long Beach middle and high school internship program.

More than 200 pieces of student artwork were received from member and retail agencies and will be included in the 2022 Water Is Life calendar.

Staff partnered with Southern California Edison and Strategic Energy Innovations on a virtual training for 38 high school teachers on the important role of watersheds. The training included hands-on lessons and ArcGIS mapping. (August 5)

As part of its research for a new education strategic plan, member agency education coordinators were surveyed to identify best practices for online learning, education technology and outdoor education. Survey results indicated strong collaboration opportunities on curriculum development, videos, education technology, contests and teacher workshops.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

A virtual open house was held for Metropolitan employees on the district's water education programs and curriculum supplements. (August 26)

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:

- San Diego Procurement Technical Assistance Center “How to do Business” virtual workshop (August 5)
- Los Angeles Sustainability Executive Roundtable “Sustainability on Skid Row” (August 5)
- California Management Association of America conference (August 11)
- Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce (August 12)
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce OneLA meeting (August 12)

Facilitated a peer-to-peer workshop among Metropolitan staff, EBMUD, and a UC Berkeley professor on a proposed Smart Innovation Center that would develop and test emerging technologies for infrastructure projects. (August 25)

Participated in a Sustain So Cal Water Solutions event that focused on recent technology pilots and trials. (August 26)

HUMAN RESOURCES

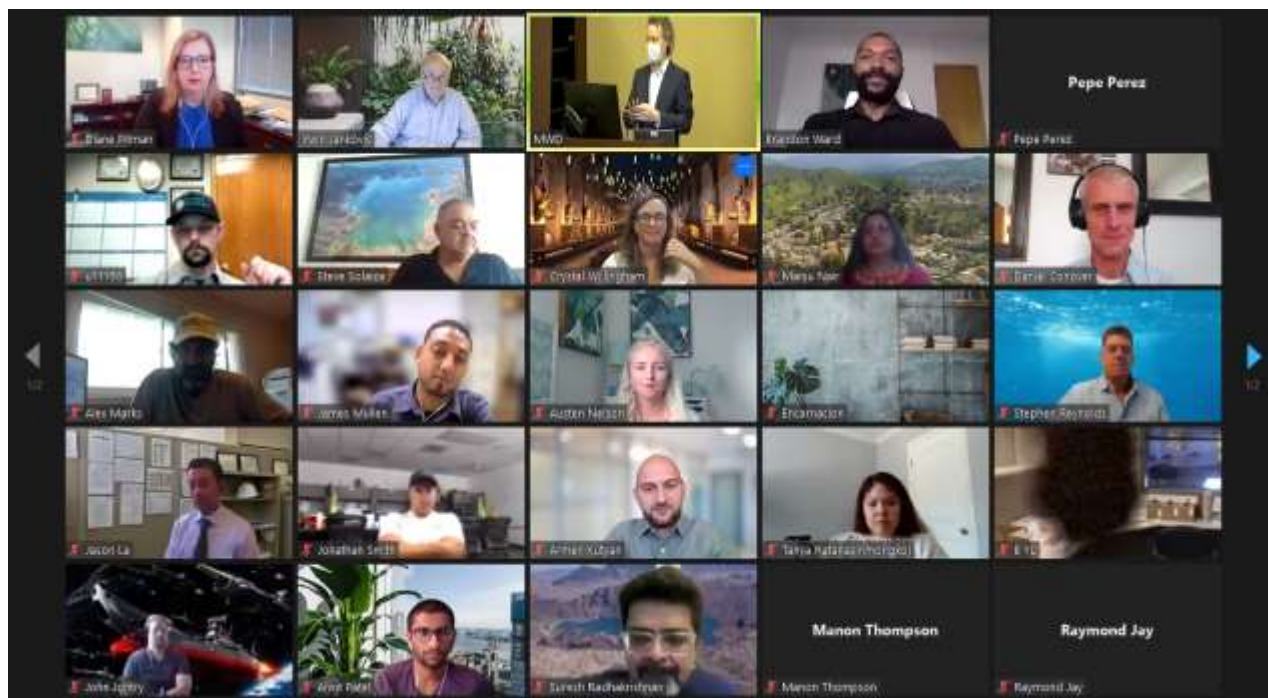
GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: RESILIENCY

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

The Organizational Development and Training Unit graduated its first virtual cohort of the Metropolitan Leadership Academy for 31 employees interested in moving into a management role. The class participants each presented a final project of what they learned during the program and put into practice on the job (from improved communication and listening skills to increased innovative thinking and enhanced self-awareness). General Manager, Adel Hagekhalil, helped to start off the proceedings and Deven Upadhyay (Chief Operating Officer) and Diane Pitman (HR Group Manager) were also on hand to speak about the program's legacy and impact.

This month, 549 Metropolitan employees attended other online classes including Project Management Fundamentals, Contract Administration, Diversity & Inclusion, and Preventing Workplace Harassment.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online, e-learning content platform, was used for 36 classes, including topics on Communicating with Diplomacy and Tact, Strategic Thinking, Improving Your Memory, Speaking Confidently, and Working with Difficult People.



Metropolitan Leadership Academy Graduation—August 25, 2021

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*



Emotional Intelligence & Communication

- Emotional Intelligence is recognizing and understanding the emotions of yourself AND others
- Colors (Communication Styles)
 - Brown – Direct, brief, blunt, impatient,
 - Green – Data driven, time to think & analyze, likes things in writing
 - Red – Creative, humorous, story-based examples, energetic
 - Blue – Emotional demeanor, personal connection, abundance of “feeling” words
- Recognizing the Color (communication styles) of others
- Start with the “why”

Metropolitan Leadership Academy Graduation—August 25, 2021



Metropolitan Management Academy Graduate, Jamie Decker, receiving Program Completion Certificate in-person from Organizational Development and Training Manager Eric Bachmann.

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

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

Recruitment successfully filled eight positions for the month of August. We received six new staffing requisitions resulting in 109 positions currently in recruitment. Recruitment uses a process that allows virtual interviewing using Zoom.

In August, meetings of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council continued. A presentation on the Small Business Administration Program was presented. The DEI consultants, Keen Independent Consulting, discussed the next steps in partnering with the subcommittees and developing a Metropolitan survey.

Staff participated in a Student Leadership Workshop virtual outreach event hosted by University of California, Riverside and Cal Poly Pomona. Event participants were diverse students in STEM field campus organizations and provided them engagement opportunities with employers.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: SUSTAINABILITY

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

Human Resources continued to monitor the CalOSHA regulations to determine whether any protocols or policies need to be revised and, if so, to communicate to management, employees, and the bargaining units. Converting Metropolitan headquarters and other teleworking employees to a hybrid work environment was initially scheduled for October 1, 2021, but has now been delayed to January 3, 2022, because of safety concerns arising from the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff completed the transition of the new-hire on-boarding process to a new online process to ensure that employees are prepared to be effective from the first day of employment and are continually supported by management and Human Resources throughout their first year of employment. Subsequent improvement will continue as additional user-friendly features will be added when the new Fluid update to the MyHR system is implemented.

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

Human Resources staff continued to provide one-on-one coaching and mediation services for managers and employees in the developmental areas of conflict resolution, interview preparation, stress management, and working with hybrid teams.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Human Resources Group Manager has organized a bi-weekly check-in meeting with all Group Managers focused on sharing the latest information on employee illness or potential exposure, issues raised by the bargaining units, and strategies for working through the complexities of the "stay at home" and masking orders. Staff are also continuing work on "tool kits" for managers and employees to facilitate the eventual return of employees to their regular work locations.

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. The system is being tested for implementation in September.

