



# The GENERAL MANAGER Monthly Report

**Activities for the Month of  
October 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.

NOVEMBER 9, 2021



Adel Hagekhalil, Metropolitan General Manager, making a presentation via Zoom

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

*This executive summary is added to this report to provide a high-level snapshot of a key accomplishment from each area of the organization. Detailed information is reported in the pages following this summary.*

### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Contracting Services Unit (CSU) within the Administrative Services Section launched “Administrative Services – Coffee with Contracts” to acquaint customers with CSU staff and its services. At its inaugural launch, 34 participants engaged in a collaborative environment about contracting issues, offer ideas and share knowledge.

### BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES

Collaborated with scientists from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association Fisheries, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, to co-author a study addressing spring-run Chinook salmon. Study was published in the Nature Climate Change journal.

### CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Treasury and Debt Management (TDM) implemented credit approvals for eligible bidders in record time to enable contract settlement in two days. TDM recommended and initiated an effort to broaden Metropolitan’s approved counterparty list. TDM worked diligently with Power Ops team and vendor ACES to determine which bidders through the Request for Offers (RFO) process could meet Metropolitan’s credit standards as a counterparty. This project complements the Power Ops team’s objectives to widely distribute an RFO to achieve best pricing for electricity needs.

### ENGINEERING SERVICES

Engineering and Water System Operations organized and conducted the virtual 2021 Engineering and Operations Inspection Trip for the Board of Directors on Thursday, October 21, 2021. This year’s trip focused on Metropolitan’s overall system resilience, with an emphasis on infrastructure reliability and system flexibility. Eleven directors participated, virtually visiting the F. E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant, as well as facilities at and around Lake Perris, Diamond Valley Lake, and Lake Mathews. The tour video production was supported by External Affairs.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Environmental Planning partnered with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to implement a stream restoration and enhancement project for the federal endangered, state-fully protected Unarmored Threespine Stickleback (UTS) fish. This project is the culmination of more than six years of coordination, negotiation, and Metropolitan-sponsored legislation (AB 2488) to secure incidental take permits from California Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operations and maintenance of the Foothill Feeder pipeline. The project will provide enhanced habitat for the UTS on a conservation property managed and protected by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Los Angeles Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America honored Metropolitan’s “Wasting Water Is” video series with top honors and its PRism award for outstanding government communications.

### Human Resources

Human Resources successfully completed another Open Enrollment period utilizing online technology to facilitate employee benefit changes, including a major transition to replace two of the thirteen CalPERS medical plans.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology worked in collaboration with Human Resources on the upgrade of the MyHR application using PeopleSoft. This upgrade simplified access to information and supported the Open Enrollment period completed in October.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES *continued*

### REAL PROPERTY

Real Property, in collaboration with the Diamond Valley Lake Marina Concessionaire, acquired a fleet of nine E-Bikes available for rent on the Lakeview Trail. This Concessionaire's investment and recent expansion of the amenities offered at the Marina is in accordance with the new ten-year agreement authorized by the Metropolitan Board of Directors in August.

### SECURITY MANAGEMENT

Security staff conducted an in-person vulnerability assessment of the San Diego Canal, between DVL and the Skinner Plant, in partnership with Real Property, Water System Operations, Operational Safety and Regulatory Services, and Environmental Planning. This effort underscores Metropolitan's commitment to provide safe recreational opportunities for the public while maintaining the operational security of the region's public drinking water system.

### WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Water Resource Management coordinated drought response efforts in collaboration with the California Department of Water Resources and Metropolitan's Member Agencies to estimate minimum water needs for domestic supply, fire protection, and sanitation if 2022 remains dry. Staff also developed new and expanded water conservation programs to improve short- and long-term water use efficiency and preserve regional storage reserves.

### WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

Staff collaborated with utilities both regionally and nationally on workforce development initiatives focused on apprenticeship in the trades. Staff participated in IE Works' Apprenticeship Summit, which focused on developing a regional apprenticeship program in Metropolitan's service area that supports training and economic equity in the water sector. Staff also met with the Chicago Department of Water Management to share experiences and best practices in developing a long-standing, successful Apprenticeship Program.



## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

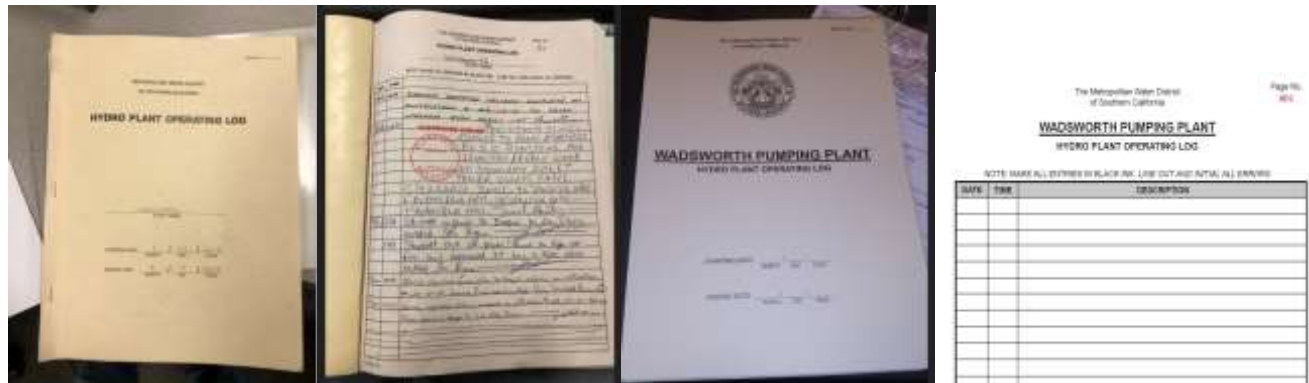
**CORE BUSINESS:** Business Processes Advance value-added business process improvements to increase effectiveness and efficiency while striving for innovation, flexibility, and integration with technology.

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

The first quarterly Rideshare employee newsletter was distributed to all employees. The e-newsletter raises awareness of Metropolitan's Rideshare Program and events with relevant new information from other transit agencies and features various fun facts.

### Accomplishments

1. In support of Metropolitan's goal of diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Technical Writing Team completed document accessibility training. They studied the finer technical points for creating and remediating Word and Adobe files for users of assistive technology like text-to-speech software.
2. To support a seamless re-enrollment period, Administrative Services Mailroom staff partnered with Human Resources to send out over 1820 retiree memos and 1845 benefit guides to employees' homes.
3. The Document Services Imaging Services Team assisted Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) staff with producing additional Hydro Plant Operating logbooks for the Metropolitan Water District's power plants. DVL personnel reached out to the Imaging Services Team to recreate and produce new logbooks. Reproducing the logbooks in-house resulted in cost savings for Metropolitan.

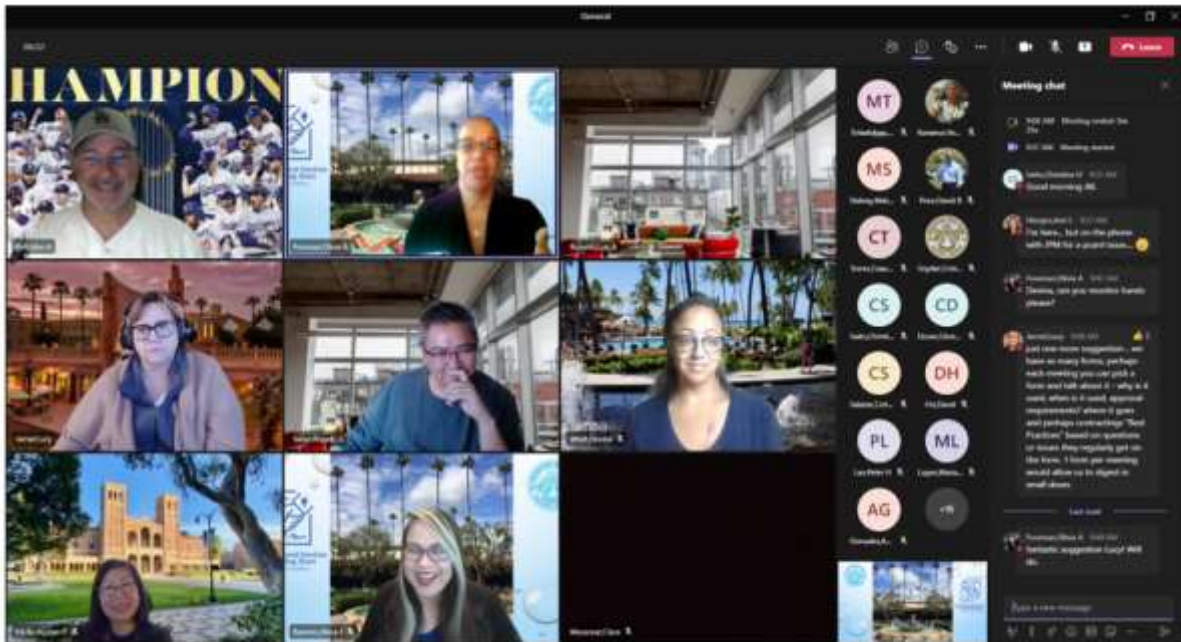


## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES *continued*

4. The Contracting Services Unit (CSU) within the Administrative Services Section is excited to launch "Administrative Services—Coffee with Contracts." In an informal virtual setting, teams within the CSU (Office of the Unit Manager, including Investment Recovery, Warehouse, Procurement, and Professional Services) will be available once a month to "chat" on contracting topics.

The goal is to acquaint customers with the friendly CSU staff and its services and offer tips and tricks to answer your contracting questions. When time permits, provide training on the fly!

At its inaugural launch, 34 participants engaged in the collaborative and successful environment.



"Coffee with Contracts"—Inaugural launch with 34 participants

## 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 for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project, and in the 2020 Incidental Take Permit for Long-Term Operation of the SWP, to address science needs and inform management and operation of the water projects. In October, staff continued collaboration with state and federal agencies to develop a Juvenile Production Estimate for Spring-run Chinook salmon. After the initial effort to evaluate monitoring alternatives, current efforts are focused on refining the decision problem and objectives. Staff also continued working with state and federal agencies to develop a monitoring program for steelhead populations within the San Joaquin Basin and/or the San Joaquin River downstream of the confluence with the Stanislaus River. The group is evaluating how long-term monitoring programs for steelhead have been developed in other places.

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

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

#### Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) continues developing the public draft Environmental Impact Report under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Delta Conveyance Project, expected for release in 2022. DWR continues to coordinate with the United States Army Corp of Engineers as the Corp prepares the Draft Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act.

#### Joint Powers Authorities

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) issued a Request for Qualifications for Geotechnical Exploration and Reporting Services on October 1. The successful geotechnical consultant(s) will assist the DCA with subsurface exploration, laboratory testing of soil and water samples, and preparation of Geotechnical Data Reports. The Statements of Qualifications are due on November 5, 2021.

Based on the revised meeting schedule, the DCA Board of Directors did not meet in October.

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

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

In their October meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board and the Sites Reservoir Committee authorized the Executive Director to submit the Final Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) 75 percent Non-Public Cost Share Commitment materials to comply with Proposition 1 conditions and continued eligibility of WSIP funds.

## BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES *continued*

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

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

Staff, in collaboration with scientists from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, published a study in the journal *Nature Climate Change* addressing spring-run Chinook salmon. The authors found that a rare life-history strategy in the Endanger Species Act (ESA)-listed spring-run Chinook salmon was responsible for the population's resilience to recent droughts. In drought years, late-migrating juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon were among the few individuals that survived to return as adults. During droughts, most early-migrating juvenile salmon perish once they encounter the warmer spring water temperatures in the Sacramento River and Delta, but the fish that delay their migration until the fall by seeking cold water refuge in their natal streams survive at a much higher rate, despite being rare relative to the much more common early-migrating juveniles. The study also modeled current and forecasted stream temperatures and found cool-water habitat suitable for the late-migrating fish is mostly upstream of barrier dams and projected to shrink quickly in the coming decades with climate change. The findings underscore the importance of providing secure cool-water habitat for ESA-listed spring-run Chinook salmon so that they can survive difficult conditions during droughts.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In October, CAMT initiated a process to discuss potential opportunities to improve Delta monitoring. CAMT held a two-day workshop to receive presentations from parties engaged in specific monitoring review and redesign efforts. The workshop's objective was to establish a shared understanding of previous and ongoing reviews, including the scope of the reviews and the management questions the reviewed monitoring programs are trying to address, and the recommendations. The next step to be initiated in November 2021 will focus on assessing and documenting the objectives of the various CSAMP member entities with respect to monitoring. Staff continued collaboration with the non-government environmental organizations on the CSAMP Salmon Recovery Initiative. The group is currently conducting its second set of workshops to develop metrics and targets to measure progress towards salmon recovery.

### 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.

As previously reported, on August 20, 2021, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) issued curtailments to approximately 4,500 water rights holders in the Delta watershed to help protect drinking water supplies, prevent salinity intrusion, and minimize impacts to fisheries and the environment. On October 19, the State Board issued a temporary suspension of curtailments in expectation of substantial precipitation over the following week, particularly in the Sacramento River and Feather River watersheds. The decision to temporarily suspend curtailments was made in consideration of the Water Unavailability Methodology for the Delta Watershed, a range of precipitation forecasts from the California Nevada River Forecast Center, anticipated low water demands in October, the need to refill reservoirs, and existing instream flow requirements. The State Board will continue to closely monitor forecasted precipitation and hydrologic conditions to re-evaluate curtailment decisions.



## 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 #1 Establish rates and charges to maintain moderate overall rate increases, minimize variability, and recover costs consistent with Board policy.

In September an information report was provided to the Finance & Insurance Committee on Rate Refinement Workgroup's Review of Demand Management Cost Recovery Alternatives, and a report was provided on the Mid-cycle Biennial Budget Review.

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

The Risk Management Unit completed 39 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 51 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.

