



General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of March 2023



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Message from the General Manager

This month we began refilling Southern California's largest reservoir for the first time in three years. As the news cameras captured the rush of water into Diamond Valley Lake, I felt the enormous responsibility of Metropolitan's mission "to meet present and future needs."

Diamond Valley Lake helped us survive a punishing drought, a time when we had to restrict water use in ways we had never done before. Without this 810,000 acre-foot reservoir, the impact of the drought on the region would have been far worse.

With the incredible storms this year, nature has thrown us a lifeline. Metropolitan and its member agencies are working quickly to replenish storage in local groundwater basins and reservoirs all across the state.

However, we continue to face unprecedented times. Rapid swings in weather could bring back dry conditions as early as next year. The future of Colorado River supplies is uncertain. Natural systems are breaking down under a climate emergency that is testing the limits of our social and physical infrastructure.

To meet "future needs," we must adapt to climate change and build resilience throughout our system. This will require significant investment in infrastructure, diversification of water supplies, expanded storage, equitable access to supplies, newfound partnerships, and a redoubled commitment to water-use efficiency. And we do not have a moment to lose.

Diamond Valley Lake was built in the 1990s, and it is a testament to the value of planning for the future. Looking back, I am grateful for the work of our predecessors. Their efforts allowed us to continue to meet "present needs." Looking at the tremendous challenges and opportunities ahead of us, I know future generations are depending on the work we are doing together, right now.

We are one,

Adel



"Nature gave us a lifeline in the face of climate whiplash."

**- Adel Hagekhalil,
Metropolitan General
Manager (as quoted on
the front page of the LA
Times on 03/29/2023)**



Strategic Priorities Update

The General Manager's Strategic Priorities guide actions in key areas of focus, investment, and transformation for Metropolitan.

Empower the workforce and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion

Build a safe, inclusive, and accountable workplace where all employees feel valued, respected, and able to meaningfully contribute to decisions about their work.

This month, staff presented an update to the Board on the findings and recommendations of the National Safety Council's (NSC) Safety Culture Assessment report. Staff is establishing a workgroup and preparing an implementation plan to address all recommendations in the NSC report. The report has been made available to all Metropolitan employees. In 2023, Metropolitan will be implementing the top priorities identified by the NSC: (1) setting a safety vision, with mission and safety goals; (2) establishing a process for continuous improvement, and (3) reviewing the organizational structure to enable Safety to operate with independence and consistent application of requirements. Subsequently, Metropolitan will implement the remaining recommendations, monitor the status, and pursue continuous improvement.

As of March 23, 2023, and following the adoption of updated policies in August 2022, 1,685 employees (91.8 percent of employees) have taken retaliation prevention training.

Prepare and support the workforce by expanding training and skill development and updating strategies to recruit and retain diverse talent at a time when Metropolitan's needs are evolving and employee expectations about the workplace are changing.

A total of 276 hiring managers and human resources staff were provided training on their roles and responsibilities in the recruitment process, a training that is also consistent with a recommendation of the State Audit. This will be an annual training for hiring managers and human resources staff and will be provided also to new managers and human resources staff upon their hire into one of these roles.

Organizational Development & Training is developing resources and training for managers to support focused career-development conversations with team members during this year's MyPerformance cycle.

The Metropolitan Management University program offered a new module this month featuring Engineering Services' efforts on succession planning and knowledge transfer.

Sustain Metropolitan's mission with a strengthened business model

Conduct a careful, deliberative and inclusive review of the rate structure to ensure the business model can adapt to changing needs of the member agencies and support sustainable local and imported supplies.

Discussions among member agency managers and at the Board's Subcommittee on Long-term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling helped scope and advance the initiation of a Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water.

Adapt to changing climate and water resources

Provide each member agency access to an equivalent level of water supply reliability through necessary adaptive implementation of the IRP findings.

Following the series of atmospheric rivers and an increased allocation of the State Water Project, Metropolitan was able to remove the Water Shortage Emergency Condition and Emergency Water Conservation Program that constrained water use in SWP-dependent areas. Thanks to a great partnership with member agencies, the Program concluded having successfully maintained demand under the necessary volumetric targets. Under current conditions, all areas have equal access to supplies, and we remain committed to structural improvements in anticipation of future dry cycles. Staff presented to the Board the status of the supply reliability projects that will provide equivalent water supply reliability and expects board action on an expanded portfolio to be considered in December. We also conducted the first workshop with the westside SWP-dependent area agencies to determine the methodology for an East-West conveyance study.

Advance the long-term reliability and resilience of the region's water sources through a One Water approach that recognizes the interconnected nature of imported and local supplies, meets both community and ecosystem needs, and adapts to a changing climate.

Staff is developing funding strategies for purchasing 10–12 zero emission trucks and to expedite the installation of fleet charging infrastructure at Weymouth and Union Station. The team is also exploring green energy options for Pure Water Southern California facilities in Carson.

The public comment periods for the Delta Conveyance Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) have both concluded. The Department of Water Resources received more than 700 unique comment letters with over 6,000 individual comments, and they are continuing efforts to organize the comments and develop responses. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is starting the initial organization of the comments they received on the draft EIS.

Staff provided a Bay-Delta Science Quarterly Update to the Board, covering key science activities for the period January 1 to March 31, 2023.

Metropolitan's first annual Climate Action Plan Report will be released in April.

Protect public health, the regional economy, and Metropolitan's assets

Proactively identify, assess, and reduce potential vulnerabilities to Metropolitan's system, operations, and infrastructure.

Metropolitan's Security Management Unit collaborated with the IT Group to launch a new project to focus more closely on the integration of physical and information technology systems to improve the detection and response to security threats. Installation and configuration of audio-video equipment was also completed at the new Cybersecurity Operations Center.

Staff continued work on the pipeline condition assessment tool by meeting to plan pipeline material and inspection data management and inclusion of this data in a future asset management dashboard.

Consultants shared the initial assessment of climate vulnerability gaps and presented to the SRI Council. Staff is evaluating and intends to share results with the Board in May.

Apply innovation, technology, and sustainable practices across project lifecycles (design, construction, operations, maintenance, and replacement).

We have initiated detailed design for the SCADA Control System replacement at the Mills plant.

The RFP posting period for the Enterprise Content Management System closed on March 6, and seven responsive proposals were received for evaluation.

Staff is working to incorporate the requirements for contractor reporting on GHG emissions into Metropolitan's standard construction contract specifications.

Partner with interested parties and the communities we serve

Grow and deepen collaboration and relationships among member agencies, interested parties, and leaders on the issues most important to them and toward mutual and/or regional benefits.