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

HR CORE BUSINESS: Provide Excellent Human Resources Services

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

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

Staff coordinated with the Payroll team to respond to CalPERS' audit to ensure compliance with converting unused sick leave to additional service credit upon retirement. Staff continued work with our internal Audit Group and KPMG on the annual pension data audit to ensure compliance with GASB government accounting requirements.

Staff prepared implementation of the new CalPERS medical rates and PPO plan structure effective January 1, 2022.

HR staff collaborated with External Affairs to create a new Open Enrollment Welcome video and a MyHR tutorial for the upcoming PeopleSoft Fluid user-interface and also developed the 2022 Benefits Guide that will be mailed to all employees in mid-September.

Benefits staff worked with Empower Retirement to implement core fund line-up changes approved by the Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee, which included two Environmental/Social/Governance (ESG) funds with a focus on sustainability.

HR staff continued to administer the emergency COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave (SPSL), 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 August, 14 new workers' compensation claims were received, and 10 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 four facilities. (LaVerne, Mills, Lake Mathews, and Skinner) which included respirator exams, Department of Motor Vehicle exams, and hearing tests.
- Coordinated one return-to-duty drug test
- Arranged seven medical evaluations (DMV, medical surveillance)
- Addressed four accommodation issues

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

HR Metrics	June 2021	August 2021	Prior Month July 2021
Headcount			
Regular Employees	1,806	1,792	1,811
Temporary Employees	30	34	32
Interns	3	4	5
Recurrents	20	20	20
Annuitants	16	16	16

	August 2021	July 2021
Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	109	111
Number of New Staffing Requisitions	6	33
	August 2021	July 2021
Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress	12	11
Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits	0	2
Number of New Job Audit Requests	1	1

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 20/21 Totals</u>	<u>August 2021</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	74	4	10
Temporary Employees	30	4	8
Interns	3	0	2
Internal Promotions	60	7	10
Management Requested Promotions	149	13	23
Retirements/Separations (regular employees)	78	23	24
Employee Requested Transfers	20	1	1

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 cybersecurity governance, risk, and compliance to enhance capabilities and mitigate increasing cybersecurity threats to Metropolitan’s business systems and networks.
- Continued to enhance network access control providing another layer of security where the identity of the device itself is validated before it can obtain access to Metropolitan resources and infrastructure.
- Continued deployment of two-factor authentication, other security tools, and methods to safeguard the computing environment and assets.
- Monitored IT network and remote connectivity to ensure secure and reliable service for employees’ teleworking.
- Performed ongoing software patching and security enhancements to ensure system performance and protection against evolving cyber threats.

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

- Continued to execute IT capital projects in support of Metropolitan’s strategic priorities by replacing end-of-life infrastructure, upgrading applications, and delivering innovative solutions to ensure reliability and resilience of IT systems. Selected project activities include:
 - **Budget System Replacement**—Upgrade Metropolitan’s budgeting system to support the capital and O&M budget processes and board deliverables. IT continued to support the CFO Office with final preparations as budget coordinators begin using the new system for the upcoming biennial budget development.
 - **Maximo Upgrade Project**—The project team worked in collaboration with key stakeholders on the upgrade of Metropolitan’s enterprise-wide maintenance management software application (Maximo) for planning, scheduling, and reporting of required maintenance of equipment deployed throughout the treatment plants, and the conveyance and distribution system. With the recent completion of testing, the upgraded system is in the final phase of deployment and is currently being migrated to the production environment.



Maximo Login Screen

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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

- Automated Meter Reading (AMR) Upgrade—The AMR project will address equipment obsolescence as the current communication equipment used in the system is approaching end-of-life. 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.
 - Continued to partner with WSO resources on installation of field equipment for testing at designated test sites at installation of endpoints (radio modems).
 - Performed pilot testing and assessment to determine the effectiveness of design alternatives among four radio frequency technologies at the designated test sites.

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

- Continued to conduct disaster preparedness planning and future recovery exercises as part of validating Metropolitan's recovery capabilities in the event of a disaster. In addition, continuous improvements based on prior exercises and on-going enhancements have been implemented.

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

- Metropolitan's data center modernization project provides enhanced operational uptime of data center processing to meet current and future capacity and reliability needs. The secondary data center site relocation was recently completed and is strategic to ensuring recovery capabilities are in place before moving the primary site.
- Primary Site—The team continues to work on the procurement and development phase while refining a comprehensive plan that must address logistical challenges associated with migrating hardware, software, data, communication networks, and ancillary systems. The work is highly complex and must be done while current systems and resources continue to support Metropolitan's day-to-day business operations.



Datacenter at undisclosed location

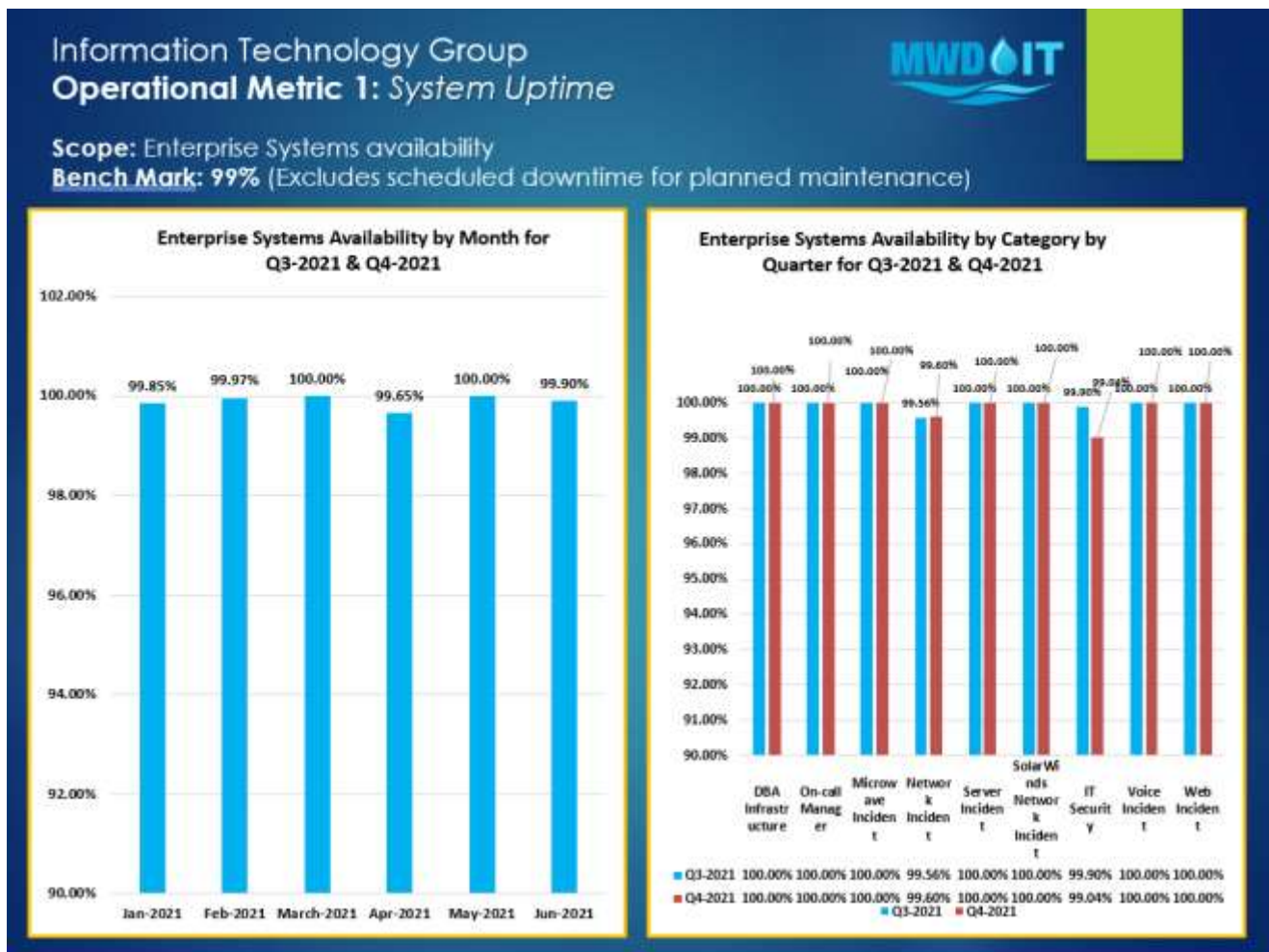
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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

