Southern California’s reliable water supply didn’t just happen. It is the result of major investments made over many years to prepare for the future. This is a valuable role of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. While Metropolitan is the region’s importer of water from the Colorado River and Northern California, it is also the one water agency that can make major water investments for the collective benefit of its 26 member agencies serving six counties, 19 million residents and the region’s trillion-dollar economy.

**ADVANCING CONSERVATION**

At the peak of the 2015 drought, Metropolitan promoted the nation’s largest turf removal program, transforming thousands of Southland landscapes. Such direct incentives, along with Metropolitan-supported plumbing code reforms, have reduced demand by about 1 million acre-feet a year, enough water to supply 2 million homes.

**PREPARING FOR DROUGHTS**

A generation ago, Metropolitan invested more than $3 billion to build the region’s largest reservoir and a tunnel system to refill it in wet winters. The resulting storage network, 13 times greater than what previously existed, has prevented water shortages and economic hardships for Southern California.

**INCINERATING LOCAL SUPPLIES**

To reduce reliance on imported supplies and avoid increased infrastructure costs, Metropolitan has provided more than $450 million to help fund about 100 local projects. Metropolitan’s assistance was crucial in making these projects cost-effective.

**PURCHASING STRATEGIC LANDS**

Acquiring lands in the Palo Verde Valley supports the reliability of drought-year Colorado River supplies while promoting agriculture. Owning islands in the heart of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta has multiple potential values consistent with the co-equal goals of Delta ecosystem restoration and a reliable water supply from the State Water Project.

**INVESTMENTS TODAY FOR WATER TOMORROW**

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**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

April 2017
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: THE BENEFITS OF WATER UNITY

No other region in California has a single water agency like Metropolitan that can make forward-looking investments to benefit the region’s residents and businesses. The scale and scope of the Southland’s many water actions would not be possible without a regional water cooperative. One cohesive approach, as opposed to many, makes sense, saves money and promotes regional unity.

A Unique Southland Asset

Metropolitan is the largest water agency of its kind in the nation. It operates the largest water delivery system and some of the largest and most advanced water treatment plants. Metropolitan has permanent access to two imported water supplies and is the leading provider of funds to assist local water supply projects and regional conservation.

Regional Buying Power

When Southern California acts as one, it can make necessary water investments with the collective buying power of 26 member agencies serving 19 million residents and more than 6.4 million homes and businesses, fueling a trillion-dollar economy. This is how big investments for the region are affordable at the local level.

Collaborative Decision-Making

Metropolitan is a regional government agency that is a voluntary cooperative of 26 different member agencies spanning six Southland counties. These member agencies each chose to join Metropolitan based on their residents’ vote. Metropolitan is governed by a 38-member Board of Directors that is comprised only of directors appointed by the member agencies, to make decisions that benefit the whole. The Board makes all of its decisions in public. The Board’s open and transparent decision-making process reflects the region's common purpose of providing water in an economically and environmentally responsible manner.

The Right Investments at the Right Time

Maintaining a reliable water system doesn’t happen just by building a reservoir. Or purchasing strategically important lands. Or taking conservation to the next level. Or increasing local supplies. Or maintaining imported supplies. Yet by taking these actions together, and seizing opportunities to advance them, Metropolitan has a progressive water strategy for decades to come.