Staff is on schedule to review our Community Partnering Program, propose further public engagement strategies, and to fully take in-house all website management and content.

Reach underserved communities and non-traditional interested parties to better understand their needs and ensure their inclusion in decision making.

We launched our winter/spring flight of regional conservation advertising including messages in six languages.

Executive Summary

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

The Document Services Unit (DSU) launched its College of H2O Knowledge in March. The vision for the college is to educate staff about Metropolitan's operations and water-related topics to understand how their jobs help Metropolitan achieve its mission of delivering high-quality water to 19 million people throughout Southern California. Their first speaker, Bart Garcia from External Affairs, gave a highly informative presentation about the history of Metropolitan. Future topics will include the Metropolitan facilities; the River Policy (expiring in 2026); One Water; Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation, and other topics requested by staff.

Bay-Delta Initiatives

The public comment periods for the Delta Conveyance Project Draft Environmental Impact Report and draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) have both concluded. The Department of Water Resources received more than 700 unique comment letters with over 6,000 individual comments, and they are continuing efforts to organize the comments and develop responses. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is starting the initial organization of the comments they received on the draft EIS.

Chief Financial Officer

Staff has scheduled and begun to prepare for a meeting with Moody's Investors' Service and Standard and Poor's, in early May 2023, to update the rating agencies on Metropolitan's current operations and finances.

Colorado River

On March 23, Reclamation sent a letter to interested parties seeking input on the next phase of its program to establish longer-term durable system efficiency improvements that result in water conservation benefitting the lower Colorado River. This phase follows the first phase of conservation funding by the Inflation Reduction Act that was focused on short-term conservation actions. Metropolitan will be submitting comments on the process to Reclamation, which are due April 6, 2023.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The DEI Team attended several business outreach and procurement events in March to engage with small and minority owned businesses and socialize the opportunities available to contract with Metropolitan. In addition, we hosted the inaugural Project Labor Agreement (PLA) small business workshop in Moreno Valley to give small businesses an overview of PLAs and provide technical assistance. In Tribal Outreach and Engagement, members of the team hosted a booth at MegaThrow, an annual event celebrating indigenous Bird songs and dance of the tribal region. Last, but certainly not least, Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and Women at Metropolitan (WaM) partnered to host a webinar on unintentional bias against women and to celebrate Women's History Month.

Engineering Services

In March 2023, less than a week after the Board's approval of amendments to the Administrative Code to provide for the implementation of new legislation authorizing the use of alternative project delivery methods, Engineering Services issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for its first progressive design build project, Sepulveda Feeder Pumping project. This project will install new pump stations at the existing Venice and Sepulveda Canyon Pressure Control Facilities, providing the ability to reverse flow in the Sepulveda Feeder and deliver water from the Central Pool to a State Project Water-dependent area within Metropolitan's distribution system. Staff anticipates a board action in late-summer 2023 to award the Phase 1 contract for this project.

External Affairs

Metropolitan held a press conference as the agency begins refilling Diamond Valley Lake with State Water Project supplies for the first time in three years. Secretary for Natural Resources Crowfoot, Vice Chair Repenning, and GM Hagekhalil spoke about the many actions underway to maximize the amount of water stored in reservoirs and groundwater basins depleted by drought, develop new local supplies, and encourage conservation. Director Armstrong also attended the event, which earned media coverage from KABC, KNBC, KTLA, Fox News, Spectrum News, KNX News Radio, Los Angeles Times, Southern California News Group, and Press Enterprise. (March 27)

Human Resources

HR Benefits Unit hosted a financial education webinar on March 15, in connection with The Institute of Student Loan Advisors (TISLA) on the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program administered by the Department of Education.

Information Technology

The Information Technology Group continues to make progress with the new water ordering application deployment. Fifteen member agencies have been fully deployed and are benefiting from the enhanced features of the application. The remaining deployments are currently underway.

Real Property

Desert Housing and Recreation Interim Action Plan (DHRIAP) has been implemented, and work continues with the installation of carports at Gene. Eleven out of seventeen carports have been completed. The remaining six carports are expected to be complete by mid-April. Once all carports at Gene are complete, focus will shift to installing carports at Iron Mountain.

Security Management

Metropolitan's senior security specialists updated protocols, resources, and plans to address metal theft, illegal dumping, and abandoned vehicle incidents occurring within Metropolitan's fee properties.

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

This month, the Chief SRI Officer presented at several events. On March 20, as part of UN Water Week, the CSRIO participated virtually in a New York gathering of water agencies representing global megacities to discuss water challenges and identify synergies for future collaborative research around water recycling, water planning, and climate action. The CSRIO also presented at the South Bay Cities COG General Assembly and moderated a panel on water innovation at the BizFed Water Forum. The team introduced the 17 members of the new SRI Council at an SRI Lunch and Learn and shared progress and solicited input on the Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment at the monthly SRI Council. EPS was focused on environmental review for Bay Delta Initiatives, O&M activities at Copper Basin and on the Perris Valley Pipeline, and on Pure Water Southern CA.

Water Resource Management

The focus of Water Resource Management staff in March was to respond to vastly improving water supply conditions on the State Water Project by maximizing regional storage for a future dry year to protect the State Water Project-dependent areas and the region as a whole.

Water System Operations

With the extremely wet winter, this month marked the end of several special drought operations. Over the past two years, these operations conserved about 500,000 acre-feet of SWP supplies for those communities dependent on that limited source. The DVL to Mills drought operation ended on March 15, soon followed by the delivery of surplus Article 21 supplies to rebuild regional storage, including flowing water down the Inland Feeder and filling DVL. This extreme shift in operations reflects staff's flexibility to quickly and safely adapt from drought to surplus conditions in 2023.



“Tremendous teamwork and collaboration – to ensure all critical enterprise systems were operational come Monday morning after each migration wave.

Over the course of the project, the Team successfully executed a large number of off-hour/weekend migrations and partnered closely with business users to mitigate disruption to Metropolitan’s operations...”

***Thanh Nguyen – Server Administration
Lu Dam – Database Administration
Eaton Siy – Network Systems***

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Information Technology Group’s data center operation provides the critical IT infrastructure to support business groups in meeting Metropolitan’s mission. In 2019, the Board authorized the modernization and relocation of the data centers to new locations, both in-region and out-of-region. The key drivers for the program include:

- Enhance reliability and resiliency
- Meet current and future capacity needs
- Upgrade end-of-life infrastructure

IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

Data center operation is essential to supporting day-to-day business and critical services. IT data centers provide 24x7 operations and connectivity for regulatory requirements (Water Quality), business operations (Finance), and water operations (WSO, SCADA and AMR). It also supports the enterprise by delivering a secure hybrid, teleworking environment and all communication needs.