- Continue to implement the Enterprise Content Management (ECM) project that assists Metropolitan's regulatory compliance requirements to manage both paper and electronic records. ECM will provide the framework for collaborative, automated workflow of document-centric processes.
- Current efforts include work on the following:
 - Optimizing existing digital data (Cleanup of Network Storage Drives)
 - Preparing design documents for the new ECM (Taxonomy, File Plans, Thesaurus)

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. This project has been substantially completed, as ITSM is currently in use by the IT Service Desk Team to manage service ticket requests generated by users across the enterprise.
- By leveraging ITSM, on-going process improvements and key IT operational performance metrics are provided to executive management on a quarterly basis.



IT Operational Metric

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: SUSTAINABILITY

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

- IT resources continued to provide support and services for the Headquarters Improvements Program related to physical security enhancements as well as integrating security requirements with IT systems and infrastructure.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: INNOVATION

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

- Continued key initiatives as cybersecurity remains a high priority and is a key part of the Information Technology Strategic Roadmap. During this period, IT staff conducted ongoing countermeasures to protect Metropolitan against cybersecurity threats by partnering with professionals at the federal, state, and local levels whose mission is to protect critical infrastructure. Current activities may include, but are not limited to cybersecurity assessments, remediation, incident response, forensics, penetration testing, and risk and threat management.
- Elements of the Security Operations Center (SOC) project are underway to implement new countermeasures to protect Metropolitan's computing infrastructure. For example, a new security Information and Event Monitoring system for the SOC will allow Metropolitan to efficiently detect and respond to attacks using automated tools that collect and correlate events for incident detection and response. Project details and updates are made to the Board quarterly and in closed session.

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

- The Board Room Upgrade Project replaced audio, visual (AV) and information technology-related equipment in the main Board Room (US.01.405), Committee Rooms (US.01.102, US.02.145, US.02.456), and the AV Control Room (US.01.407) in Metropolitan's Headquarters building at Union Station.
- In August, the project team conducted final user acceptance testing and trained key personnel and support staff on the new system. The technology upgrades have been completed and are ready to support upcoming board and committee meetings.



Main Board Room

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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

- Continued to promote IT governance through the IT Executive Council and Operation Technology Governance Committee to ensure alignment with Metropolitan's strategic priorities. Participated in the Communities of Practice (COPs) for business leaders providing a forum to discuss key technology issues, challenges and solutions as part of strategic planning.

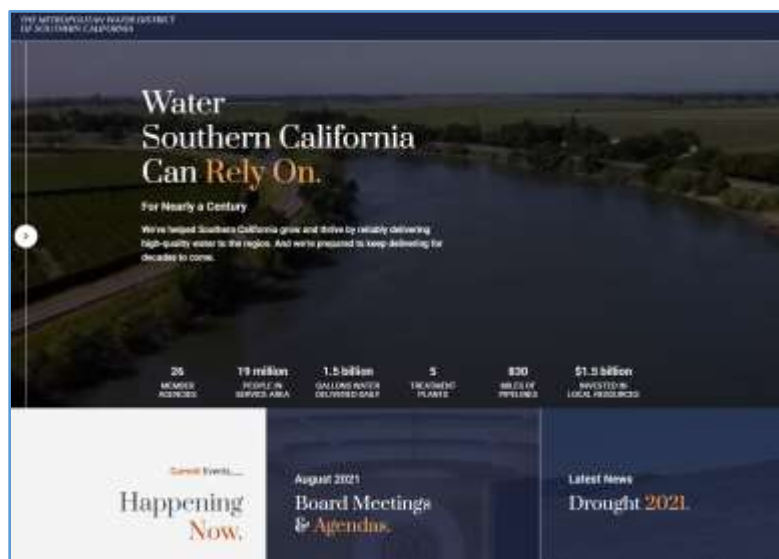
OBJECTIVE #5 Deploy innovative solutions to improve operations, promote collaboration, and provide business value.

- Continued the use of unmanned aerial vehicles to support Metropolitan's key business objectives including infrastructure and property inspection, environmental land monitoring, and videos for educational and promotional events.



Recent Assessment Conducted at Hemet Wetlands

- Supported the External Affairs Group with the launch of Metropolitan's new redesigned website. In addition to a modern and clean look, the new site provides for secured access by internal and external users.



Mwdh2o.com Website

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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

- Continued to support and enhance the Survey 123 Mobile Application developed by the IT-GIS Team. This mobile application is used by ESG staff to collect field data in a structured format. Benefits of this mobile application include an easy-to-use electronic form, capturing of geospatial information, provision for direct upload to a data storage, including unlimited pictures associated with field information collected. The organization and integration of data, pictures, and relationship with geospatial information enhances workforce productivity by simplifying access to a vast amount of field data collected.
- Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) Reconfiguration Project—IT staff continued to partner with Water Quality on modifying LIMS to ensure adherence to new (TNI) regulatory compliance and standards. This project requires significant systems configuration and software development and will be done in close collaboration between IT and WQ resources. LIMS is used by Water Quality staff in scheduling and tracking of water samples, managing departmental workflow and workload, validating and storing analytical results, and providing reports of analytical batches.



Water Quality Testing

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.

A Common Use Agreement for public easement and right-of-way was obtained from the city of Redondo Beach to ensure continued compatible uses of public agency facilities in the public street right-of-way; and the full reimbursement of Metropolitan costs for a facility relocation.

Metropolitan was granted a non-exclusive easement for construction, maintenance, operation, inspection, repair, and reconstruction of a water main vault and appurtenant facilities in 1953 by a private owner. This Common Use Agreement for public easement and right-of-way will formalize Metropolitan's prior rights, establish terms for reimbursement for a facility relocation, provide Metropolitan with rights to the new equipment location, and ensure its continued protection and operation of existing facilities.

Objective #2 Foster staff training and development.

International Right of Way Association-sponsored course: Legal Aspects of Easements. This course provides an overview of the theory, terminology, concepts of easements and increases understanding of relevant legal aspects in right-of-way, applicable to Metropolitan real estate-related projects.

CORE BUSINESS: Real Property Acquisition, Management and Revenue Enhancement

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

A private entity was issued an entry permit to perform identification of subsurface utilities at Metropolitan headquarters property over a two-day period. The entry permit will help facilitate the future construction of a transit project for the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) within the adjacent MTA right of way.

The Gilman Springs surplus property in the city of Moreno Valley, totaling ±133 acres, was purchased by a private entity. The property was originally acquired in 1996 and used as a tunnel portal site and construction laydown area for the Inland Feeder Pipeline Project. Metropolitan reserved necessary permanent easements over portions of the sold property for operational purposes.

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

The Metropolitan Board of Directors authorized a ten-year concession agreement with Urban Park Concessionaires that will enable private capital investment and the continued operation of the Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) Marina.

The DVL Marina concessionaire added five new premium bass boats to their rental boat fleet this month. The addition of these new boats is a part of the concessionaire's efforts to keep DVL a highly ranked bass fishing destination (see photos).