- Led the annual district-wide ShakeOut earthquake preparedness campaign. Key activities included a GM memo distribution, MetAlert notification, and a webinar hosted by Business Continuity and Emergency Management staff.
- Continued working with various areas to complete business continuity plan updates.

### CORE BUSINESS: Manage Finances for Long-Term Stability and Sustainability

Maintain moderate water rate increases, manage costs within the adopted budget, and attain or maintain Board policies for all key financial ratios. To meet these objectives, Metropolitan will continue to focus on achieving cost reductions and efficiencies in all areas of its business with primary focus on staffing levels and capital program costs to ensure that these areas are sustainable and sufficient to meet long-term service area demand forecasts.

Objective #1 Effectively manage costs and communicate the results of Metropolitan's budget to meet Board policies and objectives.

Treasury and Debt Management (TDM) serves as a partner with the Power Operations team to review and approve the credit of counterparties with whom Metropolitan engages for buy or sell transactions of electricity (including RA). In order to enhance the process for buying RA and to obtain the most cost-effective pricing, the Power Ops team initiated an RFO (request for offers) solicitation that went to a broad list of potential bidders. All responding bidders were **not** on Metropolitan's approved counterparty list, which required an expedited credit review and approval of bidders. TDM worked diligently with the Power Ops team and our vendor ACES to determine which RFO bidders could meet our credit standards as a counterparty. **Subsequently, TDM implemented the credit approvals for those eligible bidders in record time to enable contract settlement in two days.** TDM recommended and initiated an effort to broaden Metropolitan's approved counterparty list to complement the Power

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER *continued*

Ops team's objectives going forward to widely distribute an RFO in order to achieve the best pricing for Metropolitan's electricity needs (including RA).

### **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 September 2021 totaled 152.9 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 13.2 TAF higher than the budget of 139.7 TAF. This translates to \$139.7 million in revenues for September 2021, which was \$10.1 million higher than budget of \$129.6 million.
- Year-to-date water transactions through September 2021 were 488.1 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 42.9 TAF higher than the budget of 445.2 thousand acre-feet (TAF). Year-to-date water revenues through September 2021 were \$447.5 million, which was \$32.2 million higher than the budget of \$415.3 million.
- In September 2021, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,500 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$11,000 in discounts.

Objective #3 Manage investor relations to ensure clear communications, accuracy of information, and integrity.

Initiated a project roadmap with External Affairs for a redesign of Metropolitan's finance-related website landing pages.

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.

Treasury and Debt Management provided responses to Moody's interest in understanding how Metropolitan's settlement with IID would affect the district.

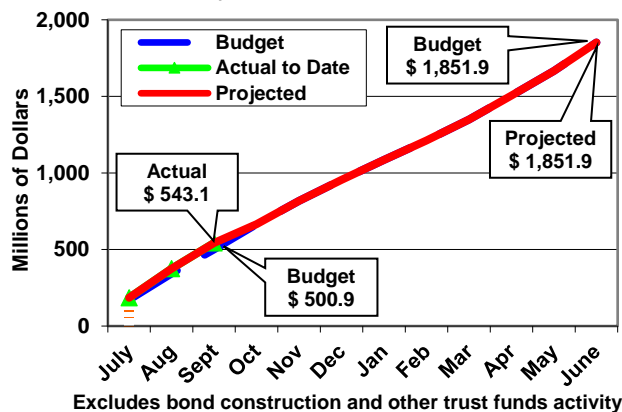
Objective #5 Prudently manage the investment of Metropolitan's funds in accordance with policy guidelines and liquidity considerations.

- As of September 30, 2021, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.27 billion; for the month of September 2021, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 27 trades.
- During the month of September 2021, Treasury staff processed 1,135 disbursements by check, 22 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 99 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 75 receipts by check, 24 receipts by ACH, and 46 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

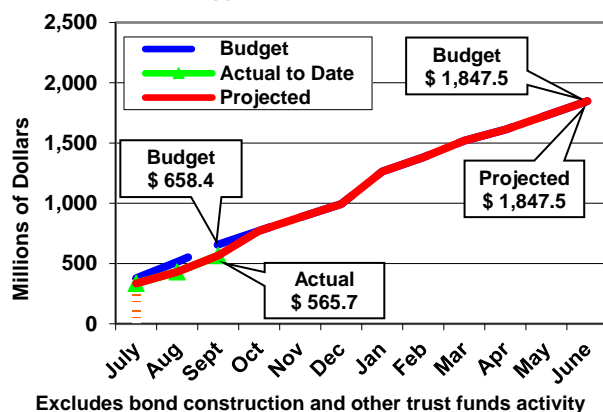
Financial Summary - Charts & Graphics	
Receipts	Expenditures
O&M Expenditures	Construction Costs
Cash and Investments	Summary of Financial Statistics

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER *continued*

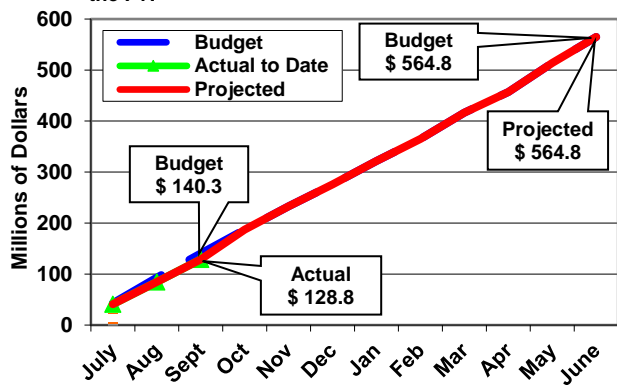
Revenues are expected to be on budget at year end. Projections will be updated after the second quarter of the fiscal year.



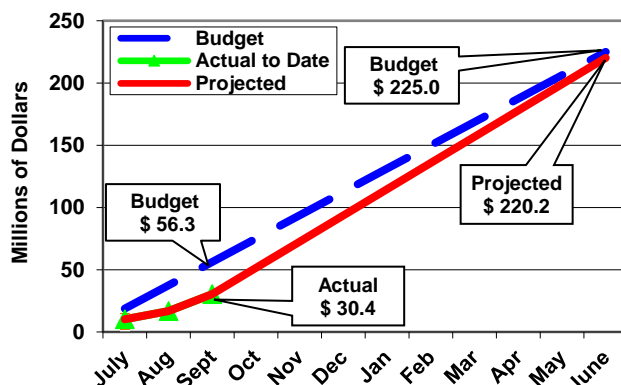
Expenses are expected to be on budget at year end. Projections will be updated after the second quarter of the FY, which will include the board-approved \$1M reduction for COVID.



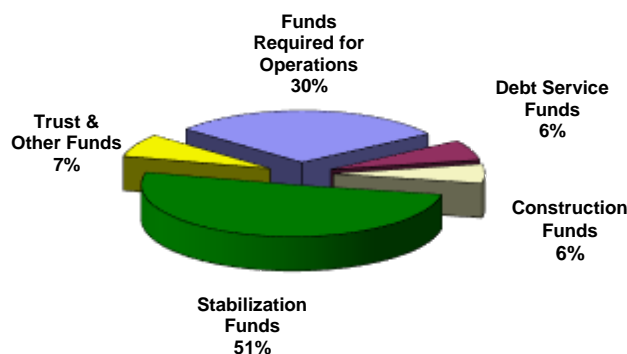
O&M expenses are expected to be on budget at year end. Projections will be updated after the second quarter of the FY.



Capital Program expenses are expected to be \$4.8M under budget at year end.



### Cash and Investments at Fair Value \$ 1,269.6 million



### Summary Financial Statistics

		Target	Year-End Projected
Fixed Charge Coverage	≥	1.20 x	1.95
Revenue Bond Coverage	>	2.00 x	1.95
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: 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.

#### **Infrastructure Reliability and System Flexibility**

Engineering, in conjunction with the Water System Operations Group, organized and conducted the virtual 2021 Engineering and Operations Inspection Trip for the Board of Directors on Thursday, October 21, 2021. The focus of this year's trip was Metropolitan's overall system resilience, with an emphasis on infrastructure reliability and system flexibility. Eleven directors attended the event, which virtually visited the F. E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and facilities at and around Lake Perris, Diamond Valley Lake (DVL), and Lake Mathews.

Attendees received an in-depth look at current initiatives and projects that are part of Metropolitan's overall strategy to ensure safe and reliable water deliveries and heard about infrastructure reliability projects designed to maintain Metropolitan's state of readiness. Some of the featured presentations included:

- Metropolitan's Resilience Strategy: culture and system reliability
- System Flexibility for Drought Response: standard operations, extraordinary drought operations, and drought actions
- Weymouth Plant Operations Overview and Projects
- Tours of Metropolitan's Water Quality Lab and La Verne Shops
- DVL and Lake Perris Operations Overview and Projects
- Role of DVL in drought mitigation
- Lake Mathews Operations Overview and upcoming projects
- Second Lower Feeder Valves and storage building for the PCCP program





## ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

### 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 the fire suppression system and constructs a retaining wall to ensure the stability of the nearby slope. The contractor began installing reinforcing steel for the new retaining wall located at the facility's north side. Construction is approximately 58 percent complete; however, the contractor is currently experiencing COVID-19 related shortages of materials and vendor delays, which will extend the contract by about six months.
- **Lake Mathews Facility Wastewater Replacement**—The project replaces the existing septic tank and leach field-based wastewater collection system at the Lake Mathews facility by connecting it to a nearby municipal sewer system. The Board awarded a construction contract in October 2021, and the Notice to Proceed was issued in November 2021.
- **Lake Mathews PCCP Valve Storage**—This project constructs a pre-engineered metal building for storage of Metropolitan-furnished equipment, such as valves and actuators, that will be used for upcoming prestressed concrete cylinder pipeline rehabilitation projects. The final design is 99 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in November 2021.
- **Etiwanda Pipeline Rehabilitation, Stage 3**—This project replaces delaminated mortar lining in 5.5 miles of pipeline with polyurethane lining. This project was conducted in three stages. Stages 1 and 2, which included polyurethane lining of 3 miles, are complete. Stage 3 will include polyurethane lining, which will reline 2.5 miles of pipeline, and steel lining of 1,300 feet of new internal steel pipe in areas with more extensive corrosion. The final design of Stage 3 work is 96 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by January 2022. A November board action is planned to award a fabrication contract for steel liner pipe, which will be furnished to a future Stage 3 contractor. A board action is planned for late Spring 2022 to award a Stage 3 construction contract.
- **Casa Loma Siphon Upgrades**—This project will mitigate leaks associated with long-term ground subsidence and will improve the seismic resilience of the siphon as it crosses the Casa Loma Fault. This project replaces approximately 1,200 feet of the Casa Loma Siphon Barrel No. 1 at a fault crossing using earthquake resistant ductile iron pipe (ERDIP) and welded steel pipe (WSP). The delivery of ERDIP and WSP is complete. The final design for pipe installation is complete, and a board action for the award of a construction contract is scheduled for December 2021.



**Lake Mathews Disaster Recovery Facility Upgrades**

East end of the new structural concrete retaining wall located at the north side of the building.

## ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

### Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program

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

- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates the remaining 28 miles of PCCP segments within the Second Lower Feeder and will enhance delivery reliability to member agencies. Long-term rehabilitation of this pipeline is being staged over a period of eight to ten years, with multiple construction and procurement contracts. The 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 98 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 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 include three 48-inch and ten 54-inch diameters, provide primary isolation for maintenance activities, inspections, and repairs required to maintain reliable water deliveries within Metropolitan's distribution system. Fabrication of these valves is approximately 49 percent complete. Two 48-inch conical plug valves were completed and delivered in July 2021. The third 48-inch valve was delivered in September 2021. Fabrication of seven 54-inch valves is in progress. Two of the 54-inch valves are scheduled to be delivered in January 2022 and five more in October 2022. Fabrication of three remaining 54-inch valves is scheduled to start in 2022 and be completed in mid-2023.
- **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. The final design of Reach 1 and Reach 2 are occurring simultaneously and are scheduled to be complete by February 2023. Preliminary design to rehabilitate the remaining reaches of the feeder continues.

### Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

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

- **CRA Storage Buildings at Hinds, Eagle Mountain, and Iron Mountain**—This project furnishes and installs two new storage buildings (six total) and constructs associated site improvements at the Hinds, Eagle Mountain, and Iron Mountain Pumping Plants. The final design is 85 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by January 2022.
- **CRA Cranes Rehabilitation**—This project replaces the pumphouse overhead bridge cranes, retrofits the support structure of the below-grade pump bays, and upgrades the crane electrical system at the Colorado River Aqueduct's pumping plants. Construction is 4 percent complete, with the contractor correcting misalignments in the existing pumphouse crane rails. Construction is scheduled to be complete by September 2023.
- **Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Structure Rehabilitation**—This project replaces the existing deteriorated discharge valve and refurbishes the valve house and discharge structure at the base of the Gene Wash Reservoir dam. If the reservoir needed to be drained rapidly in the event of an emergency, the valve would be opened to safely release the water. The contractor continued coating the valve house interior walls and relining the sluiceway pipe, and began the electrical equipment in the valve house. Construction is 74 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2021.

## ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

- **CRA Domestic Water Treatment System Replacement**—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 June 2022 and February 2024. The final design of the installation package is also complete, and a board action for award of a construction contract is planned for December 2021.
- **Cholla Wash Cut and Cover Conduit Lining**—This project consists of lining 500 linear feet of the Colorado River Aqueduct Cholla Wash Cut and Cover Conduit with an epoxy lining. The final design is complete, and a board action for award of a construction contract is planned for November 2021.

### 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 rewiring motor controls in the electrical room and installing conduit and electrical panels in the maintenance shop and evaporator rooms. Wet testing of the north chlorine system is expected to be complete before the end of October 2021; wet testing of the south chlorine system will start in November 2021. Construction is 98 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 punch list items, instrument panel testing, and training. Construction is 98 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by November 2021.

#### Diemer Plant

- **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 the Metropolitan staff. Metropolitan staff continues installation and commissioning activities for water quality field analyzers. Construction is 98 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by January 2021.