MEMORABLE MOMENT

Data center relocation projects are complex and do not occur frequently (if ever). The best analogies include “changing the tires on a car while it is still moving” or “recurring heart surgery and having to resuscitate the patient by 6:00 am” prior to staff returning to work on Monday mornings.

There were many memorable moments along the way. Each migration wave involved a high level of complexity, time constraints, extensive planning and development of minute-by-minute migration work plans, contingency plans, and roll-back plans.

Each migration required a large number of technical resources including subject matter experts from server, database, network, cybersecurity, applications and business end-users. Given the complexity of the work, there were undoubtedly many surprises, logistical challenges, and other deviations from the plan. With each memorable moment, the team worked collaboratively to come up with innovative options and solutions, contributing to the success of this multi-year effort. The modernization of our data centers provide for enhanced reliability and scalability to meet the current and future needs of Metropolitan.

Water Resources and Engineering



Water Resource Management

Ensure Reliable State Water Project (SWP)

Staff submitted a request for Article 21 supply to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Article 21 is interruptible supply in addition to State Project Water Table A allocation, and its availability is tied to storage levels in San Luis Reservoir. The Department of Water Resources typically offers Article 21 supply when the San Luis Reservoir storage is full or close to full. Staff submitted a request for 49 thousand acre-feet (TAF) of Article 21 supply for the week of March 22 to March 28, 2023. The Department of Water Resources allocated the available Article 21 supply in proportion to the Table A amounts of those SWP contractors that submitted a request. Metropolitan was allocated a total of approximately 40 TAF of Article 21 supply for that week, which will be used to replenish Metropolitan's depleted SWP surface storage and ensure future reliability.

Ensure Access to Sufficient Water Supplies to Operate a Full Colorado River Aqueduct in Times of Drought

Staff attended the monthly meeting of the Colorado River Board (CRB) in San Diego. The day prior, staff participated in tours of the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant, which produces a portion of San Diego County Water Authority's water supply, and the East County Advanced Water Purification site, a Metropolitan-funded Local Resource Program project that will recycle wastewater.

Staff attended a workshop on the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) reservation in Arizona to discuss the results of a pilot project partially funded by Metropolitan in which drip irrigation technology developed by the Israeli company, N-Drip, was installed on land in the CRIT reservation. N-Drip's technology is innovative in that it does not require the substantial power resources that traditional drip irrigation typically does and is therefore substantially less expensive to implement than traditional drip technology. Results indicated that fields irrigated with N-Drip required up to 40 percent less applied water than fields irrigated using furrow/flood methods. Metropolitan funded the pilot project jointly with the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, and Denver Water.

Manage Existing and Develop New Regional Water Management Programs to Maintain Water Supply Reliability in the Face of Increasing Water Supply Volatility

Staff presented an information item to the One Water and Stewardship Committee in March regarding a potential cooperative water delivery agreement with Rubidoux Community Services District (Rubidoux), Western Municipal Water District (Western), West Valley Water District (West Valley), and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. The agreement would allow Metropolitan to deliver and sell imported water supplies to meet the needs of Rubidoux (a Western member agency) using its capacity in the Azusa Pipeline and West Valley's distribution system. To pay for the water, Western would pay Metropolitan and Rubidoux would reimburse Western. The cooperative delivery agreement provides a reliable and affordable way for Rubidoux to receive imported water. Staff will return to the Board in April to address comments and seek action on the proposed agreement.

Water Resources and Engineering

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Implement Regional Conservation Program

Metropolitan staff continued conservation outreach efforts and held a Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program classes at Chino Basin Water Conservation District for 45 landscape professionals. Staff also led the California Water Efficiency Partnership program committee meeting to discuss programmatic needs and conservation issues around the state.

Collaborate with Member Agencies, Water Agencies and Associations, and Provide Leadership for Policy Development, Advocacy, Outreach and Education

On March 14, Metropolitan's Board removed the Emergency Water Shortage Condition for the SWP-Dependent Area and ended the Emergency Water Conservation Program that had begun in June 2022 to address severely limited SWP system water supplies. The Board's action was driven by significant improvements in the availability of State Water Project supplies resulting from a series of atmospheric river events since December. Metropolitan continued to call on residents and businesses across the region to continue to use water efficiently in order to refill storage and prepare for potential cuts to supplies from the Colorado River.

Metropolitan staff continued ongoing technical collaboration with member agencies on the 2023 Annual Local Production Survey, which was sent out to all member agencies on March 21 with a request for surveys to be returned by June 3. The local supply survey data are crucial for Metropolitan's regional planning efforts, including estimating per capita water usage and tracking trends in local supply development.

Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program

WRM staff held a Future Supply Actions Funding Program (FSA) webinar on stormwater recharge basins on Thursday, March 23. The webinar covered the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's (Las Virgenes) FSA demonstration study of the application of artificial intelligence and machine learning to advanced water treatment for potable reuse. The study's results apply to Pure Water projects throughout the region. Staff from External Affairs and Information Technology assisted with the webinar. FSA study presentations, webinar recordings, and final reports are available on Metropolitan's website: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/funding-opportunities#future-supply>. Staff is planning more FSA studies for 2023.

Position Metropolitan as a leader in Open Water Data

Staff participated in several California Water Data Consortium meetings in March. This included the Consortium's board meeting and several committee meetings. The Consortium seated three new board members and heard updates on ongoing pilot studies. The new board members will serve varying terms and include:

- Ashley Boren: Executive Director at Sustainable Conservation
- Kristine Johnson: Founder and Executive Director of The Kingfisher Foundation
- Mitra Rogers: Public Policy Lead at Amazon Web Services.

The consortium has received grants from DWR and USBR to support ongoing work on a groundwater trading platform pilot and other pilot studies. The Consortium also continues its progress on an Urban Water Data Reporting pilot.

Water Resources and Engineering

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Explore opportunities to leverage Metropolitan's SWP and Colorado River supplies and storage assets

Metropolitan entered into an unbalanced carryover exchange with Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, a State Water Project contractor with carryover at risk of spill in San Luis Reservoir. Metropolitan took delivery of 9,433 acre-feet of carryover transfer supply during March and will return 6,289 acre-feet to SCVWA before the end of 2023, using Metropolitan's allocated Table A supplies. This exchange will help a neighboring SWP contractor preserve carryover supply and provide a 3,144 acre-foot regional supply benefit to Metropolitan.