REAL PROPERTY *continued*



The DVL Visitor Center staff collaborated with Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) contractors to perform the required annual cross-connection testing for recycled water used for irrigation. EMWD performs site inspections and testing of all recycled water use sites. Staff coordinated with the EMWD contractor, the Western Science Center, and WHOO's landscape contractor to make sure all testing was completed before the start of the new school year.

Deep cleaning and installation of furniture for Metropolitan headquarters' committee rooms and executive dining room was completed. These upgrades were done in conjunction with the Metropolitan headquarters' A/V upgrade project (see photos).



REAL PROPERTY *continued*

Objective #4 District Housing Maintenance and Management.

The Desert Housing Maintenance team completed 35 work orders and included 21 tenant service requests and pre-occupancy repair work required for two Metropolitan houses.

Real Property will develop a transition plan to assume maintenance responsibility for the recreation facilities within the next six months. Responsibilities will include facility use management, maintenance, and repair services.

Real Property Management met with residents at Iron Mountain to discuss temporary relocation options for the gym located at the Iron Village until the Desert Housing Improvement Program delivers the community recreation center which will house the gym. The current facility has exceeded its useful life. Staff will research the proposed options for management review and approval.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Develop and Refine Security's Strategic Plan

Select members of Metropolitan's Security Management Unit (SMU) recently attended Countering Active Terror Cells in the Homeland (C.A.T.C.H.) training provided by InfraGard Los Angeles. The training, which focused on potential domestic and foreign terrorism threats to the Southern California region, was restricted to pre-screened attendees and included a current threat briefing by the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) regional representative for Los Angeles.

High-interest events, including World Cup Soccer, the 2028 Olympics, and Superbowl LVI will be held in Los Angeles within the next decade. Cooperation between law enforcement and the private sector plays a vital role in supporting the economic resilience and key interdependencies between critical infrastructure sectors. As potential national, regional, and local security threats emerge, the SMU continues to work closely with law enforcement partners to reposition resources, protect assets, and prioritize strategic plans to mitigate risks.



InfraGard Los Angeles training attended by SMU selected staff

Objective #2 Improve Security and Emergency Response

Metropolitan security staff collaborated closely with various public agencies and organizations to curtail illegal encroachment. They also conducted a joint utility corridor cleanup of illegal dumping at 90th Street and Juniper in South Los Angeles.

Participants included:

- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Uniformed Security Services
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST)
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Los Angeles City Street Services
- Los Angeles County Public Works
- HAZMAT cleanup vendors

LADWP Security issued warnings to trespassers living in the right-of-way property and posted 48-hour notices to vacate. HOST members provided unsheltered persons on the site with services and relocation assistance.

SECURITY/CAO *continued*

Metropolitan Special Agent Alvaro Castellon was instrumental in quickly addressing community concerns, collaborating with multiple public agencies and working with Water System Operations and Real Property to ensure emergency access to substructures in the easement. These actions will eliminate potential work safety hazards to Metropolitan's field personnel in their daily maintenance activities.

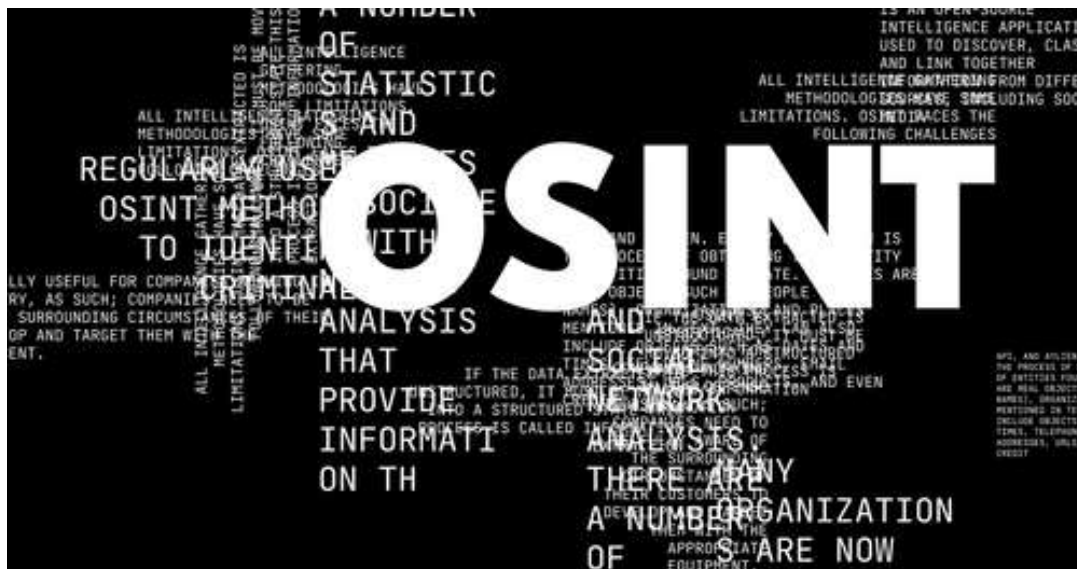


Public agencies collaborated to curtail illegal encroachment at 90th Street and Juniper in South Los Angeles

Objective #2 Improve Security and Emergency Response

Members of the SMU staff completed a multi-level program of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT). OSINT refers to intelligence produced from publicly available information that is collected, exploited, and disseminated in a timely manner to an appropriate audience for the purpose of addressing security issues pertaining to the infrastructure.

By analyzing OSINT, the SMU can identify patterns and trends related to security concerns and mitigate those proactively. A dedicated analyst, regularly combing through overtly available information, provides Metropolitan with autonomous, current, and independent capability to anticipate, prepare, and mitigate security issues and enhance emergency response.



OSINT analysis enhances Metropolitan's security response

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

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

In August 2021, Metropolitan and Bard Water District (Bard) successfully completed the second year of the Bard Land Management and Seasonal Fallowing Program (Program). Participating farmers fallowed approximately 2,937 irrigable acres for a three-month period. Metropolitan performed four inspection trips and verified the fallowing of all but two participating fields. By providing the annual incentive of \$459.30 per acre, Metropolitan increased its Colorado River water supplies by approximately 6,490 acre-feet.



Two fallowed fields enrolled in the 2021 Fallowing Season for the Bard Land Management and Seasonal Fallowing Program, including a lock on one of the field's gates (left). By locking the fields' gates, farmers participating in the program cannot divert water from the Colorado River during the fallowing season.

The Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID)/MWD Fallowing Program, starting August 1, 2021, entered its 17th contract year. This contract year, the landowners are fallowing 25 percent of their enrolled acres. In addition to the 25 percent fallowing, and in response to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) first-time-ever, Colorado River shortage condition, Metropolitan entered into a system conservation agreement with USBR, Central Arizona Conservation Water District, and Southern Nevada Water Authority to fallow additional acres under the PVID/MWD Fallowing Program. Under the new agreement, landowners voluntarily fallow additional acres up to 75 percent of their enrolled lands and are paid at the current rate for fallowing. The water saved from the additional voluntary fallowing will become conserved system water for Lake Mead to protect lake level.

In August, Metropolitan staff participated in multiple Colorado Basin States and Lower Basin States meetings at locations throughout the basin. The meeting included discussion on both short-term and long-term planning in the Colorado River basins. Short-term planning discussion focused on the 2021 USBR August 24-month modeling study, which triggered the first-ever shortage on the Colorado River for 2022 and strategies for addressing the low levels of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Long-term planning issues discussed include revisions to Colorado River Simulation System (CRSS), USBR's long-term Colorado River Basin model, and a proposed sensitivity analysis to help

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

stakeholders understand how the system responds to measures that could be part of upcoming negotiations to replace the current reservoir operating rules—the 2007 Interim Guidelines—which expire in 2025.