#### Jensen Plant

- **Jensen Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2**—This three-stage project upgrades the electrical system with dual power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practice and improves plant reliability, and enhances worker safety. Stage 1 work is complete. Stage 2 improvements will upgrade Unit Power Centers 7 and 9 and their associated motor control centers (MCCs) to support critical process equipment. The contractor completed commissioning of the service water, and washwater pumps and continues to work on Building 12 and cutover of other MCCs. Construction is 89 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2022.

### 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 to improve facility safety and overall reliability. Recent activities include the following:

## ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

- **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. 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 change order work while the building remains lightly occupied. The anticipated contract completion 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.
- **Headquarters Physical Security Upgrades**—This project implements comprehensive security upgrades for the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. These upgrades are consistent with federally recommended best practices for government buildings. This work has been prioritized and staged to minimize rework and impacts on day-to-day operations within the building. Stage 1 work enhances security related to perimeter windows and doors. Stage 2 improvements will provide security system upgrades inside the building with a focus on the main entry rotunda area, board room, executive dining lounge, and security control room. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. Construction of Stage 1 improvements is complete. Construction of Stage 2 improvements is 78 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by January 2022. The contractor completed security equipment installation on levels P2 through Penthouse, began testing and cutover to the new security system, and is continuing the rotunda equipment installation. Stage 3 improvements are currently in the design phase, which is scheduled to be complete by December 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 began the fire alarm system cutover on Floor 1 and is continuing installation of the electrical closets, Emergency Radio Responder System, CO Controller, two-hour rated DAS riser, and fire alarm system cutover per floor moving from the bottom floor to top. Construction is 27 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by February 2023.



**Headquarters Building Improvements** — Dust containment in rotunda



## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

### 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**

- Provided regulatory support and construction monitoring for CRA Exposed Barrel Repairs Project.
- Received a Draft Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the CRA Conduit Structural Protection.
- Provided CEQA clearance for the CRA Pump Plant Domestic Water Treatment System Replacement and Cholla Wash Cut and Cover Conduit Repair projects.

#### **Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program**

- Finalized Addendum No. 4 to the Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Valve Storage Building at Lake Mathews.

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

#### **Webinars attended by staff:**

- “Deaccessioning Archaeological Collections” hosted by the Society for American Archaeology.

### 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.

#### **Regional Recycled Water Program**

- Received board approval to award a contract to HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. to provide environmental planning support services.

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

#### **Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve**

- Coordinated with CalFire to update the Lake Mathews Vegetation Management Plan, which includes new prescribed burn areas in the Reserve.
- Conducted habitat restoration consisting of invasive tamarisk and tree tobacco plant removal.
- Repaired reserve fencing and posted new signs identifying the Reserve.

#### **Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve**

- Updated the Wildfire Response Plan and Species Monitoring sections of the Reserve Management Plan.
- Conducted habitat restoration in Tualota Creek, consisting of removal of invasive tamarisk and replacement with native plants.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING *continued*

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

### Climate Action Plan

- Completed peer review of the CAP, associated updates to the CAP, and CEQA documentation based on peer review comments.
- Conducted CAP briefing for Director Luna in preparation for his participation in COP26 (26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the United Nations Climate Change Conference).

### 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.

### Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Compliance

- Updated draft Reclamation Plan and CEQA document to reflect Governor Newsom's signature of Assembly Bill (AB) 442 (Metropolitan's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act legislation).

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

- Created standard WSO EForm Environmental Analysis Template for consistency and streamlining the process.
- Updated and created new EForms with the Technical Control Team (TCT)/Change Control Board (CCB) for ESG Project Lifecycle Phases to ensure timely coordination for environmental analysis data needs for CEQA documentation and regulatory permits.
- Provided technical expertise to TCT/CCB on the ESG Project Delivery Checklist Coordination/Dependencies.
- Created new EForms for ESG Project Design Phase review to ensure timely coordination for environmental analysis.

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 coordination with CDFW Regions 5 and 6 management to execute a new agreement for dedicated staff resources to expedite permitting of 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).

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING *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**

- Conducted data collection for the District Housing and Property Improvements Program Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
- Provided design phase support for:
  1. Battery Energy Storage
  2. Black Metal Mountain 2.4 kV Electrical Rehabilitation
  3. Cabazon Radial Gate Facility Rehabilitation
  4. Copper Basin Access Road and Discharge Valve Repair
  5. CRA 69kV and 230kV Transformers Replacement
  6. CRA Conduit Structural Protection
  7. CRA Delivery Line Rehabilitation
  8. CRA Erosion Protection
  9. CRA Mile 12 Flow Monitoring Station Upgrades
  10. CRA Overhead Cranes
  11. CRA Pump Plant 2.3 kV and 480V Rehab
  12. CRA Storage Buildings
  13. Etiwanda Pipeline Relining Project
  14. Foothill Hydroelectric Plant Seismic Upgrades
  15. Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project
  16. Gene Wash Discharge Valve Rehabilitation
  17. Headquarters Tower WiFi Upgrades
  18. Headquarters Fire Sprinkler Replacement
  19. Jensen Control Room Wildfire Smoke Control
  20. Lake Mathews Electrical Upgrades and New Pressure Control Structure
  21. Lake Mathews Tank Farm Roof Modifications
  22. Lower Feeder and West Orange County Feeder Blowoff Drain Line Rehabilitation
  23. Western San Bernardino RWIPP Construction Package 1
  24. Weymouth Facility Natural Gas System Improvement
- Provided construction phase support for:
  1. CRA 6.9kV Cable Replacement
  2. CRA Discharge Line Isolation and Couplings Repair
  3. CRA Overhead Cranes Replacement
  4. Garvey Reservoir Permanent Drainage and Erosion Control
  5. Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Valve Replacement
  6. Lake Mathews Disaster Recovery Upgrades
  7. Weymouth Chlorine System Upgrades
  8. Weymouth Water Quality Implementations

#### **Water System Operations**

- Provided CEQA analysis and environmental planning support for Water System Operations projects:
  1. Diemer Erosion Repair near Gardenia Reservoir
  2. Rialto Feeder Road Grading and CRA Road Alignment at Pierson Road.
  3. Provided desert tortoise training for projects in the desert, including the CRA Road Alignment at Pierson Road and Cactus City Communications.
  4. Lower Feeder Blow-off Repairs



## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING *continued*

- Obtained emergency regulatory permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, and CDFW to repair the Box Springs Feeder patrol road through Sycamore Canyon Park; submitted post-construction reports following repairs.
- Conducted stream restoration project at Stickleback River Ranch, which is mitigation for the Foothill Feeder Inspections and Maintenance Programs, in accordance with State and federal Endangered Species Permit requirements; documented compliance with Supplemental EIR Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program (MMRP) and regulatory permits (see photos).



**Removal of Culverts and Stream Restoration at Stickleback River Ranch, Mitigation Site for Impacts from the Foothill Feeder Inspections and Maintenance Programs**



**EPS Staff (Sean Carlson, Team Manager, and Michelle Morrison, Environmental Specialist) Monitoring the Removal of Culverts and Stream Restoration at Stickleback River Ranch Mitigation Site**



## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING *continued*

- Documented compliance of vegetation maintenance per CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA No. 1600-2010-0196-R5) for Routine Maintenance at the Foothill Feeder Station 287+00 (San Francisquito High Rise) and Station 383+90 (Santa Clara River) Blow-Off Structures.
- Provided three Desert Tortoise and Environmental Awareness Training classes for the CRA Mile 12 Flow Monitoring Station Upgrades Project.

### **Water Resource Management**

- Completed environmental analysis and provided environmental support for the City of Beverly Hills Desalter Project Local Resources Program (LRP).

### **External Environmental Document Reviews**

- Reviewed 11 CEQA notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.

### **Real Property Support**

- Provided CEQA analysis and determinations in support of two 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.

As severe drought conditions continued and Governor Newsom expanded the emergency drought declaration to cover all 58 California counties, media and public interest in water supply conditions and conservation actions remained high, generating strong coverage on local television, radio, podcasts and print. Metropolitan's water conservation advertising and outreach campaign began using stronger and more direct messaging on digital platforms, out of home and social media. Staff is also coordinating with member agencies and cities to provide targeted local advertising to promote conservation and rebate programs.



Chairwoman Gray and GM Hagekhalil participated in a press conference with Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, along with Calleguas and Las Virgenes municipal water districts, to share details about the operational shift agreement with LADWP to preserve state supplies for State Water Project-dependent areas. The event had strong television coverage and more than 1,000 views of Facebook live stream. (October 5)



GM Hagekhalil testified at a House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife hearing on Colorado River Drought Conditions and Response Measures. He discussed Metropolitan's collaborations with other stakeholders in the basin, including our work with tribes and farmers, and highlighted the Regional Recycled Water Program and its potential to transform the Southwest's water portfolio. (October 20)

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

California Secretary for Natural Resources Crowfoot addressed Metropolitan's Executive Committee and spoke about the Newsom Administration's drought response actions, programs, and investments and the need to collaborate with water agencies and communities throughout the state to meet the current and future challenges. (October 26)

Chairwoman Gray was a guest lecturer at Pepperdine University's Local Government Leadership and Innovation Graduate course and spoke about climate change, Metropolitan's role as a regional water provider, , and the need to support diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives as pathways to leadership and success. (October 28)

### **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 water policy issues.

### **Federal**

The Environmental Protection Agency released a PFAS roadmap outlining the agency's plan to propose national primary drinking water regulations in 2022 and a final standard in 2023. Additionally, EPA plans to designate certain PFAS as CERCLA hazardous substances.

### **State**

Metropolitan's sponsored legislation AB 442 (Mayes, I-Rancho Mirage): Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975: Exemption: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California was signed by Governor Newsom. Other priority bills signed include SB 626 (Dodd, D-Napa): Department of Water Resources: procurement methods and AB 361(R. Rivas, D-Hollister): Open meetings: state and local agencies: teleconferences.

The Newsom Administration rolled out the new funding for drought relief authorized in the FY 2021-22 state budget, including the \$200 million Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief program, \$200 million for water recycling and groundwater remediation, and \$30 million for PFAS support. Water agencies that accrued customer debt during the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for financial assistance from the State Water Board's Arrearage Payment Program.

### **Local**

GM Hagekhalil was the featured speaker at the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce's Energy, Water & Environmental Sustainability Council meeting. (October 7)

Metropolitan sponsored the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership's 2021 Business & Leadership Event program to honor Congresswoman Napolitano (D-El Monte), who received the "Public Service Award." (October 9)

GM Hagekhalil spoke on a panel at the Metropolitan-sponsored Orange County Water District's Annual Water Summit. Directors Ackerman, Camacho, De Jesus, Dick, Erdman, Luna, and Tamaribuchi were in attendance. (October 15)

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*



**GM Hagekhalil at Orange County Water Summit**

GM Hagekhalil participated in a Leadership Roundtable with members of the Los Angeles County Business Federation. (October 20)

GM Hagekhalil spoke at the Associated Water Agencies of Ventura County's Annual Water Symposium. (October 21)

AGM of EA Zinke participated in a panel discussion, "Imagine a Day Without Water in San Diego," hosted by the League of Women Voters to discuss water supply conditions and Metropolitan's commitment to resiliency and reliability for the region. (October 22)



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:

- Water Associations of the County of Orange (October 1)
- Ventura County Special District Association Board (October 5)
- South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce Board and Government Affairs Committee (October 5)
- California Building Industry Association Government Affairs Committee (October 6)
- Inland Empire Economic Partnership Government Affairs Committee (October 6)
- Los Angeles County Business Federation roundtable with Assembly Member Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles) (October 6)
- Glendale Chamber of Commerce Business Advocacy and Legislative Review Committee (October 7)
- LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee (October 7)
- Los Angeles County Business Federation Advocacy Committee (October 7)
- Glendora Chamber of Commerce (October 7)
- Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (October 7)
- West Ventura County Business Alliance Business Advocacy Committee (October 11)
- Regional Chamber of Commerce—San Gabriel Valley Government Affairs Committee (October 11)



## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Land Use Committee (October 12)
- Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee (October 12)
- Orange County Business Council Infrastructure Committee (October 12)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition Legislative Committee (October 13)
- United Water Conservation District Annual Water Sustainability Forum (October 14)
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce ACCESS L.A. (October 14)
- Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (October 14)
- Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (October 14)
- Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (October 14)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Water Committee & Water Technical Advisory Committee (October 14)
- Upland Chamber of Commerce Legislative Advocacy Committee (October 14)
- Orange County Business Council Government Affairs Committee (October 15)
- Anaheim Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (October 15)
- United Chambers of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (October 18)
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce with California Secretary of State Weber (October 18)
- El Segundo Chamber of Commerce Government and Military Affairs Committee (October 18)
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Water Issues Committee (October 19)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Governmental Affairs Committee (October 20)
- California Women in Agriculture Ventura County Chapter Board (October 20)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Government Committee (October 20)
- Coalition of Labor, Agriculture, and Water Committee on Water, Housing, Energy, Environment and Labor (October 20)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Energy, Environment, Natural Resources Committee (October 20)
- San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network (October 20)
- San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers (October 21)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Board (October 21)
- Southern California Water Coalition Annual Dinner (October 21)
- Central City Association Economic Development Panel (October 21)
- United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley Board (October 25)
- Chambers Alliance of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura Counties Board (October 26)
- Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (October 26)
- Gateway Chambers Alliance Governing Board (October 26)
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Legislative Committee (October 27)
- Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality Board of Directors and Regulatory Affairs Committee (October 27)
- City of Torrance Water Commission (October 27)
- Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee (October 27)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Board (October 27)
- Huntington Beach Chamber Government Affairs Committee (October 27)
- Oxnard Leadership Steering Committee (October 28)
- West Ventura County Business Alliance Board Meeting (October 28)
- Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business Annual Meeting (October 28)
- Association of California Cities - Orange County Environmental, Energy and Water Committee (October 28)
- Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce Government Affairs Committee (October 28)

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Building Industry Association of Southern California Board of Directors (October 28)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition Meeting (October 29)

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.