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

Staff participated in a meeting hosted by Las Virgenes MWD to discuss the potential for an alternative approach to seawater desalination. The approach features submerged desalination buoys located offshore at depths with minimal potential marine life impacts. Other potential advantages to land-based facilities include lower energy requirements, reduced costs, and smaller land use footprints. Staff discussed opportunities for collaboration, including possible funding for preliminary studies through Metropolitan's Future Supply Actions Funding Program. Natural Ocean Wells, the company promoting the technology, identified six sites along the Southern California coast suitable for the technology. Staff also met with two other companies with offshore desalination technologies through the Technology Feedback Forum program. The next steps include follow-up meetings and addressing offshore desalination's unique permitting requirements through CalDesal.

Water Resources and Engineering

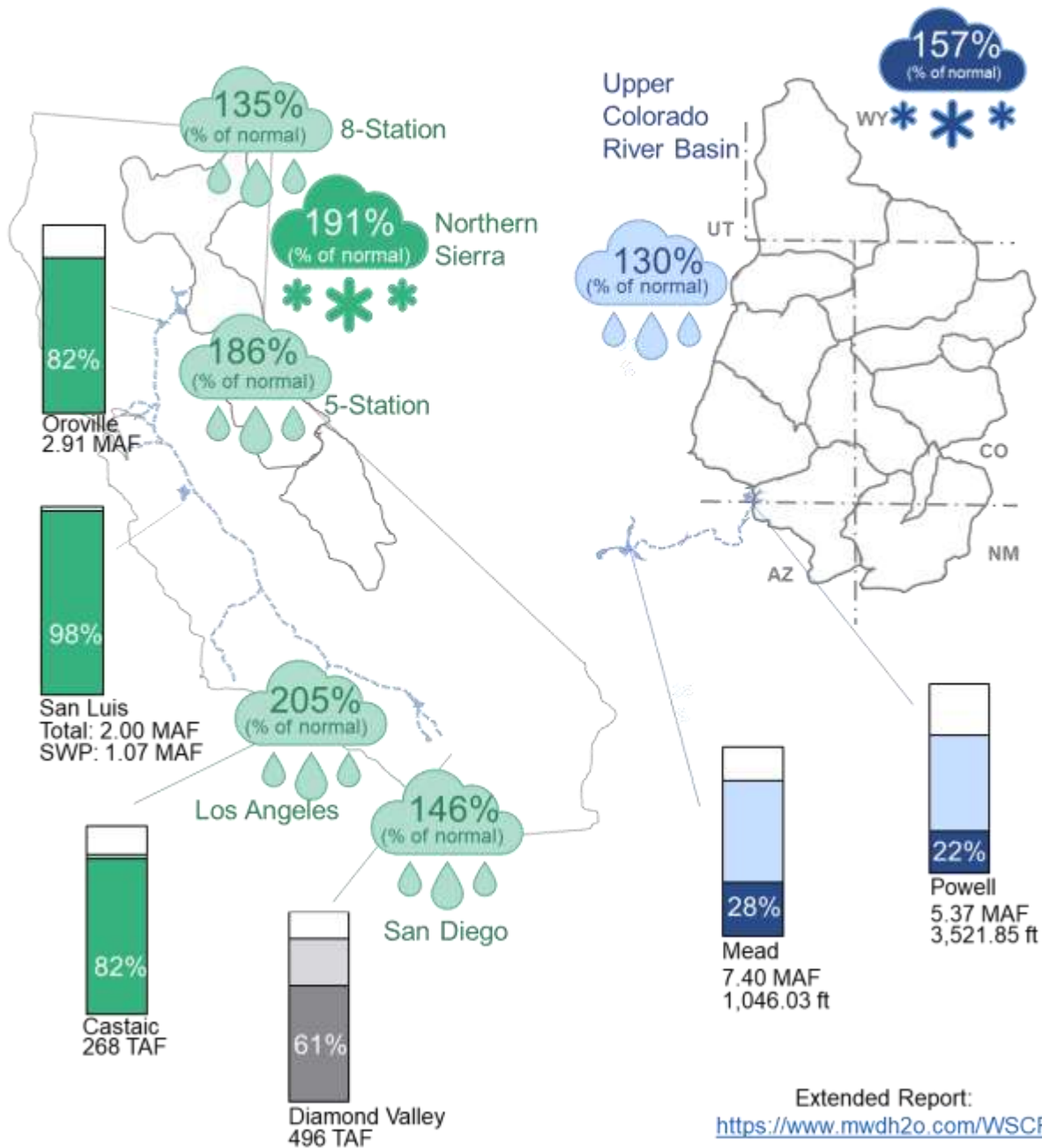
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State Water Project Resources

SWP Table A – 75% - 1,433,625 AF

Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions – 991,000 AF



As of March 31, 2023

Bay-Delta Initiatives

Highlights

Delta Conveyance

The public comment period for the Delta Conveyance Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) closed on December 16, 2022. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) received more than 700 unique comment letters with over 6,000 individual comments. DWR is continuing efforts to organize the comments and develop responses. The Final EIR is expected at the end of 2023 and will include responses to all substantive comments on the Draft EIR as well as edits, as appropriate, to respond to the comments.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act for a public review that ended on March 16. USACE is starting the initial organization of the comments received.

Sites Reservoir

In their March joint meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board (Authority Board) and the Sites Reservoir Committee (Reservoir Committee) authorized the submittal of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) application. Although the application does not constitute commitment to a WIFIA loan, it does initiate an approximate 12-month negotiation process with the USEPA regarding the loan agreement. After receiving the application, USEPA WIFIA staff will begin an in-depth review of the project and the Sites Authority's credit.

The Reservoir Committee and Authority Board also approved the submittal of the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) interconnection request application. The Sites Reservoir Project will require power for day-to-day operations and will generate incidental power upon releases of water from the reservoir, which is expected to offset about half of the power needs. The proposed interconnection request would put the project into the long line of requests and initiate a lengthy study process that can take more than two years to complete. By interconnecting with CAISO directly, the project would have the ability to engage in the wholesale electrical energy market, which has the potential to be more cost-effective than going through Pacific Gas & Electric.

Science Activities

Staff continued work with researchers from UC Davis to implement the second deployment of the Delta Smelt Pilot Propagation Study on Bouldin Island. The purpose of the study is to evaluate whether the impoundments on Metropolitan islands can be leveraged to conduct Delta Smelt Supplementation Research. Staff conducted field sampling of the Delta smelt in the study impoundments on Bouldin Island. The fish appear to be thriving with good survival and growth.