Objective #8 Implement Local Resources Program

The agreement for a new Local Resource Program (LRP) project, the Las Flores Recycled Water Expansion Project, is expected to be executed by the end of August 2021. The project is anticipated to begin delivering recycled water to the community of Las Flores in Orange County in early 2022.

In August, Metropolitan staff presented at the Inland Empire WaterReuse Chapter to provide an overview and status update of the Local Resource Program, On-Site Retrofit Program, and Stormwater for Direct Use Pilot Program. Continued outreach on these Metropolitan programs help staff develop and implement new projects.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

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

Staff continued to engage with expert consultants in the field of climate change. The Integrated Water Resources Planning (IRP) climate expert panel held its sixth meeting on August 19, to review how their input had been incorporated into the IRP's modeling and analyses and to discuss climate-related indicators appropriate for data tracking and continued analysis as part of Metropolitan's adaptive management planning.

Objective #8 Implement Regional Conservation Program.

Staff presented “When in Drought: Lessons Learned” at an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense Webinar to 197 participants across the country. Metropolitan's External Affairs Group was a partner on this webinar, which discussed programmatic and marketing changes that Metropolitan implemented after the last drought. This is an important topic to discuss, given the ongoing drought and dry hydrologic condition outlooks.

The Water Efficiency Team staff attended and presented at multiple meetings this month to discuss the current drought conditions and provide information on Metropolitan's conservation programs. Staff led a California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) Program Committee meeting, which discussed drought conditions, landscape program changes, and leak detection. Staff also presented to Central Basin Municipal Water District purveyors, providing updates on drought conditions, conservation program offerings, leak detection, and projects for disadvantaged communities. These outreach activities are essential in implementing Metropolitan's regional conservation program and response to the Water Supply Alert declared in August.

OBJECTIVE #9 Ensure cost-effective State Water Project supplies

Staff executed the turnout agreement with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the connection between DWR's Devil Canyon facility and Metropolitan's Inland Feeder. This agreement identifies responsibilities for both parties regarding the turnout.

Staff participated in DWR's briefing on the completed seismic remediation of Perris Dam embankment. DWR provided this briefing for Metropolitan, Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District to give a close-out view of the project including construction issues, summary of claims, resolutions, cost impacts, and lessons learned.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*



Seismic Remediation of Perris Dam Embankment – photo credit: DWR

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

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

Staff led a collaborative effort with the member agencies to develop an approach to show the region's support of the July 8 executive order by Governor Gavin Newsom urging all Californians to voluntarily reduce water use in response to extreme drought conditions. As a result, on August 17, the MWD Board adopted a Water Supply Alert Resolution amplifying the Governor's message and calling for consumers and businesses to voluntarily reduce their water use and help preserve the region's storage reserves. The resolution declared Metropolitan's continued commitment to coordinate with member agencies, cities, counties, and other entities in the service area for a unified outreach message and to re-double conservation efforts to help consumers to save water.

On August 23, Metropolitan served as an invited stakeholder in the third interactive online workshop of Western Municipal Water District's Drought Task Force. Drought Task Force members provide input for the development of Western Municipal Water District's Urban Water Management Plan and federal Drought Contingency Plan. Workshop topics on August 23 focused on small group stakeholder discussion of appropriate regional drought response stages and actions vis-à-vis the USBR's standard Drought Monitoring Framework.

Objective #3 Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Staff served as part of an expert panel discussion for a Future Supply Actions Funding Program (FSA Program) webinar sharing the results of the "Phase II White Paper: Tapping into Available Capacity in Existing Infrastructure to Create Water Supply and Water Quality Solutions". Las Virgenes Municipal Water District led the study, which featured co-funding from Metropolitan under the FSA Program and additional funding from other stakeholders. Over 350 attended the webinar hosted by the Southern California Water Coalition.

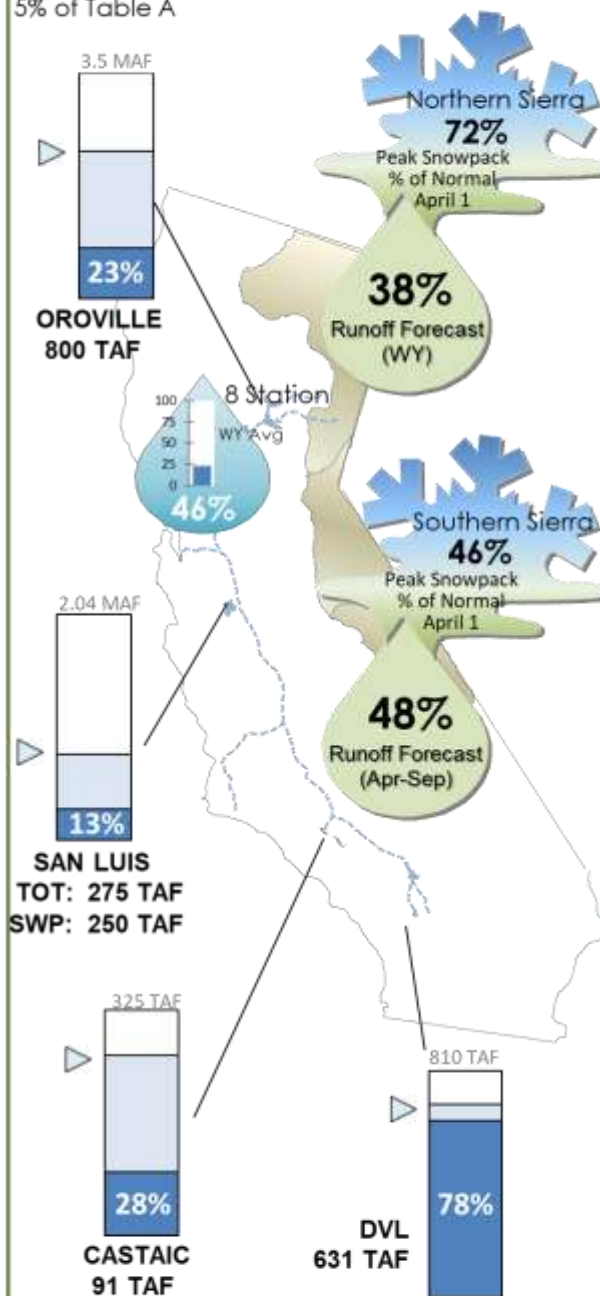
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

The next FSA Program webinar in the series is scheduled for September 15th at 10:30 a.m. The webinar will share the results of an FSA Program co-funded study of using innovative approaches for meeting reservoir augmentation regulations for potable reuse. The San Diego County Water Authority and its study partner, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, led the study.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

