



One Water and Stewardship Committee

11/18/2024 Committee Meeting

9d

Subject

Draft Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water Policy Framework

Executive Summary

In February 2023, the Board directed staff to integrate water resources, climate, and financial planning into a Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) and in October 2023, chartered a Joint Task Force of Board Members and Member Agency Managers to facilitate the development of CAMP4W in a timely and transparent process. CAMP4W includes: (1) Climate and Growth Scenarios, (2) Time-Bound Targets, (3) A Framework for Climate Decision-Making and Reporting, (4) Policies, Initiatives, and Partnerships, and (5) Business Models and Funding Strategies. CAMP4W will increase Metropolitan's understanding of the climate risks to water supplies, infrastructure, operations, workforce, and business model. CAMP4W will also provide decision-making tools and long-term planning guidance for adapting to climate change in order to strengthen Metropolitan's ability to fulfill its mission.

This item is the first step in addressing the fourth component of the Task Force Charter: Policies, Initiatives, and Partnerships. Staff seeks the Committee's input on developing high-level Climate Adaptation Policy Statements to guide future implementation of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water in the Board-identified priority areas: Reliability, Resilience, Financial Sustainability, Affordability and Equity.

Much of the Board's deliberations related to CAMP4W to date have focused on the development of the Climate Decision-Making Framework, which includes the Evaluative Criteria, resource and policy-based Time-Bound Targets and Signposts for tracking real-world conditions over time. As Metropolitan moves into the implementation phase of CAMP4W, staff seeks Board policy direction to guide efforts to institutionalize climate adaptation across the agency. Adopting Climate Adaptation policies has at least three objectives:

- 1) Systemically integrate climate adaptation to increase climate preparedness and improve climate hazard response.
- 2) Update existing and set new policies to strengthen the role of adaptive management and climate adaptation in Metropolitan's initiatives and decision-making.
- 3) Underscore the value of the Metropolitan Member Agency cooperative and other partnerships in achieving regional climate resilience.

Building on the climate adaptation priorities articulated in [Working Memorandum #2](#), which presents the Board-developed Themes and priorities, the CAMP4W Planning Team developed five high-level draft policy statements for Board input at today's Committee. These policy statements are intended to guide future specific implementation actions for advancing climate adaptation, including future policies, programs, studies, research and partnerships. These future actions remain subject to Board deliberation and approval, wherever appropriate. This effort is linked to the next steps enumerated in the [CAMP4W Year One Progress Report](#).

Fiscal Impact

Not applicable

Applicable Policy

By Minute Item 52776, dated April 12, 2022, the Board adopted the 2020 Integrated Water Resources Plan Needs Assessment.

By Minute Item 52946, dated August 15, 2022, the Board adopted a resolution affirming Metropolitan's call to action and commitment to regional reliability for all member agencies.

By Minute Item 53381, dated September 12, 2023, the Board approved the use of Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 for planning purposes in the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water.

By Minute Item 53630, dated May 14, 2024, the Board concurred with the CAMP4W: Draft Year One Progress Report and Next Steps, with the understanding that staff would provide the Board updated data and other information before consideration and approval of any CAMP4W projects.

Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

The five high-level Climate Adaptation Policy Statements in the Board-identified priority areas of Reliability, Resilience, Financial Sustainability, Affordability and Equity will be included in the Draft Master Plan anticipated for early 2025.

Background

Background

This item is the first step in addressing the fourth component of the Task Force Charter: Policies, Initiatives, and Partnerships. Staff seeks the Committee's input on developing high-level Climate Adaptation Policy Statements to guide future implementation of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water in the Board-identified priority areas: Reliability, Resilience, Financial Sustainability, Affordability and Equity.

Much of the Board's deliberations related to CAMP4W to date have focused on the development of the Climate-Decision Making Framework, which includes the Evaluative Criteria, resource and policy-based Time-Bound Targets and Signposts for tracking real-world conditions over time. As Metropolitan moves into the implementation phase of CAMP4W, staff seeks Board policy direction to guide efforts to institutionalize climate adaptation across the agency. Adopting Climate Adaptation policies has at least three objectives:

- 1) Systemically integrate climate adaptation to increase climate preparedness and improve climate hazard response.
- 2) Update existing and set new policies to strengthen the role of adaptive management and climate adaptation in Metropolitan's initiatives and decision-making.
- 3) Underscore the value of the Metropolitan Member Agency cooperative and other partnerships in achieving regional climate resilience.