Staff attended the 2023 Interagency Ecological Program Annual Workshop. The workshop included sessions on native fish species in the Delta, habitat restoration, water quality, food web, and invasive aquatic plants. The workshop included multiple presentations and posters reporting on collaborative science studies among Metropolitan and state and federal agencies, university researchers, and consulting experts. Staff also attended the Cal-Neva American

Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in Long Beach, CA. The meeting showcased some work from the Central Valley and the Santa Ana River watersheds addressing listed species and habitat restoration.

Staff continued to work on Phase 3 of the Reorienting to Salmonid Recovery project. In this phase, participants will develop an agreed-upon suite of priorities for salmonid recovery. Staff is organizing intensive workshops where participants work in groups using web applications developed to evaluate model output sensitivity to different salmonid management scenarios. These online tools will help participants better understand and address the trade-offs associated with different suites of recovery actions and objectives to enable implementation. The first workshop took place in March, and two to four additional workshops will be held between May and December 2023.

Regulatory Activities

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative science groups set up to inform implementation of the 2019 Biological Opinions (BiOp) for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project, and the 2020 Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for long-term operation of the SWP. In March, staff participated in Delta Coordination Group meetings with state and federal water contractors, resource agencies, and fisheries agencies to develop tentative recommendations on the implementation of Summer Fall Habitat Actions for Delta Smelt as mandated by the BiOp and ITP. Recommendations are tentative as water year designation is not yet official and the actions are contingent on water year type.

Staff is participating on a Science Committee developing the Voluntary Agreement Science Plan. This plan provides the framework and specific approach for evaluating the outcomes of the flow and non-flow measures proposed as part of the Voluntary Agreements for the Sacramento River, Delta, and Tributary update to the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The science plan builds on an initial framework describing the metrics, monitoring, and outcomes for Voluntary Agreement commitment actions provided to the State Water Resources Control Board in October 2022, and provides additional detail on the hypotheses, metrics, existing monitoring programs, and the approach for analyses that will be leveraged for understanding outcomes of Voluntary Agreement actions.

Delta Island Activities

Staff is working internally to coordinate submission of a full grant application to the Delta Conservancy's Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grant Program for a \$20 million grant that will fund development of a mosaic of managed flooded wetlands and rice fields on Webb Tract to stop subsidence, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and generate income from carbon credits and lease agreements. Staff plans to update the Board at the April Bay-Delta Subcommittee meeting. The Delta Conservancy Board will consider the Webb Tract grant application at their July Board meeting.

Ecosystem Restoration

The Delta Stewardship Council is working with diverse groups of interests to develop a draft Adaptation Strategy for the Delta Adapts Initiative, which is focused on understanding climate change risks in the Delta and developing adaptation strategies. Staff participated in the Delta Adapts Ecosystem Focus Group #3 on March 13, which focused on presenting ecosystem adaptation scenarios and refining criteria that will be used to prioritize projects in the Delta region.

Colorado River

Reclamation Solicits Input for Phase 2 of the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program

In late 2023, Congress enacted the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which authorized \$4 billion for drought relief projects for the Western United States, primarily focused on the Colorado River. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has been seeking water conservation projects that could be implemented with IRA funds. Last fall, Phase 1 of the process kicked off, which included funding for short-term conservation projects that could save Colorado River water through 2026. All the major agricultural agencies in California, as well as native American tribes, submitted conservation proposals. Reclamation is in the process of evaluating those proposals and is expected to begin implementing some of the conservation measures within the next few months. On March 23, Reclamation sent a pre-solicitation letter to interested parties seeking input on development of the next phase of its program, which is focused on longer-term system efficiency improvements that provide water savings beyond 2026. Comments are due to Reclamation by April 6. Metropolitan obtained input from its member agencies and will be working with other Lower Basin contractors to submit comments to Reclamation, which indicated that the formal solicitation for projects will be released later this spring. Metropolitan plans to submit projects for funding when that solicitation is released.

In addition to seeking projects for IRA funding, Reclamation anticipates releasing its draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to modify the 2007 Interim Guidelines later in April 2023. When the draft SEIS is released, Metropolitan staff will provide a synopsis of the document and will be preparing comments. It is anticipated that comments would be due 45 days after the release of the draft SEIS. Reclamation is still on track to issue a Record of Decision in July 2023, which could affect Colorado River operations beginning in 2024. At the same time, Reclamation continues to work on the Draft EIS for the post-2026 Guidelines, with a draft EIS anticipated by the end of next year. Staff will keep the Board informed as these critical activities move forward.

Engineering

Core Business Function – Execute Capital Investment Plan projects

Engineering Services manages and executes projects within the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) to maintain infrastructure resiliency, ensure regulatory compliance, enhance sustainability, and provide flexibility in system operations to address uncertain water supply conditions.

Distribution System Reliability Program

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

- **Casa Loma Siphon Seismic Upgrades**—This project mitigates leaks associated with long-term ground subsidence and will improve 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. The final tie-in was completed in February 2023 during the annual CRA shutdown, and the siphon was placed into service at the conclusion of the shutdown. Overall construction is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 2023.
- **Etiwanda Pipeline Relining**—This project removes damaged mortar lining in 5.5 miles of pipeline and replaces it with polyurethane lining. Stages 1 and 2, which relined 3 miles of the pipeline, have already been completed. Stage 3 relines the remaining 2.5 miles of pipeline and is currently under construction. The contractor has removed all mortar lining and is currently applying the polyurethane lining. Stage 3 construction is 55 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by October 2023.
- **Sepulveda Feeder Electrical Improvements**—This project replaces deteriorated electrical components, makes other upgrades at three Sepulveda Feeder underground structures, and installs two blind flanges after removing a spool on the West Valley Feeder. The contractor completed shoring and excavation around the West Valley vault and is currently installing electrical conduits inside the vaults. Construction is 33 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2023.
- **San Diego Pipeline No. 1 Rainbow Tunnel Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates the concrete tunnel liner of San Diego Pipeline No. 1 Rainbow Tunnel at ten locations by removal and replacement of locally degraded concrete sections. The contractor completed the hydrophobic and hydrophilic curtain injections and concrete replacement during two shutdowns that occurred late January 2023 and early March 2023. Construction is complete.