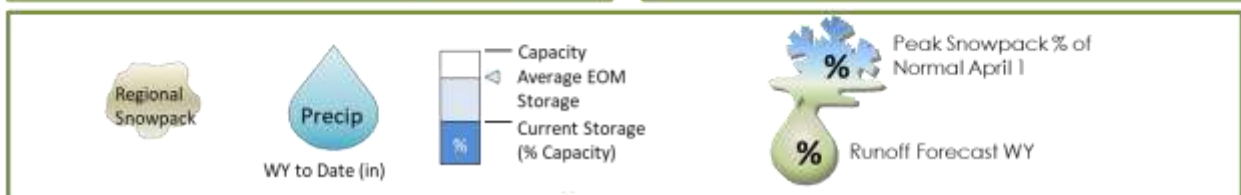
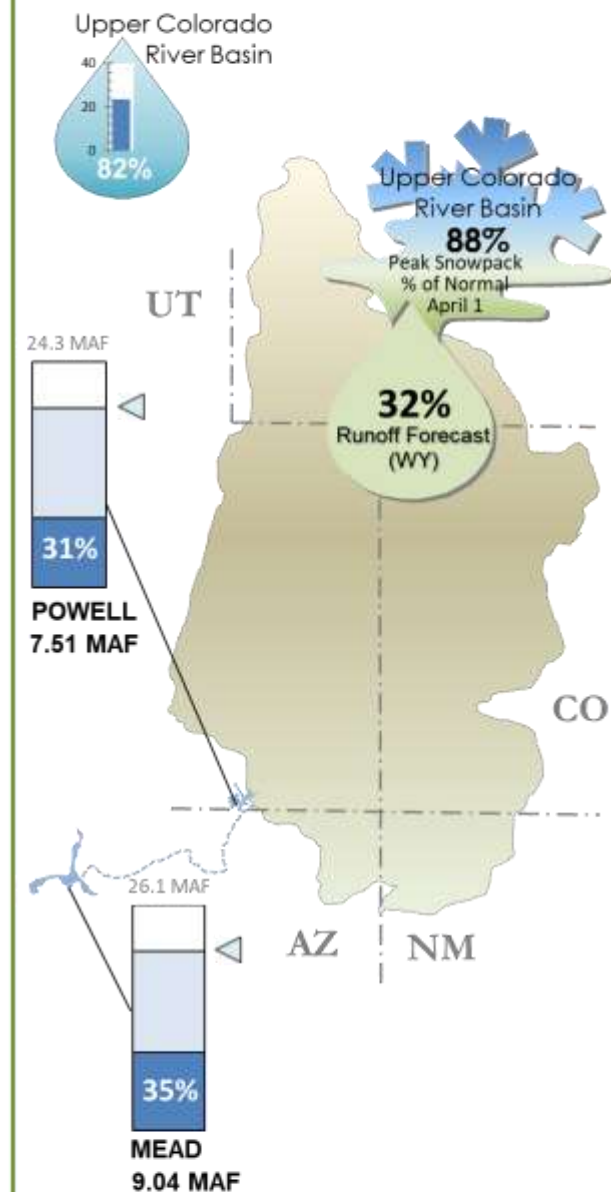
2021 SWP Allocation

95,575 AF
5% of Table A



2021 Colorado River

1,075,000 AF
Projected CRA Diversions



As of August 31, 2021

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Provide Reliable Water Deliveries.

Metropolitan delivered approximately 169,200 acre-feet (AF) of water to member agencies in August. Deliveries averaged approximately 5,458 AF per day, which was 39 AF per day lower than in July. Treated water deliveries increased by 6,815 AF from July, with a total of 94,057 AF, or 56 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) transitioned from an eight-pump to a seven-pump flow on August 5 to optimize operations and available resources. A total of 99,729 AF was pumped on the CRA for the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,455 AF per day, totaling about 45,117 AF for the month, which accounted for about 27 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. The target SWP blend remained at zero percent for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

On August 26, staff held an annual shutdown meeting to review the upcoming shutdowns for the 2021/22 shutdown season. Topics included a description of each shutdown along with safety, public outreach, real property, environmental, dewatering, and water quality requirements and procedures. Staff from across the organization participated in this virtual meeting that helps to ensure continued reliability of Metropolitan's water system. Staff from DWR also participated and presented on major SWP shutdowns that affect Metropolitan. The annual shutdown schedule will be published and provided to the member agencies in September.

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

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

Staff participated in the second part of sensory training to assess flavor and aroma profiles of Metropolitan's water. This Flavor Profile Analysis program is an essential service and critical to meeting the needs of the public to ensure that the water served is pleasant to taste and smell.

Staff created a new safety poster link on the Intramet to facilitate obtaining approved safety posters for placement at Metropolitan facilities. The link to the safety poster is located under the Operational Safety and Regulatory Services webpage header. There are two sets of posters that can be ordered; one set is available from Imaging Services and the other from www.SafetyPoster.com.



Examples of safety posters approved for posting at Metropolitan worksites

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Areas throughout Metropolitan facilities are dedicated for storage, handling, and on-site movement of chlorine and other hazardous materials that fall under Process Safety Management (PSM) plans for site and employee safety, and to comply with jurisdictional regulations. These sites are delineated with signage as well as painted barrier markings. As part of Metropolitan's coatings maintenance program, these markings are refreshed to ensure visibility by staff and occasional visitors to the sites. This month, staff restored faded PSM markings within key process areas at the Skinner plant.



Staff preparing to recoat delineation markings for the chlorine process



Recoated PSM lines for the chlorine process area at the Skinner plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

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

Staff began rehabilitation of the tailrace portion of the Sepulveda Canyon Hydroelectric Power Plant (HEP). This minor capital project will restore the coatings and protect the tailrace and components from damage and corrosion. The high velocity water that turns the HEP's Pelton wheel can damage unprotected metals. Periodic rehabilitation prolongs the life of the surfaces exposed to the high velocity water.



Scaffolding and ventilation containment setup for sandblasting and repairs in the tailrace chamber at the Sepulveda Canyon HEP



Needle valve before coating at the Sepulveda Canyon HEP

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Needle valve after coating at the Sepulveda Canyon HEP

Staff installed 20 new signal cables in support of the Chlorine Expansion Project at the Weymouth plant. This required staff to work weekends to avoid conflict with the contractors and operational activities. The work was necessary to install 20 new chlorine leak analyzers, which will enable the contractor to safely and systematically disconnect the existing leak detection equipment and begin testing and commissioning the new chlorine process equipment and systems. Staff core drilled through concrete walls and routed approximately 15,000 feet of signal cables from the various analyzer locations to the new leak detection terminal cabinet.



Staff verifying dimensions and locations (left) and preparing for initial core drill (right) at the Weymouth plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff core drilling at the Weymouth plant

Objective #4 Optimize Maintenance.

Staff installed new conduit, wiring, and lighting fixtures outside of the 6.9kV switch house at the Eagle Mountain pumping plant. The original system components degraded over many years of service and had become unusable, requiring an overhaul of the circuit.



New switch house lighting at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

The CRA continued eight-pump flow through July and transitioned to a seven-pump flow in early August. Flowing at these high capacities requires close monitoring of the 242-mile aqueduct. Staff monitor canal and reservoir levels using gauging stations and flow meters placed at strategic locations throughout the system. Staff also spot chlorinate at locations to maintain the aqueduct's capacity and dechlorinate further downstream when needed to comply with environmental requirements. Running the CRA at these high flows takes significant coordination between operations and engineering staff and has helped to ensure Metropolitan's reliable water deliveries during this record dry year in California.



Water level along the CRA during high flows



Staff monitoring CRA operations

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

In addition to inspecting and maintaining the CRA's 230kV power transmission lines, staff also assists with communications and information technology work. Staff worked at the Las Vegas Junction site to align a microwave antenna that is critical for reliable communications in the Desert region.



Staff aligning a microwave antenna at the Las Vegas Junction site

Staff installed a new 15-ton air conditioning unit at the Eagle Mountain pumping plant. As part of the installation, new conduit, wire, and refrigerant lines were installed. Air conditioning is critical in the Desert areas where ambient temperatures regularly exceed 115 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months.



Air conditioner installed at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff performed preventative maintenance at the Diamond Valley Lake forebay; removing the dried solids from the floor of the concrete forebay and hauling it offsite for disposal.



Staff using heavy equipment to remove material from the Diamond Valley Lake forebay

The La Verne Shops manufactured new 20-foot long shafts, bronze lift and capture nuts for the refurbishment of two large flow control sleeve valves at the Red Mountain Pressure Control Structure. These components will be installed during a future shutdown to provide continued reliability on San Diego Pipeline No. 5.