This effort is linked to the next steps enumerated in Section 5 of the [CAMP4W Year One Progress Report](#) to develop policies and initiatives for achieving resource development goals, establish new or enhance existing initiatives and programs, lead further study or research, or other actions that further Metropolitan's climate adaptation goals. Specifically, the Year One Report anticipated efforts to (1) Develop and consider policies and initiatives, (2) Explore Metropolitan and Member Agency partnership opportunities, (3) Pursue external partnership and collaboration opportunities, and (4) Continue community engagement.

Draft Climate Adaptation Policy Statements

Building on the climate adaptation priorities articulated in [Working Memorandum #2](#), which presents the Board-developed Themes and priorities, the CAMP4W Planning Team developed five high-level draft policy statements for Board input at today's Committee meeting. Policy Statements for each of the CAMP4W Themes focus on

integrating climate adaptation into each of the five focus areas. In general, the policy statements will achieve the following:

- Reliability: Policy Statement to integrate climate adaptation into water supply reliability efforts
- Resilience: Policy Statement to achieve climate resilience of resources and infrastructure
- Financial Sustainability: Policy Statement to account for financial risks associated with climate change
- Affordability: Policy Statement to consider cost impacts of climate adaptation planning and implementation
- Equity: Policy Statement acknowledging the role and importance of communities in climate adaptation

Based on these goals, staff drafted the following overarching Climate Adaptation Policy Statements for Board input. These policy statements are intended to guide future specific implementation actions for advancing climate adaptation, including future policies, programs, studies, research and partnerships.

Themes	Policy Statements (DRAFTS)
Reliability	Long-term regional water supply reliability requires ongoing consideration of climate risks and integration of climate adaptation strategies into Metropolitan programs, policies, planning, workforce development, budgeting, land management, purchasing, and operations.
Resilience	Metropolitan will integrate climate risk and vulnerability assessments for climate-related hazards, including drought, extreme heat and precipitation, sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire, using the best available climate science and climate change information into planning, implementation and operations.
Financial Sustainability	Metropolitan will reduce short-term and long-term climate-related financial risks through its reserve policy, efforts to increase fixed revenues, active monitoring and managing of financial conditions, and by maintaining flexible financing alternatives.
Affordability	Metropolitan will continue to support retail user affordability efforts by pursuing cost-effective investments, new non-rate-dependent revenue sources and other financial tools that support our mission to provide regional wholesale water service in the most economically responsible way.
Equity	Metropolitan will engage with the diverse communities we serve to listen, communicate transparently, and co-create solutions for greater equity in climate adaptation planning and implementation.

Timing and Urgency

Climate Adaptation Policy Statements will be included in the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water, seeking approval in early 2025.

Project Milestones

CAMP4W Upcoming Milestones:

November 20, 2024: CAMP4W Task Force review of Example Assessments / Testing of Criteria

December 2024: (No Task Force) Distribute DRAFT Annual CAMP4W Report, including Signposts, Time-Bound Targets for Review and Comment

January 22, 2025: CAMP4W Task Force: Discuss Draft Annual Report and Climate Adaptation Policies

February 26, 2025: CAMP4W Task Force: Finalize Annual Report and Seek Board Input on Draft Master Plan

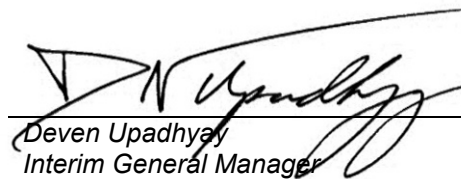
March 26, 2025: CAMP4W Task Force: Seek Board Approval of Climate Adaptation Master Plan



11/12/2024

Elizabeth Crosson
Chief Sustainability, Resilience and
Innovation Officer

Date



11/12/2024

Deven Upadhyay
Interim General Manager

Date