Casa Loma Siphon Seismic Upgrades—Casa Loma Siphon Barrel No. 1 site grading and restoration



Etiwanda Pipeline Relining—Welding steel pipe Buttstraps

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program

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

- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 3A**—This project enhances distribution system reliability by rehabilitating 6,500 feet PCCP portions of the Second Lower Feeder within the city of Rolling Hills Estates. The contractor has completed the traffic control, fencing, excavation, shoring, and the PCCP pipe demolition at the first pipe access site and continues with pipe deliveries, installation, and welding. The contractor continued work at the second and final pipe access site. Construction is 55 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2023.
- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 3B**—This project enhances distribution system reliability by rehabilitating PCCP segments of the Second Lower Feeder. This project installs steel lining along a 3.7-mile-long portion of Second Lower Feeder that traverses the cities of Lomita, Los Angeles, and Torrance. The contract is currently preparing contract submittal for review. Construction is 4 percent complete and scheduled to be complete in December 2025.
- **Second Lower Feeder Valve Procurement**—This procurement contract provides 13 conical plug valves for the Second Lower Feeder PCCP rehabilitation. Six valves have been delivered. A seventh valve shipped from Yokohama, Japan, on February 14, 2023, arrived at the Port of Long Beach on March 9, 2023, and was delivered to Lake Mathews the week of March 23, 2023. Three more valves are scheduled to be delivered in summer 2023. Fabrication of the last three valves will be completed in early 2024.
- **Sepulveda Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 2**—This project enhances distribution system reliability by rehabilitating PCCP segments of the Sepulveda Feeder. This project installs steel lining along a 3.9-mile-long

portion of the Sepulveda Feeder that traverses several cities including Torrance and Los Angeles. Final design is 85 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2023.

- **Sepulveda Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation North Reach**—This rehabilitation project was re-prioritized to support the West Area Water Supply Reliability Improvements. The North Reach project, in conjunction with the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations, will allow the reversal of normal flow in the Sepulveda Feeder to augment treated water deliveries to the west service area. Preliminary design is 7 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in December 2023.
- **PCCP Valve Warehouse**—This project constructs a 18,160 square-foot pre-engineered metal building on a reinforced concrete slab at Lake Mathews for valve and equipment storage. The contractor is currently erecting the building framing. Construction is 70 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in September 2023.

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

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

- **CRA Pumping Plants Overhead Crane Replacement**—This project consists of replacing five overhead bridge cranes and retrofitting the support structures within the pump bays located at all five of Metropolitan's Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. The contractor has completed the installation of the new crane at the Gene Pumping Plant and is scheduled to begin work at Iron Mountain Pumping Plant in April. Construction is 37 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by October 2023.
- **CRA Conveyance System Level Sensor Installation**—This project installs 12 water level gauging stations at remote sites along the Colorado River Aqueduct's conveyance system to improve monitor flows. Final design is complete and a request to the Board for award of a construction contract is planned for May 2023.
- **Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement**—This project rehabilitates emergency dewatering facilities at Copper Basin Reservoir. This project replaces a 54-inch fixed cone valve and actuator, refurbishes the existing valve house and a slide gate, as well as improving the access road and ladders to the discharge valve structure. Final design is 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in December 2023.
- **Cabazon Radial Gate Replacement**—This project replaces two radial gates and makes security, access, and safety improvements to the Cabazon Radial Gate Structure. Final design is 5 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2024.

System Flexibility/Supply Reliability

Projects under this program will enhance the flexibility and/or increase the capacity of Metropolitan's water supply and delivery infrastructure to meet current and projected service demands. Projects under this program address climate change affecting water supply, regional drought, and alternative water sources for areas dependent on State Project Water.

- **Perris Valley Pipeline**—This project will complete construction of the Perris Valley Pipeline and provide service connections to Eastern and Western Municipal Water Districts. This project installs 3,000 linear feet of tunnel that crosses the Interstate 215 freeway. The contractor is currently preparing contract submittals for review. Construction is 5 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in May 2025.

The following projects are part of a series of projects that are being undertaken to improve supply reliability for State Water Project dependent member agencies.

- **Inland Feeder—Foothill Pump Station Intertie**—This project will connect San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's (SBVMWD) Foothill Pump Station with the Inland Feeder to provide the needed hydraulic lift to deliver water from DVL to the Rialto service area. Final design is 98 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in April 2023. A procurement contract for valves has been advertised.
- **Wadsworth Pumping Plant Bypass**—In conjunction with other projects, this project enhances water supply reliability in the Rialto Pipeline service area by enabling water to be pumped from the Wadsworth Pumping Plant forebay to Rialto Pipeline by way of the Inland Feeder. The contractor is currently preparing contract submittals for review. Construction is scheduled to be complete in May 2024.
- **Sepulveda Feeder Pumping Stations**—This project will install new pump stations at the existing Venice and Sepulveda Canyon Pressure Control Facilities, providing the ability to reverse flow in the Sepulveda Feeder and deliver water from the Central Pool to portions of the Jensen plant exclusive area. This project will utilize progressive design-build (PDB) for delivery. Preparation of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ), including a Conceptual Design Report, is complete, and the solicitation was issued in March 2023. Board award of the Phase 1 agreement for preconstruction services under the PDB contract is scheduled for August 2023.

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 Basins 5–8 and Filter Building No. 2 Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates major mechanical and structural components including the flocculation/sedimentation equipment, sludge pumps, baffle boards and walls, launders, inlet gates, and outlet drop gates at the Weymouth plant. Other improvements included in this contract are seismic upgrades of basin walls and inlet channel, hazardous material abatement, and replacement of filter valves and actuators in Filter Building No. 2. The contractor completed installation of two temporary cranes and continued work under the first quarter-plant outage, including removal of mechanical equipment from the flocculation and sedimentation basins, and hazardous waste abatement. Construction is 25 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 2025.
- **Mills Ozonation System PLC Upgrade**—This project replaces the outdated generator control system at the Mills plant with new programmable logic controller equipment along with upgraded software. Installation of the new software was completed in January 2023. Metropolitan forces are currently commissioning the upgraded software with support from a specialized consultant. The ozone system is scheduled to be back in service as the primary disinfectant in April 2023.
- **Mills Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2**—This project upgrades the electrical system with dual-power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practices; improve plant reliability; and enhance worker safety. Stage 1 construction is complete. Stage 2 improvements will add a second incoming 12 kV service from Riverside Public Utilities, reconfigure the existing 4160-volt switchgear, and replace the standby generator switchgear and the emergency generator programmable logic controller. The contractor has started installation of duct banks and electrical vaults and is preparing to expand the ORP ozone switchgear building. During the March 2023 plant shutdown, the contractor completed the 4.16 kV switchgear current transformer installation. The standby generator switchgear and the emergency generator programmable logic controller will be replaced during a planned Spring 2024 plant shutdown. Construction is 25 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2024.