Machining of stainless-steel shafts for Red Mountain PCS at the La Verne Shops

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Manufactured lift and capture nuts for Red Mountain PCS

To maintain reliable deliveries to the western portion of the distribution system, staff performed system improvements at Greg Avenue pump station. Staff pulled a potentiometer cable from the remote terminal unit (RTU) to two pump control valves and re-wired the pump control valves onto the uninterruptible power system (UPS). This work will allow operators at the Eagle Rock Control Center to monitor the position of the control valves remotely. If power is lost to Greg Avenue and the control valve needs to be closed, operators will be able to see the valve operation in real-time. The Greg Avenue pumps provide CRA water into the western portions of Metropolitan's service area to reduce the use of State Project water during low allocation years.



Control valve (left) and new potentiometer cable (right) at the Greg Avenue pump station

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

A day of monsoonal weather brought thunder and lightning to the Winchester area, including a lightning strike that damaged an electrical pole and equipment that supplies power from the solar farm to the Skinner plant. Metropolitan's specialized staff performed the necessary repairs, which included replacing the equipment on the pole and testing the equipment for functionality. The solar farm was placed back online, producing green power less than a week after the lightning strike.



Staff repairing the solar farm electrical pole at the Skinner plant

Staff repaired the open loop cooling water pump for the ozone system at the Diemer plant. This pump carries cooling water to reduce the temperature of the ozone generators. The open loop cooling water pump started to show pump capacity reduction and required a complete rebuild. Staff disassembled the pump and repaired the impeller, shaft, and wear rings. This work also provided practical training for apprentices on how to properly use a milling machine.



Dismantled pump case (left) and staff checking pump shaft tolerances (right) at the Diemer plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

During routine patrols of the East Orange County Feeder No. 2, staff discovered a pinhole leak at Santiago Creek Pressure Control Structure (PCS) just downstream of a large conical plug valve. Staff mechanically cleaned the leak location with a wire wheel and hand tools to facilitate ultrasonic inspection. Staff completed the repair by fabricating and welding a patch plate around the circumference of the pipe and coating it to prevent corrosion. Staff performed the repair without disruption to distribution system operations.



Pinhole leak at Santiago PCS on the East Orange County Feeder No. 2



Staff welding a patch plate on the pipe at the Santiago Pressure Control Structure

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Welded patch plate at Santiago Creek PCS

Staff performed coating maintenance to a pump well structure on the Allen-McColloch Pipeline. Pump wells are used during shutdowns to dewater pipelines. Staff sandblasted the valve and removed coal tar coating, and then recoated the valve with epoxy.



Sandblasted (left) and newly coated pump well valve (right) on the Allen-McColloch Pipeline

Objective #5 Manage the Power System.

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) announced the cancellation of the PRR-1280 stakeholder process, which was a proposed revision to the CAISO Business Process Manual (BPM) that would have significantly affected how Metropolitan meets its Resource Adequacy (RA) obligations. Metropolitan personnel participated in a virtual stakeholder meeting hosted by CAISO stakeholder affairs on August 9, discussing the CAISO's cancellation. CAISO staff indicated that there would be future changes to CAISO's RA program. Metropolitan power planning and legal staff will continue to engage with CAISO to ensure that Metropolitan's interests are protected.

Staff, in cooperation with Arizona Electric Power Co-Op (AEPCO), implemented a new and streamlined process for receiving, verifying, and remitting payment for weekly CAISO invoices. These weekly invoices are for the net energy

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

cost for Metropolitan's CRA operations (total pumping load energy cost minus Hoover and Parker net generation revenues). The invoices are sent from CAISO to AEP CO as Metropolitan's scheduling coordinator and are typically several million dollars each week. Previously these invoices were covered by a monthly pre-payment from Metropolitan to AEP CO. The new approach, which became effective in August 2021, processes each invoice within one business week, eliminating the need for a large monthly pre-payment.

Objective #6 Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response.

During July and August, staff continued to participate in regional emergency management planning and training to ensure Metropolitan's state of readiness. On July 22, staff attended the quarterly Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committee (MARAC) meeting hosted by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). On August 5, staff attended the Orange County Emergency Management Organization (OCEMA) regular meeting.

From August 9–12, staff participated in Emergency Action Planning virtual training presented by Cal OES. This regular outreach is essential to Metropolitan's emergency preparedness, especially during the continuing pandemic.

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 August 2021.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from July 2020 through June 2021 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of SPW and CRA water were 570, 570, and 561 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

The Mills plant expedites the drying of removed solids from the treatment process using six concrete-lined basins. The plant facilitates the drying of solids by using a Brown Bear tractor. This piece of heavy-duty equipment provides an economical mechanical solution for solids drying, which requires that the material be aerated, mixed, and composted. The Brown Bear has been used successfully in recent years and requires 10–30 hours of operation per week for effective material drying. Drying the treatment plant residual solids is essential to reducing the cost of hauling it offsite for disposal.



Brown Bear moving wet solids in to windrows to aid in drying at the Mills plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Brown Bear agitating wet solids at the Mills plant

Increased aeration in water introduced to the Diemer plant caused material build up on the sedimentation basins and deposited displaced filter media at the reclamation plant. Air entrainment mitigation techniques were performed at both locations. Staff partially dewatered a sedimentation basin to allow the material layer to be sprayed down and broken up using a pump. Staff then removed the deposited filter media using an auger system that offloaded the media into a dump truck. Operating within certain high-flow ranges at the treatment plants can create unique challenges that staff adapt to while continuing to ensure safe and reliable deliveries.



Staff removing material layer from a sedimentation basin (left) and dumping coal from the reclamation plant (right) at the Diemer plant

Staff upgraded the dry polymer mix train controls to use a human machine interface (HMI) at each control panel at the Skinner plant. The system batch mixes a dry polymer into a liquid form that is then used as a coagulant aid in the treatment process. The HMI replaced the obsolete and failing annunciator system. The new system allows for increased access to data, greatly improving operability and troubleshooting.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



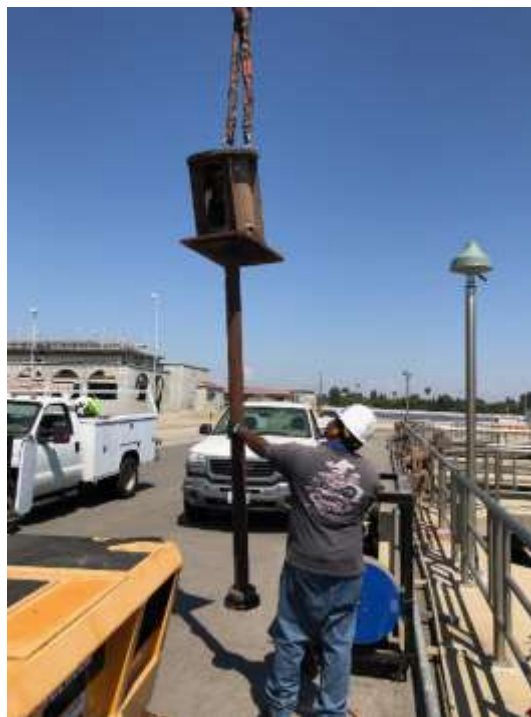
Staff installing the HMI display panel for the dry polymer mixer at the Skinner plant



New HMI display panel installed for the dry polymer mixer at the Skinner plant

Staff replaced a failed drain valve coupling on a filter at the Weymouth plant. The valve is opened during the filter backwash process allowing backwash water to flow into the washwater sump, where it is then pumped to the reclamation plant and will eventually be returned to the plant influent for further treatment.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Inoperable valve coupling (left) and staff removing the valve coupling (right) at the Weymouth plant

Objective #8 Manage Water Reserves.