### **Media Activities and Interviews**

Coordinated interview with Wall Street Journal reporter Catherine Stupp and IT's Security Manager Margolis regarding broad cybersecurity issues and the cyberattack earlier this year.

Arranged two separate interviews with Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp and Los Angeles Times reporter Ian James and Associated Press reporter Felicia Fonseca regarding settlement agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District.

Set up interview with E&E News reporter Jeremy Jacobs and Water System Operation's Manager Chaudhuri on Regional Recycled Water Program and potential water supply role in Colorado River Lower Basin.

Coordinated interview with Arizona Daily Star reporter Tony Davis and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp about next steps in negotiations on the Colorado River, including the possibility of additional short-term actions that can be taken to prop up Lake Mead's level.

Arranged interview with AP reporter Adam Beam and Water System Operations' Resource Planning Manager Polyzos regarding a zero percent SWP project allocation next year.

Responded to questions from San Diego Union Tribute reporter Joshua Emerson Smith on Metropolitan current and future rates and investments in conservation and recycling.

Responded to questions from Bond Buyer reporter Keeley Webster regarding Metropolitan rates and future investments to adapt to climate change.

Coordinated interview with KFI-AM 640's Dean Sharp and Water Efficiency Manager McDonnell on conservation at home for weekend edition of "Home with Dean Sharp" radio show.

Arranged interview with KNX-AM 1070's radio reporter Emily Valdez and GM Hagekhalil regarding new partnership with Arizona on RRWP.

Set up taped interview with GM Hagekhalil and Southern California Water Coalition for What Matters Water TV + Podcast on a wide range of water topics.

Coordinated interview with AP reporter Sam Metz and EO/AGM Upadhyay regarding RRWP.

Coordinated interview with KTLA-TV Channel 5 news reporter Lauren Lyster and Water System Operations' Resource Planning Manager Polyzos on drought and water supply outlook.

Coordinated interview with KNBC4 news reporter Vikki Vargas and GM Hagekhalil regarding water supply and expansion of Gov. Newsom's statewide emergency drought declaration.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*



Conducted media training sessions with select executive managers and staff.

### Press Releases

- Partnership with Arizona water agencies to help fund environmental planning of RRWP
- Statement from GM Hagekhalil on Gov. Newsom's expansion of drought declaration to entire state
- Board's adoption of statement pledging its support of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives

### Website

Generated a 40 percent monthly increase in visitations—145,777 total visits—to the mwdh2o.com website, with the homepage, careers, and job listing pages the most frequent online destinations.

Received nearly 48,000 views—a 30 percent increase over the previous month—on bewaterwise.com, with the turf replacement, California Friendly and native plant profiles the most popular pages.

### Social Media

Celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, featuring six employees sharing stories about their culture, families, values, and work at Metropolitan.

Celebrated Water Professionals Appreciation Week with a video featuring Metropolitan's commitment to supply reliability, water quality, and staff. The posts received more than 1,000 views across all platforms.

Recognized "Imagine a Day Without Water" with a video highlighting how Southern California gets its supplies.

Generated high organic engagement on Twitter, with more than 7,000 impressions, including a post about Metropolitan's partnership with the Central Arizona Project to advance the development of the Regional Recycled Water Program.

Featured California Clean Air Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day with related social media posts across platforms.



## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

### Creative Design

Launched a campaign toolkit on [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com) for public and member agency download.

Created new fact sheets for Community Partnering Program, Manufacturing Services Unit, and the economic benefits of the Regional Recycled Water Program.

Showcased Metropolitan drought response and outreach campaign in new homepage multi-media story on [mwdh2o.com](http://mwdh2o.com).

The Public Relations Society of America Los Angeles Chapter honored Metropolitan's "Wasting Water Is" video series with top honors and its PRism award for outstanding government communications.



### Metropolitan Conservation Videos Won Top Honors at PRSA Awards

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 the outcomes of the board retreat and priority issues, water supply conditions, and drought actions, including new conservation programs. (October 1 & 29)

### Construction Outreach

Met with City of Lomita and West Basin Municipal Water District regarding updates on the Second Lower Feeder—Reach 3 rehabilitation project. (October 18)

Distributed notices to residents in La Verne regarding railroad crossing improvements for Weymouth. (October 22)

### Regional Recycled Water Program

Hosted tours of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center for Assembly Member Gipson (D-Watts) and Assembly Member Bryan (D-Los Angeles). (October 4 and 19)





## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Held Spanish and English language virtual tours of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center. (October 19-20)

### Inspection Trips

Coordinated an inspection trip of the State Water Project and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for the GM Hagekhalil, executive management, and Bay Delta Initiatives staff. (October 27-28)

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.

### Community Partnering and Sponsorship Programs

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

- Asian American Architects/Engineers Association 43rd Annual Awards (October 7)
- Orange County Water District Water Summit (October 15)
- LA Sentinel Taste of Soul (October 16)
- Assn. of Water Agencies of Ventura County Annual Water Symposium (October 21)
- Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator 10th Anniversary Celebration (October 28)
- Mujeres de la Tierra Dia de los Muertos (October 30)

### Education

Metropolitan staff interacted with over 2,500 teachers, students, and parents through online virtual tours, scouting programs, customized Zoom class presentations, and digital outreach. Staff supported community events, including Taste of Soul Family Festival and West Basin Metropolitan Water Harvest S.T.E.A.M. Adventure.



Metropolitan was recognized by the University of La Verne and received a certificate of appreciation from Senator Leyva (D-Chino) for its support of REACH, a program that provides on-campus STEM and college orientation for 60 incoming students who are the first in their families to attend college.

Staff hosted a Career Technical Education workshop for member agencies featuring representatives from BAYWORKS, IE Works', Tomorrow's Talent, and LA County Youth Commission.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

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:

- Caltrans District 11, 17th Annual Small Business Virtual Procurement & Resource Fair (October 19)
- Asian Business Association—Orange County's BIZCON/BIZMATCH conference (October 20)
- Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce SoCal Business Development Conference (October 21)
- Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce "How to do Business with MWD" event (October 28)
- National Latina Business Women Association-Inland Empire 2021/2022 BizCon Expo (October 28)

Facilitated an exploration meeting between Metropolitan managers and UC Berkeley engineering faculty to discuss the research on large-pipe-diameter testing, seismic resiliency of pipelines, and placement on fault lines. (October 7)

Met with staff from the city of Chicago to discuss innovative approaches for apprenticeship programs. (October 7)

Supported a presentation at the WEFTEC conference showcasing Metropolitan for its leadership in innovation. (October 19)



**Showcasing Metropolitan's Innovation Programs at WEFTEC Conference in Chicago**

Hosted the 29th Technology Approval Group (TAG). More than 20 utilities participated, and five technologies were evaluated. (October 27)

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

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

The Organizational Development and Training Unit continued its second virtual Management University Program, a ten-session, bi-monthly program for 25 newly promoted managers. The second session's objectives provided new managers with conflict resolution skills, tools to provide performance feedback to team members, and strategies to strengthen a strategic management mindset through effective communication and consistency of actions.

This month, 348 Metropolitan employees attended online classes, including Organizational Skills, Microsoft Project, Crucial Conversations, Access Database Construction, and Personal Security Awareness.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online, e-learning content platform, was used for 27 classes. Topics included Public Speaking, Project Management, Negotiations Foundations, Enhancing Your Productivity, and Preventing Harassment in the Workplace.

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

Recruitment successfully filled 18 positions for the month of October. We received 51 new staffing requisitions resulting in 167 positions currently in recruitment. Recruitment continues holding virtual interviewing using Zoom.

This month the Board of Directors approved Metropolitan's Statement of Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives. The statement outlines a commitment to a workplace culture that values and supports diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Katano Kasaine, Assistant General Manager (Chief Financial Officer), presented an update on the status of recommendations from the Independent Review of Workplace Concerns to the Organization, Personnel, and Technology Committee on October 11. She reported that 16 of the 47 recommendations in the report have been addressed. The General Manager established a Joint Labor-Management Advisory Committee (JLMAC) and referred nine recommendations for analysis. The JLMAC will provide input and recommendations to the General Manager on those items. Two specific recommendations were referred to the DE&I Advisory Council. Staff from the General Manager, Legal, and Ethics Departments continue to work closely on the remaining recommendations. Kasaine will report on the progress at future Organization, Personnel, and Technology Committee meetings.

In October, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Council heard reports from the subcommittees of the Council and had the first training in the new expert speakers program. Over the next few months, as a DE&I Officer is hired, the Council will hear from outside DE&I experts/speakers on various topics related to DE&I.

Partnered with WSO to begin design of a Workforce Development pilot program focused on the trades and apprenticeship program.

## HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

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



**General Manager Adel Hagekhalil welcomed new employees Jordy Martin and Ryan Gustafon to the Metropolitan family.**

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

The Organizational Development and Training Unit facilitated the latest session of the WSO Management Specialization Training Program for 12 new Operations managers. This program has been designed to continue leadership development after new managers complete the Metropolitan Management University. October's session focused on providing team members with assessments of their own conflict styles and the tools to manage and resolve a variety of conflict management situations.





## HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

Human Resources staff continued to provide one-on-one coaching and mediation services for managers and employees in the developmental areas of time management, collaboration within teams, trust building, strategic thinking, and cross-functional team development.

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 COVID protocols, which increasingly include COVID vaccination mandates at the federal, state, and local levels. 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 staff researched capabilities within the MyHR system to track vaccinated status, testing results, and other COVID related information. Ensuring that this information remains confidential is key to implementing any new functionality. Plans to implement self-service reporting of vaccinated status are being researched.

### **HR CORE BUSINESS: Provide Excellent Human Resources Services**

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

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

HR Benefits staff completed open enrollments for all active employees and provided three virtual webinars as well as one-on-one consultations to assist employees with their benefits questions and elections.

HR Staff successfully completed the CalPERS mandatory audit review on the reporting of unused sick leave to ensure compliance when converting unused sick leave to additional service credit upon retirement. No findings were identified in the preliminary review, and the final report is expected to be provided in January 2022 after all selected agencies are finalized.

Benefits Staff launched the National Retirement Security Month (NRSM) campaign and hosted nine virtual webinars during the month of October on topics including how to maximize your contributions, investment education, and financial and retirement planning.

In October, Employee Relations staff continued discussions with the bargaining units on COVID impacts in anticipation of further federal and/or state guidance which may mandate COVID vaccinations. Discussions are focused on medical and religious exemptions and how those might work in the context of mandated vaccines. COVID impacts continue to be a priority of the bargaining units, and the parties intend to work collaboratively to resolve any outstanding concerns.

Partnered with executive management and Chairwoman of the Board to provide communication styles training to all Board of Directors members at an offsite retreat.

## HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

### **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 September, twelve new workers' compensation claims were received and eleven 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.

Staff is collaborating with other Metropolitan stakeholders to implement a new Incident Reporting and Case Management System designed by Ventiv Technology. Staff has also now completed the transition to a new Workers Compensation Third Party Administrator, TRISTAR. It is anticipated that TRISTAR will greatly improve the administration of Workers Compensation, as well as providing enhanced service to injured workers

- Coordinated medical surveillance exams at four facilities (Hinds, Eagle Mountain, Iron Mountain, and Gene Camp) which included respirator exams, Department of Motor Vehicle exams, and hearing tests.
- Coordinated two random drug tests.
- Arranged eight medical evaluations (DMV and medical surveillance).
- Addressed eight accommodation issues.

Received approval of salary schedules from OP&T and the Board of Directors in accordance with CalPERS regulations.

HR Metrics	June 2021	October 2021	Prior Month September 2021
<b>Headcount</b>			
Regular Employees	1,806	1,788	1,786
Temporary Employees	30	32	34
Interns	3	2	2
Recurrents	20	20	20
Annuitants	16	15	16

	October 2021	September 2021
<b>Number of Recruitments in Progress</b> (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	167	134
<b>Number of New Staffing Requisitions</b>	51	31
	October 2021	September 2021
<b>Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress</b>	12	10
<b>Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits</b>	1	2
<b>Number of New Job Audit Requests</b>	3	0

## HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 20/21 Totals</u>	<u>October 2021</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	74	7	20
Temporary Employees	30	1	10
Interns	3	0	3
<b>Internal Promotions</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Management Requested Promotions</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Retirements/Separations</b> (regular employees)	<b>78</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Employee Requested Transfers</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

# 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.

- Continued operational analysis, assessments, and monitoring of IT network and systems to identify potential vulnerabilities and take action to remediate findings.
- Continued to implement cybersecurity tools and protocols in the areas of Application Security, Multi-Factor Authentication, and Identity and Access Management to protect Metropolitan against evolving cyber threats.
- Monitored and maintained IT network and remote connectivity to ensure secure and reliable services for employees' teleworking.
- Deployed Cybersecurity Awareness Training (CSAT) to address increasing threats to Metropolitan Water District's security data, information systems, and operational technologies online. Mandatory CSAT is being provided to all Metropolitan employees and must be completed by all current employees, new hires, and anyone who accesses Metropolitan-provided information systems and mobile devices.
- Conducted cybersecurity briefing to the Board (October OP&T Committee) as part of keeping board members apprised of cybersecurity projects, initiatives, and activities.



Cybersecurity

**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 supporting Metropolitan's strategic priorities by replacing end-of-life infrastructure, upgrading applications, and delivering innovative solutions to ensure the reliability and resilience of IT systems. Selected project activities include:
  - **Budget System Replacement**—With the deployment of the new budgeting system to support the capital and O&M budget processes and board deliverables, IT continued post-deployment support to the CFO Office as the system went live and budget coordinators who are currently using the new system for the biennial budget development.
  - **Enterprise Data Analytics**—This project's scope is to develop a data and analytics strategy, create implementation best practices, and engage Metropolitan stakeholders on a technology blueprint to serve the data analytics needs of Metropolitan business groups. Conducted a project kick-off with the project team and consultant to begin defining data analytics requirements and objectives.