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- **Jensen Ozone PSUs Replacement**—This project rehabilitates the ozone generation system at the Jensen plant by replacing four existing ozone power supply units (PSUs) and four sets of generator dielectrics. The project also makes required modifications to the associated electrical, control, and cooling water systems. All PSUs and dielectrics have been manufactured and delivered. The contractor has completed installation of two new PSUs, and the equipment manufacturer has replaced dielectrics for two ozone generators. Construction is 40 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2023.



Jensen Ozone PSUs Replacement—Unloading power supply unit



Mills Electrical Upgrade—RPU Switchyard—Concrete Placement near electrical vault

System Reliability Program

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

- **Headquarters 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 is complete and provides enhanced security related to perimeter windows and doors. Stage 2 work is complete and provides security system upgrades inside the building with a focus on the main entry rotunda area, boardroom, executive dining lounge, and security control room. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. A construction contract for Stage 3 improvements was awarded in December 2022, and the contractor continued transmitting project submittals. Construction is scheduled to be complete by December 2023.
- **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 completed the fire alarm and the emergency responder radio communication system upgrades and is currently working on the smoke control upgrades. Construction is 83 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2023.
- **SCADA System Upgrades**—This project will upgrade Metropolitan's entire control system in incremental stages, spanning the Colorado River Aqueduct, the five water treatment plants, and the conveyance and distribution system. The first stage of this project replaces the control system at the Mills plant, starting with a pilot effort on one of the plant's remote terminal units. The pilot effort will demonstrate the proposed technology and the consultant's approach for the plant and the overall project. The consultant is currently providing submittals, performing equipment verification, and developing control narratives and training plan. Pilot phase is 13 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2023. The system upgrades at the Mills plant are scheduled to be complete by April 2026.

Protecting the Public and Metropolitan's Assets

Engineering Services continued to develop Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for Metropolitan's state-regulated dams to help ensure long-term public safety. In March, the Cal OES formally approved EAPs for Diamond Valley Lake and Cajalco Creek Detention Basin. The Diemer Plant and the Mills Plant EAPs are currently under review by the Cal OES, and several more EAPs are substantially complete and will be submitted to the Cal OES in 2023.

Empowering Staff & Partnering with the Communities We Serve

Engineering Cooperative Education (Internship) Program

Engineering Services recently celebrated the conclusion of its 20th year of the student internship program. This past year, a total of 11 students participated in the program that provides opportunities for engineering students to

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(continued)

augment their studies with practical work experience in the water industry in the areas of design, project management, and construction management support. Staff is currently recruiting the next group of student interns for fiscal year 2023/2024.



Student interns, their Metropolitan managers, and program coordinator

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(continued)

WSO C&D Desert Region managers, ESG project managers, design engineers, and construction managers met at Iron Mountain Pumping plant to foster the partnership between the two groups. The 23 participants focused on enhancing execution of capital projects needed to maintain future reliability of the CRA.



Partnering Workshop at Iron Mountain Pumping Plant



Water System Operations

Core Business Objectives

Prepare Employees for New Opportunities

The Water System Operations Apprentice and Technical Training Programs develop and train personnel to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, a Class of 2023 mechanical apprentice began a temporary assignment in the Desert Region to assist with post-shutdown maintenance activities. The temporary rotation exposed the apprentice to piping and pump bearing inspections, pump rebuilding, and discharge valve refurbishment. Apprentice rotations are essential to ensuring that apprentices receive the diverse work experience needed to achieve journey-level status.

In addition to training apprentices, the Apprentice and Technical Training unit oversees safety and technical training. This month, a trailer-towing class was provided to staff. The class included a lecture and a practical segment. Training provided drivers with information designed to reduce towing accidents and educated staff on how to recognize towing dangers. Attendees were provided information on trailer safety and inspection, proper towing techniques, and California Vehicle Codes. The practical segment of the training allowed attendees to practice their towing skills. Stations were arranged to simulate backing trailers in the critical ways encountered at Metropolitan.



Staff facilitating trailer towing exercise during training

Manage Vacancies

WSO filled five vacant positions in February 2023.

Provide Reliable Water Deliveries

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 61,200 acre-feet (AF) for March with an average of 2,000 AF per day, which was 150 AF per day lower than in February. Treated water deliveries decreased by 500 AF from February for a total of 37,000 AF, or 61 percent of total deliveries for the month. Early in the month, the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) transitioned from a four-pump flow to a five-pump flow, with a total of 70,000 AF pumped in March. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,100 AF per day, totaling about 33,700 AF for the month, which accounted for approximately 55 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. The target SWP blend shifted to 100 percent for the Weymouth and Diemer plants in preparation for the Lake Mathews shutdown and management of Article 21 supplies. The SWP blend remained at zero percent for the Skinner plant.

Manage Water Reserves

The State Water Project (SWP) allocation increased to 75 percent and, when combined with Colorado River supplies, provides the region with higher than typical water demands. Water continues to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles and operational objectives with an emphasis to position State Water Project supplies to meet a future drought demand in the State Water Project-dependent area. Releases from DVL through PC-1 to connections on the Lakeview Pipeline, as well as the DVL to Mills plant operation, discontinued in March to respond to the increased SWP supplies. Metropolitan started Article 21 deliveries to DVL to refill the reservoir. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs were also discontinued in March. However, Friant surface water supplies continued to Metropolitan by exchange to return water from the Arvin Program to reposition those supplies. In addition, staff notified member agencies to discontinue the shifting of their deliveries from SWP connections to Colorado River water connections by the end of the month. Metropolitan is now shifting its operations to store water in preparation for a future drought.

Support the Pure Water Southern California Program

During March, staff continued baseline testing for secondary membrane bioreactor (sMBR) operations at the Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) demonstration plant in Carson. Staff and consultants collected the final microbial samples under the sMBR testing plan, as well as monthly and quarterly samples in collaboration with Los Angeles County Sanitation District. Staff continued to learn controls, operations, and maintenance of the demonstration plant as the project consultant reduces involvement in day-to-day operations.

On March 22, staff also held a two-day workshop with the Independent Science Advisory Panel, regulators, and project partners to review results of baseline sMBR testing, which is expected to conclude in April, to discuss the next phase of demonstration plant testing, and to review approaches to incorporating DPR (raw water augmentation) into the PWSC program.



Hybrid workshop of the Independent Science Advisory Panel for the PWSC Program

Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner

Energy markets in March 2023 did not exhibit the same price volatility as in December 2022 and January 2023, and electricity prices in the California ISO market were generally within seasonal norms. CRA energy costs for March 2023 were about \$7 million. The total energy costs to operate the CRA for fiscal year 2022–23 is forecast to be around \$145 million.