Water reserves continued to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles, operational objectives, and the current 5-percent SWP allocation. Deliveries of SWP supply were minimized to preserve SWP Carryover and Flexible Storage. Releases from Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) through PC-1 to connections on the Lakeview Pipeline, as well as the DVL to Mills plant operation, continued in August to conserve SWP use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in August. 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.

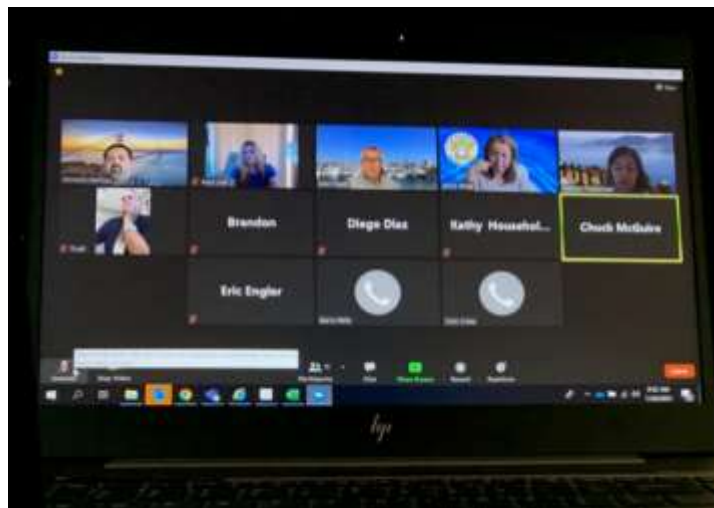
Objective #10 Manage Vacancies.

WSO filled four vacant positions in July 2021.

Objective #11 Prepare Employees for New Opportunities.

The Water System Operations Apprenticeship Programs develop and train personnel to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. Staff facilitated the quarterly Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) meeting, which was conducted virtually. The JATC is a collaborative effort between labor and management to provide oversight of the Apprenticeship Program; adopt governing rules, regulations, policies, and procedures; ensure compliance with the program's standards; and determine apprentice progress, advancement, and completion. The committee consists of five members from AFSCME Local 1902 and five members from Water System Operations management.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Quarterly meeting of the JATC conducted virtually

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #1 Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation.

On July 30, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) published proposed Public Health Goals (PHGs) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) at 0.007 and 1 parts per trillion (ppt), respectively. The Division of Drinking Water (DDW) will then evaluate these PHGs when establishing maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS in 2023. On August 3, staff participated in a workshop organized by the Association of California Water Agencies to discuss the proposed PHGs. Staff will continue to monitor all PFAS regulatory activity.

On July 30, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of the Army (the Agencies) announced plans for a two-step rulemaking process to revise the definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS). The definition of WOTUS delineates the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. The Agencies will first publish a “foundational rule” that reverts to the pre-2015 definition of WOTUS, with updates consistent with relevant Supreme Court decisions. A second rulemaking process will then build upon the foundational rule to establish an updated and “durable” definition of WOTUS. Staff are submitting comments reaffirming Metropolitan’s long held positions that water infrastructure should be exempt from WOTUS and source water protections should be maintained. Comments are due to EPA by September 3.

On July 30, Governor Newsom announced that effective August 15 through October 31, on any day for which CAISO issues a Grid Warning or Emergency notice, the use of both stationary and portable emergency generators will be deemed “emergency use.” Thus, from two hours before the beginning of a CAISO Grid Warning or Emergency, emergency generators can be operated without restraint to help with grid reliability. Staff will still need to track and report the total number of hours and emergency generator is operated. The governor also directed the Department of Finance to develop a \$2 per kWh incentive program for large energy users to reduce demand during an extreme heat event. Staff are evaluating when and how Metropolitan can take advantage of this incentive. Last, the proclamation suspends state environmental laws for installing new emergency generators or battery storage, if certain conditions are met. Staff will continue to monitor any further updates regarding emergency power.

On August 10, staff participated in the USEPA’s stakeholder meeting to inform potential revisions to the Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts regulations. The meeting addressed potential non-regulatory approaches for addressing public health risks related to drinking water. Staff also participated in the California DDW survey on hexavalent chromium analysis to help advise on upcoming regulations pertaining to a new method detection limit and MCL.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Objective #2 Examine and Mitigate Adverse Water Quality Outcomes

In mid-August, some Metropolitan member agencies reported consumer complaints of unpleasant odors in their water. Staff investigated the issue, which was found to be a result of low oxygen water deep in Lake Mathews, creating sulfides that resulted in a sulfurous odor in water at the Weymouth and Diemer plants. This is a natural phenomenon in lakes that occurs at times during warmer weather. To resolve the aesthetic issue, staff resumed ozone operations at the Weymouth and Diemer plants, as ozone is very effective at treating odorous compounds (chlorine was being used to support maintenance work at the Lake Mathews outlet tower). Staff rescheduled the maintenance work, which allowed use of the primary outlet tower with greater tier flexibility to withdraw higher quality water from the lake. Throughout the event, staff ran daily Flavor Profile Analysis samples and kept the member agencies apprised until the aesthetic issue was fully resolved.



Staff conducting Flavor Profile Analysis of water sample to resolve odor event

Objective #3 Support the Regional Recycled Water Program

During August, staff continued the third phase of challenge testing at the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center demonstration facility to assess system performance with intentionally damaged fibers. All 40 previously cut fibers in the membrane bioreactor (MBR) were sealed to restore MBR integrity, and 40 new fibers were cut to minimize experimental variables in this challenge test. Microbial sampling resumed, and staff prepared for the final set of reverse osmosis (RO) concentrate sampling performed by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD). LACSD will continue testing through September to evaluate for compliance with regulatory requirements under the proposed ocean discharge of RO concentrate.

Staff submitted the Secondary MBR Testing and Monitoring Plan to DDW and the Los Angeles and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Boards for approval of the next phase of testing, anticipated to begin in early 2022. Testing of a secondary MBR configuration may offer operational and cost efficiencies for a full-scale facility. Staff also responded to regulator comments on an update to the tertiary MBR testing and monitoring plan, which was submitted to DDW in April.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff signal the crane operator for MBR cassette removal from the tank at the demonstration facility



Staff seal cut fibers in the MBR to restore membrane integrity before challenge testing

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff cut and inspect fibers from the MBR to restart a challenge test at the demonstration facility

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Secondary effluent samples are concentrated onto a 1-micron filter for pathogen analysis at the demonstration facility

Three new staff were successfully onboarded at the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center. This included a student intern along with two mechanical staff from the Jensen and Mills plants that are participating in a rotation program to gain experience on the advanced treatment processes 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 4 megawatts, or just over 3,060 megawatt-hours and more than \$165,510 in revenue, for the month of July 2021. Metropolitan's solar facilities, totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated approximately 1,220 megawatt-hours in July 2021.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

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

Staff is evaluating potential grant opportunities for Zero Emission (ZE) vehicles, including a \$2 million California Energy Commission (CEC) grant for development and demonstration of a Heavy-Duty Fuel Cell Vehicle that operates in "challenging conditions." This opportunity would be beneficial, as the cost share would be covered by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and Metropolitan would participate as an operator to conduct the real-world demonstration of a hydrogen fuel cell truck. If Metropolitan can partner with an OEM, the deadline to submit an application for this grant is October 15, 2021.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Monthly Update as of:

8/31/2020

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	7,527,000	31%
Lake Mead	9,041,000	35%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	801,036	23%
Shasta Lake	1,230,515	27%
San Luis Total	278,984	14%
San Luis CDWR	252,814	24%
Castaic Lake	90,130	28%
Silverwood Lake	67,706	90%
Lake Perris	111,993	85%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	631,066	78%
Lake Mathews	137,946	76%
Lake Skinner	37,020	84%



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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