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

- **WiFi Infrastructure Upgrade**—The scope of this project is to upgrade the WiFi infrastructure at Headquarters and remote facilities to replace the end-of-life system. Recent activities include the completion and issuance of a Notice to Bid (NIB) required for upcoming construction-related activities to support this upgrade, along with the completion of frequency surveys at selected remote sites.

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

- Worked in collaboration with Metropolitan's EOC to initiate an ICP Tabletop Exercise (cybersecurity) to evaluate recovery capabilities in the event of an emergency or major system outage. The objective of the tabletop exercise focused on roles and responsibilities related to cybersecurity response and the development of a comprehensive response plan.

### 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 completed last fiscal year and is strategic to ensuring recovery capabilities before moving the primary site.
  - **Primary Site**—The project 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.
  - Final preparations are currently underway for the November board meeting to provide an update on the data center modernization efforts and to seek approval for a contract amendment associated with upcoming work at the primary site.



Datacenter at an undisclosed location

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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

- Collaborated with Administrative Services Section staff on 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 the collaborative, automated workflow of document-centric processes. Current efforts focus on optimizing existing digital data and cleanup of network storage drives in preparation for the migration phase of the project.
- During the period, IT staff assisted with identifying and cleaning legacy data to avoid having duplicate records in multiple systems.

### **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.
- IT Group continued to collaborate with stakeholders (behind the scenes) on work associated with IT infrastructure required to support physical security and current construction upgrades taking place at the Headquarters rotunda area.

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

- Continued efforts to upgrade the Fuel Management System that enables management controls over fuel inventories, dispensing, and security to ensure operability, vendor support, and system reliability.
- The team recently completed site surveys at the 13 fleet facilities to gather information needed for detailed project planning and development of site-specific requirements. As part of the project's development phase, IT resources are working on the set-up and configuring the new software for testing in the development environment.



**Fueling Station**

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

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

- Elements of the Security Operations Center (SOC) project are underway to implement new countermeasures to protect Metropolitan's computing infrastructure. 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. Recent activities include finalizing site selection for the new SOC, evaluating innovative options and alternatives, and managing interim solutions during the development phase of Metropolitan's Security Operations Center.

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

- Continued Metropolitan's migration to the cloud by partnering with business owners to transition selected virtual servers and applications to Microsoft's Azure Cloud. A key benefit of these migrations (servers and databases to the cloud) has allowed for the decommissioning of legacy servers and those that have reached end-of-life (and will no longer need to be replaced). Other benefits include reducing Metropolitan's physical server footprint, risk profile, and potential vulnerabilities associated with legacy hardware and operating systems.
- With the successful completion of prior efforts, IT staff are currently working on migrating a batch of applications to the Azure cloud environment comprising approximately 50 servers. The work is proceeding according to plan and is scheduled to complete by year-end.



Undisclosed Datacenter Location

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

- In addition to deploying innovative solutions, IT continued to provide business value to customers by conducting technology training to Metropolitan staff. During the period, IT conducted instructor-led training. The sessions were well attended, interactive, and enabled users to ask questions on various topics, including cloud file storage, OneDrive, SharePoint, and Microsoft Teams.

IT NOTIFICATION					
DESCRIPTION					
Microsoft Teams, OneDrive, and SharePoint Training - September 23, October 4, 11 & 18					
Four instructor-led, remote training classes conducted via Microsoft Teams are available to Metropolitan staff. These classes are 100% cloud-based training on Cloud File Storage using OneDrive and SharePoint, and Teams Meetings topics. The classes are offered by Microsoft Customer Success.					
Day	Date	Time	Event Topic	Duration	Virtual Session Link
Monday	9/27	11am-12pm EDT	Microsoft Cloud Storage: OneDrive for Business and SharePoint Online (1,000)	60	<a href="#">Click here to join the session</a>
Monday	10/4	11am-12pm EDT	Microsoft Teams Channels & Files (1,000)	60	<a href="#">Click here to join the session</a>
Monday	10/11	11am-12pm EDT	Microsoft Teams Meetings (1,000)	60	<a href="#">Click here to join the session</a>
Monday	10/18	11am-12pm EDT	Microsoft Teams Chat & Meetings (1,000)	60	<a href="#">Click here to join the session</a>

Training Sessions

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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

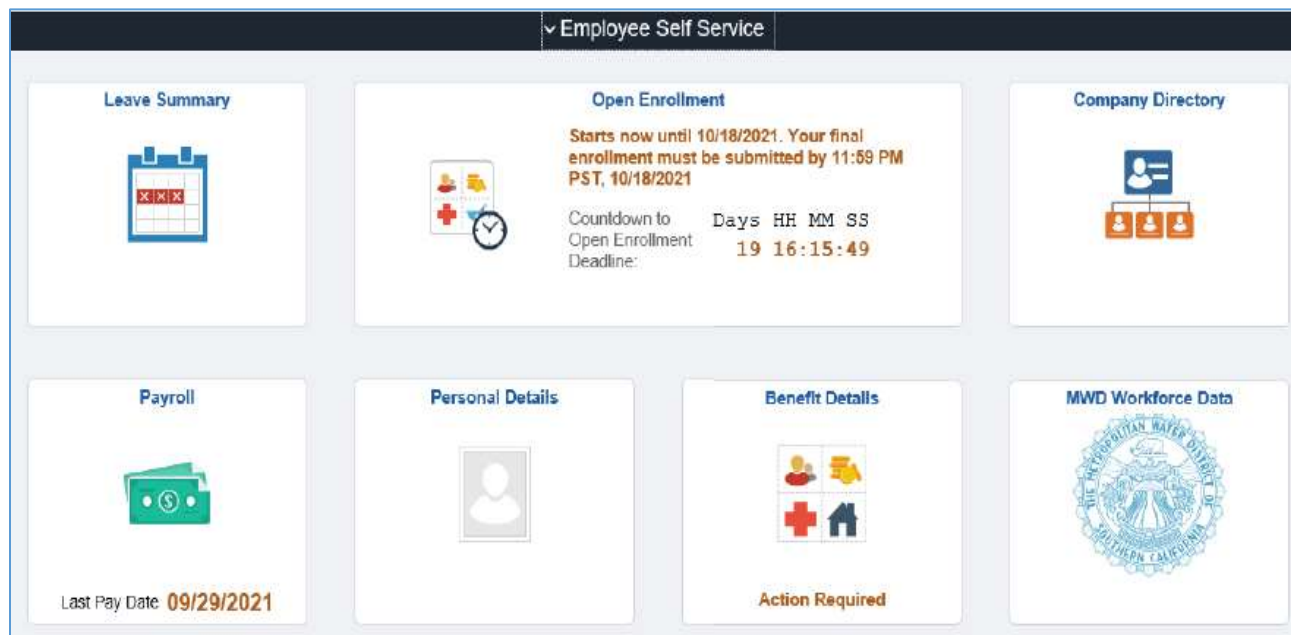
- Metropolitan uses the MyHR application utilizing PeopleSoft HCM v9.2 and Tools 8.56 with PeopleSoft Upgrade Manager (PUM) for patching and enhancements. MyHR is our system for Workforce Management. It enables HR and Payroll to securely access employee information and effectively manage essential HR functions, such as Benefits, Compensation, and Payroll. MyHR also offers a user-friendly platform for employees and managers to do self-service transactions.

As part of IT Group's ongoing initiative to keep our systems up to date in terms of technology, security, and functionality, IT partnered with HR to implement a project to upgrade MyHR. This upgrade included the following:

- User interface upgraded from "Classic" to "Fluid"
- Tools upgraded from 8.56 to 8.58
- Implemented Elasticsearch, a new search engine with better crawl/search performance and the ability to search from any context (navigation/people/data)
- Implemented Fluid Company Directory to view employee job data within the context of the organization's hierarchical reporting structure

The Fluid User Interface (UI) is a modern, improved interface that allows users to access the system from phones, tablets, and desktops. Some of the benefits of using Fluid are easy-to-use tiles-based navigation, home pages and dashboards, approvals, and remote accessibility.

This upgrade provided users with an easy-to-use interface and facilitated the recent Open Enrollment that was completed in October.



**Employee Self-Service Portal**



## 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 permanent easement was acquired from Speedway Commerce Center Development LLC for four access points to the Upper Feeder Pipeline in Fontana. The owner has development plans for the property that would have affected access to the pipeline. Metropolitan worked with the developer to retain access and enabled the owner to develop their property as planned.

Objective #2 Foster staff training and development.

The “Healthy Soils Session #2” training, sponsored by Water Resource Management, was attended by staff to obtain information on regenerative farming, which is helpful as we continue to partner with landowners and leaseholders in the Palo Verde region.

### 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 lease amendment was executed extending the term of the lease with Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District for an additional year. The subject lease is for the operation and maintenance of recreational trails at Diamond Valley Lake (DVL). The premises are used to support various cross country and 5K fundraising events for military veterans and public safety organizations.

The City of San Jacinto was granted a permanent easement for public road purposes. Easement rights are needed by the City to allow for the expansion and widening of Esplanade Avenue.

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

The replacement of the Searl Parkway entrance/exit gates was completed. The gates were damaged by a vehicle ramming into them after hours.



## REAL PROPERTY *continued*

The DVL Marina Concessionaire acquired a fleet of nine E-Bikes that are available for rent and use on the Lakeview Trail. This Concessionaire's investment and recent expansion of the amenities offered at the Marina is in accordance with the new ten-year agreement authorized by the Metropolitan Board of Directors in August. Electric bikes facilitate an easier and more enjoyable ride along the perimeter of the lake.



### Objective #4 District Housing Maintenance and Management.

A total of 54 work orders, including 15 resident-requested work orders, were completed.

Occupancy preparations were completed on two Metropolitan houses, and one new resident was on-boarded at Iron Mountain.

Short-term housing at Copper Basin has been arranged for a new employee while the permanent house is being prepared for occupancy. The repairs are expected to take approximately four months. This short-term accommodation has allowed the employee to be at the worksite, available for on-site operations as required by Safety of Dams.



# SECURITY MANAGEMENT

## GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

### Objective #1 Develop and Refine Security's Strategic Plan

Select security staff attended Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) recertification training at UCLA's Center for Prehospital Care. The ongoing strategic effort significantly enhances security staff's emergency resiliency and response capabilities, both as designated Metropolitan emergency responders and as in-house "Stop The Bleed" instructors for employees desiring national training.

The American College of Surgeons created a "Stop The Bleed" campaign in 2012 after mass shootings significantly increased across America. The campaign encourages bystanders to become trained, equipped and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. The purpose of this training is to convert bystanders into immediate responders, who can then potentially save the lives of those with life-threatening injuries.

Metropolitan offers voluntary training sessions to employees interested in learning how to properly use the bleeding control kits, now installed at all occupied Metropolitan facilities. Proposed future California legislation may make it mandatory for kits and training to be implemented in buildings with more than 200 employees, similar to bills that made Automatic Emergency Defibrillators (AED) a requirement in new buildings with more than 200 occupants.

Metropolitan's proactive stance of investing in superior traumatic bleeding control resources and training enhances the safety of its workforce. Bleeding control kits were installed throughout all occupied major facilities and training was implemented before COVID-19.



**Security staff attended Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) recertification training**

### Objective #2 Improve Security and Emergency Response

In anticipation of a proposed future public access trail system that will parallel the open aqueduct, Metropolitan staff conducted a security vulnerability assessment of the San Diego Canal between Diamond Valley Lake and the Skinner Water Treatment Plant. Staff, which included stakeholders from Real Property, Water System Operations, Operational Safety, and Regulatory Services, and Environmental Planning, identified potential hazards and areas experiencing trespass, graffiti, and encroachment issues.



## SECURITY MANAGEMENT *continued*

The recommended specific additional physical security protective measures, which include the use of additional resources and signage, will mitigate risks to critical infrastructure, control access, and enhance safety for the general public around an open, fast-moving, water conveyance.



Security vulnerability assessment of the San Diego Canal

### Objective #3 Improve Employee Readiness for All Hazards Emergencies

The Security Management Unit is working closely and meticulously with security subcontractors to take delivery of and test new security camera systems designed to enhance the safety and security of employees, visitors, contractors, and the public throughout the Metropolitan Headquarters Building.

These new digital security cameras are replacing an analog system that is over 20 years old and will provide better situational awareness to both the Metropolitan Headquarters Building Security Lobby Desk and Incident Command Post personnel should an emergency activation occur. This challenging project has moved quickly. The last phase of the Security CIP involves installing various physical security measures inside and around the building.



New security cameras at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building



## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

#### Objective #5 Ensure reliable State Water Project (SWP).

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) updated staff on the status of the Castaic Dam Modernization Program, which required a drawdown of Lake Castaic earlier this year. Currently, DWR's contractors are wrapping the bridge piers with sections of fiber reinforced polymer (white material in the photo below) to sustain a large earthquake. The contractors are ahead of schedule, and refilling could commence in November as soon as SWP water is available.



**Worker prepares to use a tack welder at the tower bridge.  
Photo credit: California Department of Water Resources**

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

Staff toured a pilot project in Arizona to test a novel drip irrigation technology. The key component of the technology is a drip emitter that resists clogging at low water pressure, which allows for drip irrigation systems without pumps or electricity. The pilot project is being conducted on Colorado River Indian Tribe land in Arizona. Metropolitan will fund a second phase of the project jointly with the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (the project lead), the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, and Denver Water.

Staff attended the fall meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) in Lake Las Vegas. The Forum heard program updates from federal partners, including the Bureau of Land Management, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey. The Forum also heard and discussed a report from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) on the status of salinity control in the Paradox Valley. The report included a progress update on USBR's seismic risk and hazard analysis, and the prospects of returning to service the existing Paradox Valley Unit injection well, which has not operated consistently to treat salinity since the March 2019 earthquake in the valley. Staff will continue to monitor salinity in the Colorado River basin as high salinity negatively affects agricultural, municipal, and industrial water users.

## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

Staff attended several Colorado River Basin States meetings, including a California-only meeting and several technical working group meetings. The main purpose of the meetings was to continue planning a range of additional measures that can be implemented during the interim period (2022–2026) to slow or halt the decline of Lake Mead elevations during ongoing dry conditions in the basin. These discussions were prompted, in part, by the first-ever Level 1 shortage declaration on the river in August and the projection that Lake Mead elevations could fall below elevation 1,030 ft. within the next 24 months. Working group meetings focused on developing the range of options and strategies for supporting Lake Mead and the environmental compliance measures required to implement a plan.

### Objective #7 Support Capital Investment Program planning.

Staff participated in the final meetings for the CIP review committee. Since July 2021, the committee has reviewed and evaluated over 350 CIP proposals including information technology improvements, seismic retrofit projects, and drought mitigation proposals. All the evaluated proposals will be included on the CIP Appendix for review by the Metropolitan Board during next budget cycle (FY 2022–23/2023–24) discussions.

### Objective #8 Implement Local Resources Program

Staff co-chaired the planning committee to organize the 2021 WaterReuse California annual conference held in Los Angeles. The conference included 48 technical sessions, seven panel presentations, two tours including a virtual tour of the Regional Recycled Water Program, and multiple networking sessions. The conference held both in-person and virtual sessions to accommodate attendees and allow for extended participation. Participation was excellent, with approximately 400 people attending in person and another 175 attending virtually. Staff moderated a technical session titled “Non-Potable Reuse.” Deven Upadhyay, Metropolitan’s Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer and Los Angeles County Sanitation District’s (LACSD) Martha Tremblay also provided a compelling look at how our agencies are collaborating during the “LA’s Water Reuse Future” presentation.



**2021 California WaterReuse Conference: LA’s Water Reuse Future panel. Front row: Ronald Gastelum (Moderator), Traci Minamidi (LA Sanitation), Anselmo Collins (LADWP), Martha Tremblay (LACSD), Deven Upadhyay (Metropolitan), and Stephen Tucker (WRD) Back row: Conference Co-chairs: Paul Liu (LADWP), Lyndsey Bloxom (WRD), and Raymond Jay (Metropolitan)**

## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

**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 IRP climate expert panel held its ninth meeting on October 20 to continue reviewing how their input had been incorporated into the IRP's modeling assumptions and to further discuss climate-related indicators appropriate for data tracking and continued analysis as part of Metropolitan's adaptive management planning.

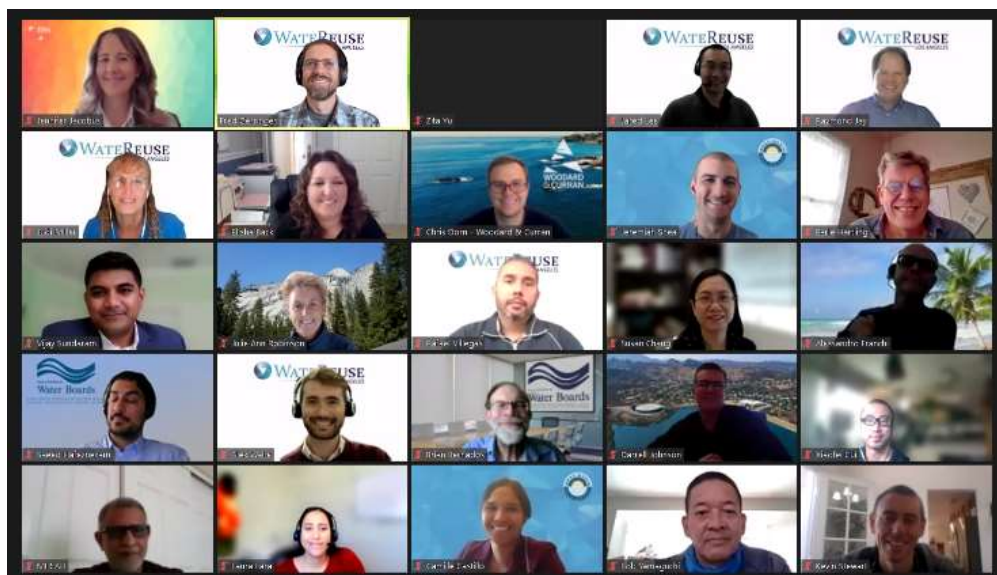
**Objective #4** Manage existing and develop new regional water management programs to maintain water supply reliability in the face of increasing water supply volatility.

Metropolitan provided DWR-estimated minimum demands for State Water Project supplies in order to meet needs for domestic supply, fire protection, and sanitation. DWR requested 2022 delivery schedules for minimum needs in the event 2022 remains dry and they need to allocate available water supplies on the basis of minimum needs instead of the usual Table A allocation. Metropolitan staff developed the demand projections in close coordination with member agencies reliant on SWP supplies. A minimum need for approximately 30,000 acre-feet per month was estimated for the region of the service area reliant on SWP supplies, with an estimated population of 6.6 million people. This estimate reflects the need for SWP water after meeting demands for 55 gpcd and critical CII water use with available local supplies. Minimum needs for SWP water would be met by carryover, groundwater banking recovery, and health and safety exports from the Delta.

Water Resource Management focused efforts on the drought by coordinating with the California Department of Water Resources and the Member Agencies to estimate minimum water needs for domestic supply, fire protection, and sanitation if 2022 remains dry. WRM staff also developed new and expanded water conservation programs to improve short- and long-term water use efficiency and preserve regional storage reserves.

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

Staff provided a recycled water legislation and regulation update via a virtual meeting to approximately 45 members of the Los Angeles WaterReuse Chapter. Staff highlighted legislation, regulations, and funding that may affect development of new recycled water programs including the RRWP.



Members of the Los Angeles WaterReuse Chapter



## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

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

Staff provided a support letter for the City of Long Beach Water Department's Bureau of Reclamation Fiscal Year 2022 Drought Resiliency Grant Program Application. If awarded, the grant would be used to co-fund a project developing new wells and related infrastructure.

**Objective #8** Implement Regional Conservation Program.

Staff continued efforts to promote and implement Metropolitan's regional conservation program:

- Presented at the WaterSmart Innovations Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, on the Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program. Highlights from the presentation include the "We're California Friendly Plants" digital campaign that promotes planting native and low-water-use plants in gardens.
- Presented to retail customers of Walnut Valley Water District on Metropolitan's Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) and multi-family rebate program offerings. The rebates offered by Metropolitan encourage water conservation and help reduce overall regional water demands to ensure greater supply reliability for the region.
- Held two Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program (WELDCP) in-person audit and exam dates in Lake Forest and Escondido. The WELDCP combines the Water Management Certification Program with the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper program. This certification helps reduce landscape water usage by certifying individuals who are proficient in performing site-specific landscape water budgeting. Each event was attended by approximately 30 people.
- Attended California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) program committee meeting as Vice Chair. Items discussed included the current drought response and landscape maintenance needs.

**OBJECTIVE #9** Ensure cost-effective State Water Project supplies

Staff participated in the 8th Annual Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) workshop organized by the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes at the University of California San Diego. FIRO is a flexible water management approach that aims to replace the rigid water control manuals used by water operators since the 1950s. FIRO allows dam operators to selectively retain or release water from reservoirs using the best available real-time data for predicted atmospheric rivers. FIRO has been successfully piloted in the Prado Dam (Orange County) and Lake Mendocino (Mendocino County). DWR has plans to start piloting FIRO at Lake Oroville in the future.

### **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.

Metropolitan participated in the annual Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA) General Manager Business Meeting on October 20. WUCA comprises 12 of the biggest water utilities across the United States that work together to provide leadership and collaborate on climate change issues affecting the nation's water agencies. As a founding member, Metropolitan has been active in WUCA since its formation in 2007. Metropolitan's General Manager, Hagekhalil, participated in the discussion of the five-year strategic plan for 2022–2026 and approved WUCA's workplan and budget for the upcoming year and selected a new WUCA vice chair. The general managers of the WUCA member agencies engaged in a facilitated roundtable discussion on lessons learned in adapting to the pandemic and how those lessons could be applied to the adaptive capacity of water utilities with regard to climate change.



## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

Metropolitan participated in CalDesal's October Executive Committee meeting, where Wendy Ridderbusch announced that she is retiring and stepping down from her position as CalDesal's Executive Director. Ms. Ridderbusch led CalDesal through a re-building phase that included increasing CalDesal's membership, social media presence, and member activities. Staff also participated in CalDesal's Regulatory, Communications, and Conference Planning committee meetings in October. Upcoming events include an in-person mixer on December first coinciding with ACWA's fall meeting in Pasadena and a CalDesal's annual conference, which will be held virtually on February 10–11, 2022.

### Objective #3 Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Staff hosted a Future Supply Actions Funding Program (FSA Program) webinar with the San Diego County Water Authority and the Olivenhain Municipal Water District. The webinar shared the results of Olivenhain's San Dieguito River Optimization Study and included over 25 attendees. The study investigated the feasibility of developing brackish groundwater supplies in Olivenhain's service area. Results from the study will help Olivenhain diversify its resource portfolio and benefit other water agencies considering brackish groundwater as a new drought-resistant supply.

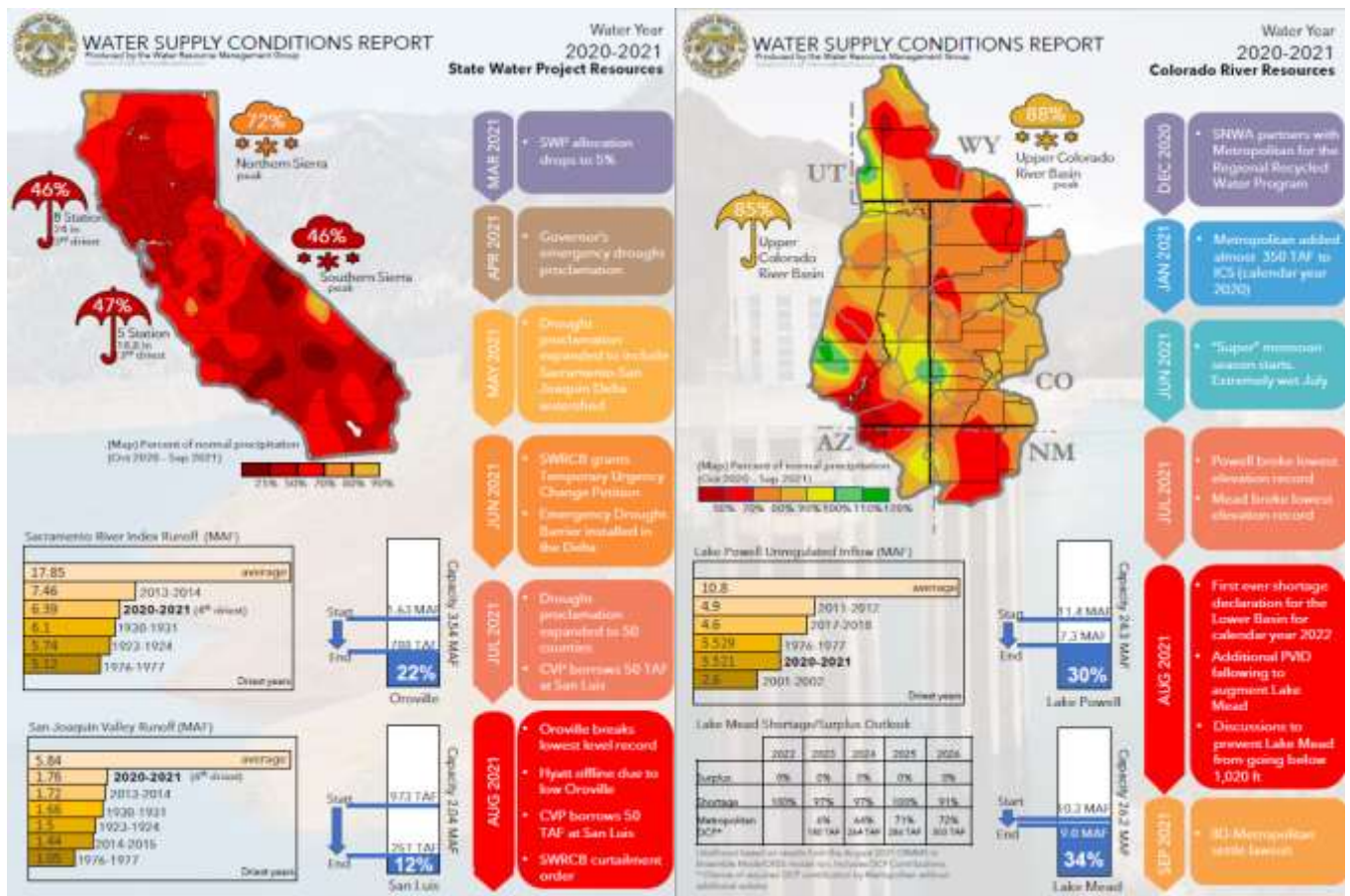
The next FSA study webinar, scheduled for November 3at 10:00 AM with the City of Anaheim, is on the development of city-wide stormwater management development fees.

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

WRM Staff participated in a Peer-2-Peer meeting with Clean Water Services (CWS) on the topics of scenario planning and risk management. During the meeting staff presented Metropolitan's scenario planning in the IRP as a means for understanding future risks and discussed resource portfolio diversification as a risk management strategy. CWS is a watershed, stormwater, and wastewater management agency serving 500,000 customers within Oregon's Tualatin River Basin. Future meetings with CWs will include planning for seismic risks.

Staff published the Water Supply Conditions Report wrap-up for the 2020-2021 water year. The summary included hydrologic conditions, storage level of several reservoirs, as well as a timeline of significant events from October 2020 through September 2021.

# WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*



Water Supply Conditions Report wrap-up for the 2020–2021 water year

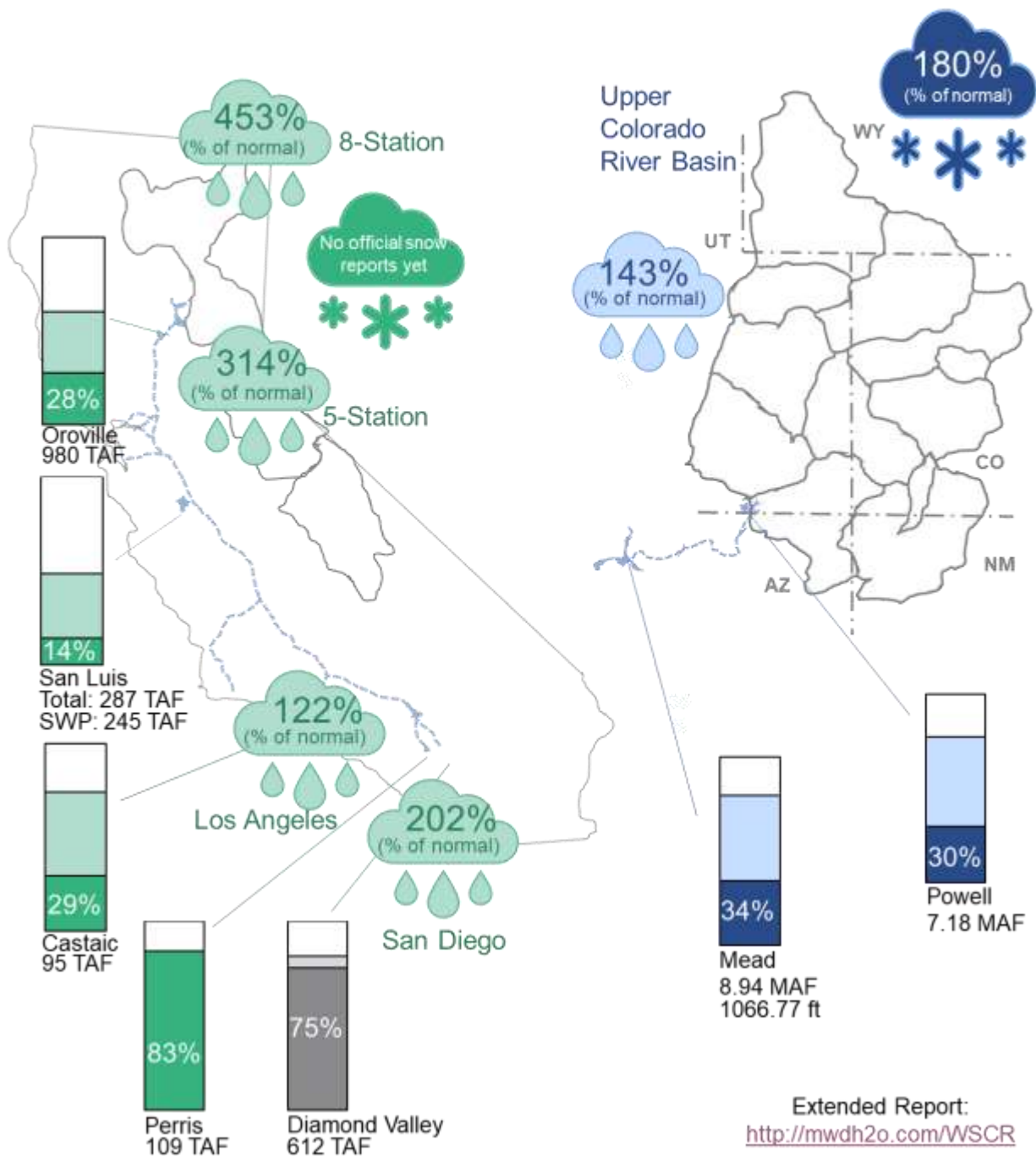
# WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

## State Water Project Resources

SWP Table A – 5% - 95,575 AF

## Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions – 1,076,000 AF



As of October 31, 2021



# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

## GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

### Objective #1 Provide Reliable Water Deliveries.

Metropolitan delivered approximately 146,932 acre-feet (AF) of water to member agencies in October. Deliveries averaged approximately 4,740 AF per day, which was 292 AF per day lower than September. Treated water deliveries decreased by 13,660 AF from September, with a total of 70,326 AF or 48 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) continued at seven-pump flow with a total of 98,988 AF pumped for the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,383 AF per day, totaling about 42,872 AF for the month which accounted for about 29 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. The target SWP blend remained at zero percent for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

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

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

Metropolitan hosted a regularly scheduled, quarterly meeting with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water on October 20. Key discussion topics included a regulatory update, overview of Metropolitan's approach to potable reuse, an update on water supply and drought actions, monitoring filtration at the Jensen plant, plans to revise monitoring of the domestic water system at Intake pumping plant, a review of disinfection byproducts throughout Metropolitan's distribution system, and a status update on water quality and system operations.

Plant and safety staff collaborated to determine new locations for additional safety shower and emergency eyewash stations in a chemical tank farm at the Weymouth plant. The existing safety showers were located in areas that could make it difficult to reach in the event of an emergency. Staff installed two additional safety showers that can be reached without obstructions, demonstrating a commitment to safety and continued improvement.



Staff installing additional safety showers in a chemical tank farm at the Weymouth plant



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

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

Staff began improvements at the Cactus City communication site as part of a capital project to update the existing backup power equipment for the two-way radio systems. The scope of work at this site includes increasing the emergency fuel reservoir of the standby generator from 500 to 1,150 gallons and updating the system to comply with current regulatory requirements.



**Staff demolishing a cinder block wall (left) and excavating (right) to install a new propane tank at the Cactus City communications site**

In 2008, the San Gabriel Pressure Control Structure (PCS) was flooded, submerging the electrical system and equipment. As part of the response to restore the structure, the equipment was cleaned and rehabilitated. A minor capital project was recently awarded to replace all electrical equipment, including the Motor Control Center (MCC), local control devices, lighting, and power equipment, and the 480-volt service equipment. Additional sump alarms and pumps were also installed to reduce the potential of the structure flooding in the future. The majority of the work has been completed, and the facility will soon return to operation.



**Staff isolating the MCC (left) and removing cables (right) for demolition at the San Gabriel PCS**

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



**Staff installing new cables to the MCC at the San Gabriel PCS**

The new Water Quality Instrumentation Building capital project at the Weymouth plant is nearing completion. Staff performed instrumentation loop testing to verify that the SCADA system performed as designed. Following the testing period, vendor training ensured thorough knowledge and understanding of the equipment and the ability to service, calibrate, and troubleshoot as needed. Water treatment plant operators monitor the instruments to ensure that the treatment process is functioning correctly and that water quality goals and standards are being met.



**Instructor demonstrating maintenance procedures (left) and staff replicating these procedures (right) for performance testing at the new Water Quality Instrumentation Building at the Weymouth plant**



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

### Objective #4 Optimize Maintenance.

With 45 total pumps at the five CRA pumping plants in addition to the support infrastructure, addressing corrosion is a full-time job. Staff prepared the surface and coated a pump headcover at the Eagle Mountain pumping plant. This work was coordinated with plant staff to accomplish critical electrical maintenance during the outage, minimizing downtime and increasing pump availability.



**Before (left) and after (right) corrosion and coating repairs on the pump headcover at the Eagle Mountain pumping plant**



**Staff cleaning a 12,500hp motor excitation housing at the Eagle Mountain pumping plant**

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Desert staff respond to after-hours calls for a variety of reasons that may affect operations. Thunderstorms and accompanying lightning can cause issues with the electrical system, while winds and heavy rains can affect equipment, structures, and access roads. When major storms roll through the area, staff responds by ensuring that structures are properly secured while checking equipment and support systems.



**Thunderstorm at the Hinds pumping plant**

After receiving the necessary permits, staff completed erosion repairs along with the CRA near Desert Hot Springs that resulted from heavy rainfall during 2019 storms, which exposed the top of the conduit near Mission Creek. Staff placed 750 tons of riprap and 150 tons of fill material to repair the drainage channel and provide adequate coverage over the CRA.



**Staff shaping a drainage channel with an excavator along the CRA**

Staff identified a leak on the Lower Feeder influent pipeline at the Diemer plant. The leak occurred on a sample line that had no means of isolation from the main feeder. The leak repair was urgent and had to be performed while the Lower Feeder was in service to the extent possible, considering the severe drought conditions and the region's reliance on high.



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Colorado River supplies treated at the Diemer plant. Staff ensured that all safety measures were in place and successfully repaired the leak by installing a new pipe with an isolation valve. During this repair, there were no interruptions to the operation of the Diemer plant.



Staff installing new pipe on the Lower Feeder influent pipeline at the Diemer plant



Staff celebrating successful repair of the pipeline leak on the Lower Feeder influent pipeline at the Diemer plant

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff responded to the OC-70 service connection on the Allen McCulloch Pipeline to troubleshoot and restore operations of the Remote Terminal Unit (RTU). The RTU receives and transmits flow, pressure, and equipment status data to the Eagle Rock Operations Control Center so that the connection can be monitored and operated remotely. Staff were able to restore normal operations with no impacts to customers.



**Staff troubleshooting an RTU at the OC-70 service connection**

Following completion of the Greg Avenue pump station upgrades, telecommunication equipment was found to be installed in a non-Metropolitan standard equipment cabinet and, therefore, more vulnerable to accidental damage. The equipment is used to remotely operate the pump control structure. Greg Avenue pump station is being used to convey Colorado River water to the western portions of Metropolitan's service area in Los Angeles and Ventura counties as a drought mitigation action. It is critical to maintain communications to this structure to ensure reliable water deliveries. This past month, staff procured a cabinet to protect the telecommunication equipment, made necessary modifications, and installed the equipment without requiring a facility outage.

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Telecommunication equipment before (left) and after (right) replacement at the Greg Avenue pump station



New telecommunication equipment cabinet at the Greg Avenue pump station

Staff continued the system-wide coatings program aimed at preventing corrosion and extending the life of pipelines and other infrastructure. In October, staff completed coating on equipment at several Rialto Pipeline structures. The equipment is critical to maintaining pipeline integrity, facilitating efficient dewatering, and providing access for internal inspections. Staff also completed coatings maintenance at the Sepulveda/Santa Monica Feeder interconnection structure.



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Rialto Pipeline air release vacuum valve assembly before (left) and after (right) coating work



Sepulveda/Santa Monica Feeder interconnection before (left) and after (right) coating work



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

### Objective #5 Manage the Power System.

Staff identified a potential resource adequacy (RA) shortfall in support of CRA pumping operations of approximately 5 megawatts (MW) for December 2021. The forecast shortfall is due to continued high pumping operations and reduced capacity at Hoover and Parker dams caused by low water conditions and annual scheduled maintenance. A Request for Offer (RFO) was issued by Metropolitan's scheduling coordinator AEPCO (Arizona Electric Power Cooperative), for capacity to make up the forecasted shortfall. The RFO was issued on October 1, and offers were received on October 8. An RA capacity purchase agreement with one supplier was subsequently approved and executed, ensuring sufficient power capacity for continued high CRA pumping operations through the end of the year to support Metropolitan's drought mitigation actions.

### Objective #6 Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response.

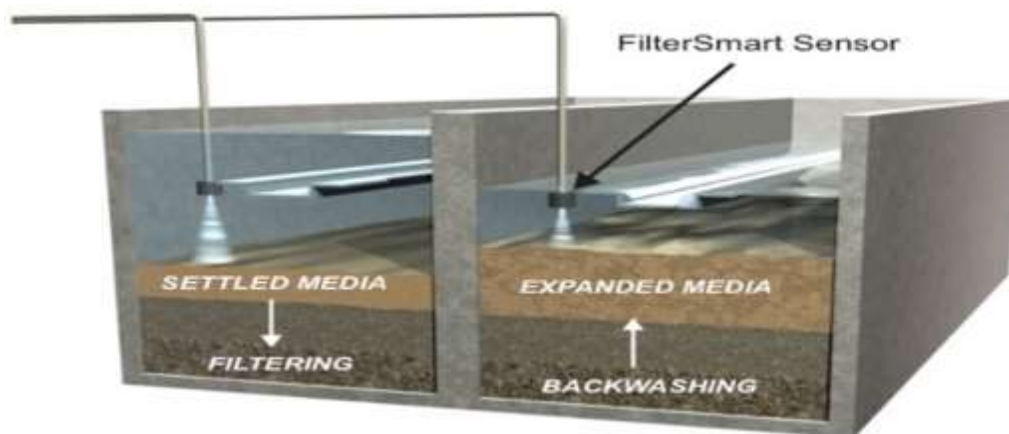
As being prepared is vital to Metropolitan's resilience, staff has planned a series of emergency exercises for Metropolitan emergency responders and its participating member agencies. During October and November, Metropolitan will be running exercises to prepare for a myriad of scenarios, including earthquakes, cyber-security events, security coordination with outside agencies, and emergency communications. Starting with the Great California ShakeOut on October 21 and concluding with a joint Metropolitan/member agency tabletop exercise in mid-November, numerous virtual exercises will be conducted. Routinely running these types of emergency exercises keeps Metropolitan prepared for the unknown.

### 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 October 2021.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from August 2020 through July 2021 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of SPW and CRA water were 570, 569, and 570 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Staff recently installed a FilterSmart sensor in one of the filters beds at the Mills plant. The sensor will be used to monitor filter media expansion during backwashes. Monitoring filter media expansion ensures that filters are adequately cleaned during backwashing, and that media loss is minimized. The sensor was installed as a pilot project to compare its accuracy against the filter surveillance method currently used and, based on its performance, may be considered for additional use in the future.



**FilterSmart sensor applied as a pilot project at the Mills plant**

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff installed two new fire hose connections with an isolation valve at a washwater reclamation facility at the Skinner plant. The washwater reclamation plant cleans the water removed from the treatment process (i.e., filter backwash water), but routine maintenance is required to clean the reclamation plant basins. To optimize maintenance operations, staff installed new valves and fire hose connections at the end of the basins. This will enhance safety and access for staff when cleaning the reclamation plant basins.



Staff welding and installing a valve from a manlift at the Skinner washwater reclamation plant

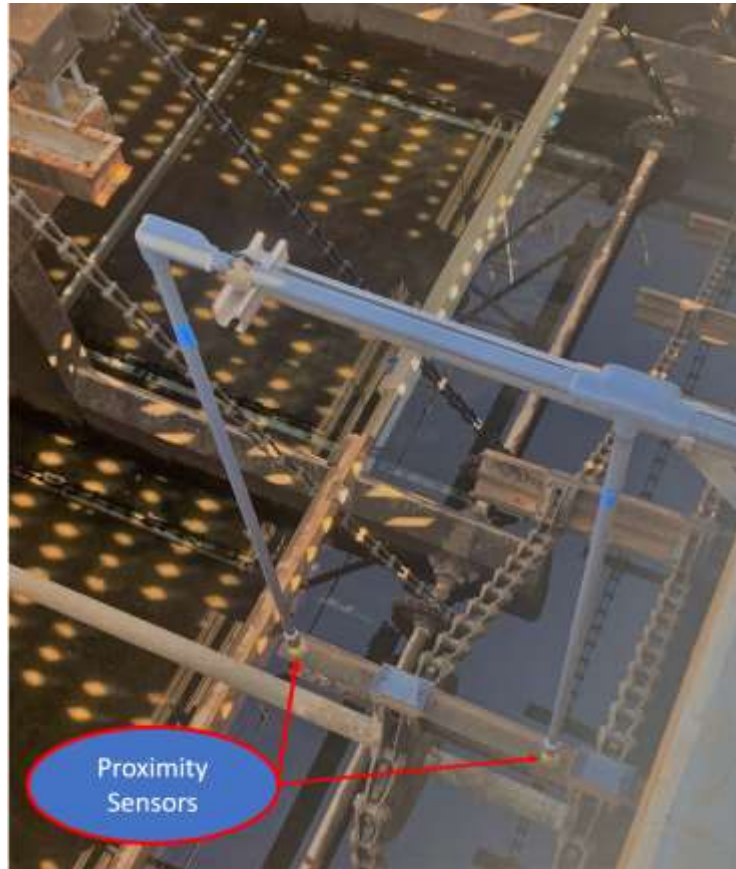
## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Stainless steel valve and hose connection installed at the Skinner washwater reclamation plant

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff completed an improvement for monitoring motion of the Skinner washwater reclamation plant flights and chains as well as cross-collector equipment. This equipment prevents the heavier solids from building up in the reclamation plant basins. Motion monitoring ensures that the underwater mechanical equipment is functioning properly while the basin is in operation. The original design included motion monitoring, but the proximity sensors were placed underwater and were inaccessible while the basin was in operation. The new installation provides more convenient access to the monitoring sensors from above, so the basin does not have to be dewatered for service or repair.



**Proximity sensors recently installed for equipment motion monitoring at the Skinner washwater reclamation plant**



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

### Objective #8 Manage Water Reserves.

Water reserves continued to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles, operational objectives, and the current 5-percent SWP allocation. Deliveries of SWP supply were minimized to preserve SWP Carryover and Flexible Storage. Releases from Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) through PC-1 to connections on the Lakeview Pipeline, as well as the DVL to Mills plant operation, continued in October to conserve SWP use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in October. Staff continued 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 water 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. Staff continues to develop additional drought mitigation actions to prepare for the potential of a dry 2022.

### Objective #9 Support Imported Supply Reliability.

The La Verne Shops refurbished a large scroll case door for a pump unit for the Department of Water Resources (DWR's) Gianelli Pump Generating Plant at San Luis Reservoir. The scroll case door is used as an access point to perform maintenance work on critical internal components of the pump. This refurbishment involved repairing severe corrosion on the O-ring sealing surface, and door hinges through welding, finish machining and recoating to prevent corrosion once returned to service. Staff also manufactured a new door frame, two-door flanges, and stainless-steel hinge pins as part of the assembly.



**Staff machining a scroll case door to remove a corroded flange for DWR's Gianelli facility**

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



**Staff welding new flange to the existing scroll case door for DWR's Gianelli facility**

### Objective #10 Manage Vacancies.

WSO filled two vacant positions in September 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. This month, mechanical apprentices completed Water Treatment fundamentals through a local community college as part of their academic instruction. This class presents the basic operating principles and techniques of the conventional surface water treatment process, in addition to common disinfection processes. The class also assists in preparation for the water treatment operators certification examination.

### Objective #12 Enhance Support Infrastructure at the Desert Facilities

Staff recoated the playground equipment and installed a new border and bedding material at the Hinds facility, ensuring that this recreational area will provide many more years of enjoyment for the Desert staff and their families.

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff installing new bedding material for the playground area at the Hinds facility

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

#### Objective #1 Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation.

Staff participated in a series of meetings of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) working group convened by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule. The NDWAC will provide advice and recommendations on revising the rule as required by mandates in the 2018 America's Water Infrastructure Act to revise the CCR regulations, require biannual delivery of CCRs for large systems, and allow electronic delivery of CCRs.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) approved an 11.9 percent increase in National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit fees and a 16.8 percent increase in waste discharge requirement (WDR) fees for fiscal year (FY) 2021–22. Additionally, SWRCB projected a 4.0 percent increase for both NPDES and WDR fees for FY 22–23. Metropolitan annually pays fees for four NPDES and nine WDR permits. Staff will adjust Metropolitan's budget accordingly and will continue to monitor any further developments.

On September 28, the EPA rescinded its guidance document for the Supreme Court's ruling in the County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund case. While the Supreme Court set out seven factors to help determine when functional equivalency exists for a pollutant discharge from a point source that reaches jurisdictional surface water via groundwater or other subsurface flow, the previous EPA administration added an eighth factor (i.e., the design and performance of the system or facility from which the pollutant is released) in an effort to limit the ruling's applicability. In January 2021, staff submitted comments disagreeing with adding this eighth factor. The new administration agreed with Metropolitan and rescinded the guidance. Staff will continue to monitor this issue as it moves forward.

On October 1, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) adopted new Rule 118.1 and Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 1470 that address run times for stationary emergency generators. Rule 118.1 allows utilities to exclude three hours of run time (up to 50 hours/year) if the electric utility provides a notice of imminent shutoff (i.e., PSPS). The rule also excludes the generator run time when power is shut off for repairs associated with PSPS events. PAR 1470 allows Tier 0 or 1 low-use generators located in very high fire severity zones to average maintenance and

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

testing hours over a three-year period, provided that no one generator exceeds 30 hours/year. Staff provided input to SCAQMD during development of these rules.

Staff joined Association of California Water Agencies staff to present to California Air Resources Board (CARB) rulemaking staff pertaining to CARB's proposed Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation. The presentation highlighted the needs of Metropolitan vehicles that support operations and maintenance of our regional system, shutdowns, emergency repairs, and emergency events. The presentation also highlighted the reliability, market availability and infrastructure concerns surrounding the proposed transition to Zero Emission Vehicles starting in 2024.

On October 5, staff submitted comments on CARB's draft language for its ACF Regulation. The current draft regulation would require new vehicle purchases by public fleet owners, such as Metropolitan, to be 50 percent zero emissions beginning in 2024 and 100 percent by 2027. Emergency response vehicles may be exempt from the requirements, provided that specific conditions are met. Metropolitan's comment letter addressed the need for both commercially available zero emissions vehicles and infrastructure that meet our operational needs before mandating their purchase. Staff will continue to actively engage in this rulemaking effort. Adoption is targeted for summer 2022.

The House passed H.R. 4035—the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (NDAA)—with language requiring EPA to finalize primary drinking water regulations for PFOA and PFOS within two years and to expedite drinking water standards for other PFAS. Unlike other proposed legislation (e.g., H.R. 2467—the PFAS Action Act), the NDAA did not include language designating PFAS as hazardous substances under CERCLA

(Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act). If this happens, the water industry would lobby for an exception from strict liability under CERCLA for PFAS in residual solids that are a result of removing PFAS through the water treatment process. The Senate will now seek to pass its own version of the NDAA. Staff will continue to monitor all regulatory activity pertaining to PFAS.

On October 18, the EPA released its “PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA's Commitment to Action, 2021-2024”. The Roadmap details specific EPA actions to regulate, monitor, and control for PFAS in the environment. Specific actions include:

- Propose enforceable drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS by fall 2022, with a final rule anticipated in fall 2023.
- Propose to list PFOA and PFOS as CERCLA hazardous substances and seek public input about potentially listing other PFAS substances as CERCLA hazardous substances. Both proposals are expected in spring 2022.
- Propose to enhance PFAS reporting under the Toxic Release Inventory by categorizing PFAS substances as “Chemicals of Special Concern” in 2022.
- Update guidance for destroying and disposing of PFAS-containing materials by December 2023.

EPA will be hosting stakeholder engagement sessions regarding PFAS. Staff will continue to monitor all PFAS regulatory efforts.



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

### Objective #3 Support the Regional Recycled Water Program

During October, staff finished the third phase of challenge testing at the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center demonstration facility to assess membrane bioreactor (MBR) system performance with intentionally damaged fibers. Staff performed final testing on both MBR systems without pressure decay tests to demonstrate pathogen removal performance during stable operations with compromised membranes. Staff completed various onsite improvements, including installation of a new break tank for ammonia monitoring, as well as grating for chemical bays and adjacent to the reverse osmosis system to improve safe access to equipment.

Staff continued to plan for final closeout items before completing operations in a tertiary MBR configuration and prepared for the upcoming transition to the next phase of testing with a secondary MBR.



**Staff assisting with lowering fall protection anchor posts to install onto the MBR tank 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 7.7 megawatts, or 5,530 megawatt-hours, and \$344,125 in revenue for September 2021. Metropolitan's solar facilities, totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated just under 850 megawatt-hours in September.

The GM Report for September 2021 did not include the August output of the 3.0 MW solar plant at the Weymouth plant because of a metering error. The error was corrected, and readings were retrieved. The August output of the Weymouth solar plant was approximately 446 megawatt-hours, bringing Metropolitan's total solar plant generation in August to over 870 megawatt-hours.

### Objective #6 Protect Source Water Quality.

On October 27, staff participated in the consultative workgroup meeting for the Topock Chromium-6 Remediation Project. Stakeholders discussed current construction activities and an update on environmental surveys. Additionally, Metropolitan provided a presentation on California's current drought conditions and its water supply and drought actions and emphasized the importance of the groundwater remedy to continue protecting Colorado River water supplies.

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

#### Objective #3 Advance Education and Outreach Initiatives.

In addition to training Metropolitan staff, the Apprenticeship Program is committed to assisting other water agencies with developing their workforces. This month, staff presented an overview of Metropolitan's Apprenticeship

Program and discussed best practices at two forums—a Booky Oren Global Water Technologies (BOGWT) collaboration with the Chicago Department of Water Management and IE Works' Apprenticeship Summit. BOGWT facilitates a Knowledge to Implementation Platform for sharing information between leading utilities across the world, and this virtual meeting allowed Metropolitan to share its Apprenticeship Program with Chicago Water, which is considering similar workforce development opportunities. IE Works partners with Jewish Vocational Services and BAYWORK to build a training workforce consortium in the Inland Empire. The Apprenticeship Summit focused on discussion of a regional apprenticeship program to support high-quality water/wastewater training and economic equity. Several Metropolitan member agencies have joined IE Works and attended the Summit.



#### **IE Works advertisement of its Water Careers Program**

Staff attended the virtual AWWA California-Nevada Section Annual Fall Conference from October 18-21 and gave presentations on “Improved cyanotoxin detection methods for source and finished drinking water monitoring” and “Occurrence of haloacetic acids in moderate and high bromide waters after disinfection.” Other topics covered at the conference included state and federal regulatory updates, water reuse, drought in California, microplastics, developing public health goals, cyanotoxins, emergency response and planning, and treatment technologies. Participating in conferences and meetings ensures that Metropolitan staff have up-to-date information on regulations and emerging water quality issues and can engage and exchange technical information with the drinking water community.

# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

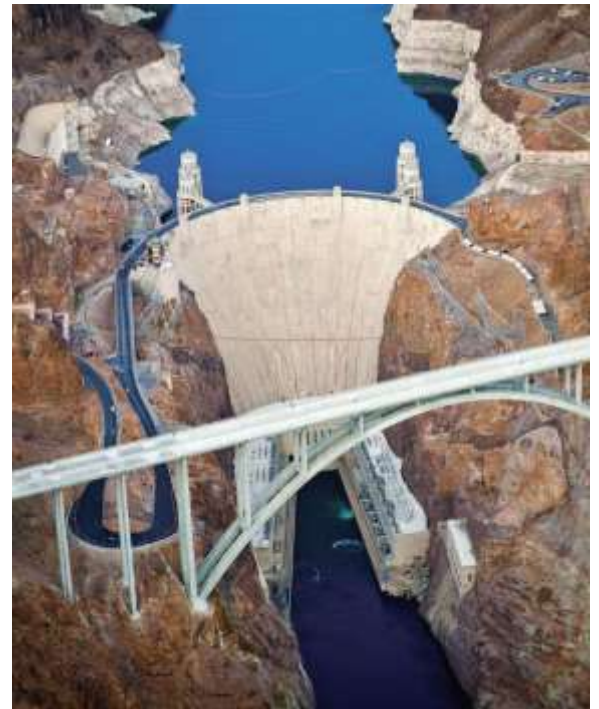
Monthly Update as of:

10/31/2021

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<b><i>Colorado River Basin</i></b>		
Lake Powell	7,182,000	30%
Lake Mead	8,945,000	35%
<b><i>DWR</i></b>		
Lake Oroville	979,688	28%
Shasta Lake	1,001,978	22%
San Luis Total	286,786	14%
San Luis CDWR	245,015	23%
Castaic Lake	95,456	29%
Silverwood Lake	68,688	92%
Lake Perris	108,793	83%

## ***MWD***

DVL	611,623	76%
Lake Mathews	131,272	72%
Lake Skinner	33,213	75%



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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