Because of system operating conditions focused on refilling water storage and low demands, generation output from Metropolitan’s hydroelectric plants was negligible. Metropolitan’s solar facilities totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity generated approximately 700 megawatt-hours in March 2023.

Ensure Water Quality Compliance, Worker Safety, and Environmental Protection

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during February 2023.

On March 21, the Water Quality Section received commendations and certificates of recognition from the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program for its commitment to protecting public health by implementing and being an early adopter of the new TNI laboratory quality management standard ahead of the compliance deadline.



Certificate of Recognition of Water Quality Lab given by the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program

Staff recently relocated a safety shower and eyewash station at Garvey Reservoir's sodium hypochlorite feed system. The new location of the safety shower and eyewash station is easier to access for staff that work in the chemical unloading and feed pump areas.



Relocated safety shower at Garvey Reservoir

Staff participated in the Harbor Trucking Association's Zero Emission (ZE) Vehicle Ride and Drive to interact with the vendors and test drive Class 8 (Big Rigs) ZE trucks. Class 8 ZE truck vendors included Freightliner, Peterbilt, and Nikola.



Zero Emission Class 8 trucks (left) and electric charging stations (right) during Vehicle Ride and Drive event

This month, staff published and posted several Safety Talks on the IntraMet to inform and promote employee safety and regulatory compliance during on-the-job activities. Topics included the Injury and Illness Prevention Program, Air Quality Requirements for Off-Road Diesel Fueled Equipment, Working at Night, Environmental, Health & Safety Performance Chart, and Procuring Safety Items and Hazardous Materials/Chemicals.

MWD Safety Talk

Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Injury Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) ST #2600



Metropolitan developed an Injury Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) to maintain a safe and healthful work environment to reduce harmful risks to employees, the public, and the environment. The IIPP written program is available on the [Operational Safety and Regulatory Services \(OSRS\)](#) webpage, under IIPP Manual on the MWD Intranet.

Hazard Identification and Assessment
MWD conducts job hazard analysis to determine appropriate controls, safe work practices, and training requirements for employees. In addition, MWD Site Support Representatives are assigned to facilities to provide guidance and support to management on health and safety (H&S) issues. They participate in pre-planning and project reviews for new processes and equipment as well as provide support for routine and emergency operations including shutdowns.

RISK


Health, Safety, and Environmental (HSE) Manual
The HSE manual contains all written Health and Safety Programs and Procedures and is available on the OSRS webpage. Managers identify training needs of employees by reviewing their job assignments. Employees are then trained on the written programs and safe work procedures by formal classes, toolbox talks and other meetings, on-the-job (OJT), on-line training, and other similar methods.

Accident Investigation
Report all accidents and near misses to the Incident Reporting System (IRS) by calling ext. 77713 or (214) 223-7773. Accidents are assigned to MWD Site Support Representatives to investigate. Corrective actions are implemented by management to prevent re-occurrence. Refer to [OSRS 301.2 Accidents, Injuries, Illness, and Near Miss Investigation Procedures](#).

Correcting Unsafe Conditions and Behavior
Identify improper work conditions and unsafe work practices by recognizing employees who behave safely and taking corrective actions, from coaching to discipline, for those who fail to follow procedures.

Health & Safety Communication
Health and Safety Committees are established for employees and management to discuss health and safety issues. The committee meets regularly to review status of inspections, investigations, and corrective actions. Refer to [OSRS 301.2 Accident, Injuries, Illness, and Near Miss Investigation Procedures](#).

In addition, a confidential hot line, (214) 223-7773 or extension 77733 is available for employees to report H&S concerns if other means of communication fail to address their concerns.



MWD Safety Talk

Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information For Working at Night



At Metropolitan we have employees that work around the clock to maintain our Wastewater & Distribution system, treat in-damages of our Pump and Wastewater Plants, and work emergency/incident maintenance shutdowns.

Unfortunately, working without sunlight affects our ability to see, be seen, and run through our circadian rhythm. Circadian rhythm is our sleep-wake pattern over the course of a 24-hour day. Your body is programmed to sleep at night and be awake during the day. This does not affect our performance by limiting our ability to focus and react due to sleep deprivation/disturbance.

Overcoming Night Shift Challenges

Ways to increase visibility:

- Wear retro reflective clothing (Class 1)
- Use headlights and floodlight
- Install lights on equipment
- Established a work area with adequate lighting
- Be aware of your surroundings

Ways to remain alert:

- Eat protein-rich foods avoiding sugar and fat
- Drink plenty of water
- Make sleep a priority (schedule sleep time and stick to it)
- Stay active both on and off shift (exercise)

Safety Tips


- Make sure structures/equipment are safe and secure
- Ensure lighting is sufficient
- Keep all walking/working surfaces free from clutter & obstructions
- Establish safe access/exit for workers, equipment & vehicles
- Report any potential hazards that you cannot immediately correct to the site lead or site safety rep

Additional Hazards to Consider

- Drivers are more likely to be confused or drowsy
- Less traffic can lead to faster driving
- Height work areas may cause glare/shadows
- Decreased reaction times
- Increase in slip and fall injuries
- Increase in pedestrian vs. vehicle accidents
- Increase in struck by and back over accidents
- Emergency may be harder to respond to

MWD Safety Talk

Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for EHS Performance Chart



Do you know that we measure our environmental, health and safety (EHS) effectiveness? Metropoint has an EHS Performance Chart for the Water Systems Operations Group to measure compliance with two main categories - leading and lagging indicators. Measuring both leading and lagging indicators provides us a full picture of our EHS strengths and our opportunities for improvement.

Leading Indicators
Leading indicators are proactive, preventative, and predictive measures that provide information about the effective performance of health and safety activities. Leading indicators show Metropoint's ability to take preventative action to address any failure or hazards before they turn into an incident, including an employee injury.

Metropoint's leading performance indicators include:

- Safety Inspection Completion Rate:** A walkthrough of work areas to identify and correct hazardous conditions. The area manager/supervisor or designer conducts these inspections monthly.
 - Goal:** 90% of total possible safety inspections completed.
- Training Completion Rate:** Mandatory classroom or online instruction for employees to perform their work or to operate specialized equipment safely.
 - Goal:** 90% of mandatory training completed.
- Toolbox Completion Rate:** Safety meetings used to communicate job plans, hazards, and safe work practices. Toolboxes should be held every 30 days.
 - Goal:** 90% of the suggested number of toolboxes per unit completed.
- Safety Committee Meeting Rate:** Local Safety Committee meetings to review and discuss submitted [Safety Hazards/Incidents](#), monthly safety inspections and other safety items, monitor findings, and ensure that appropriate corrective measures are implemented.
 - Goal:** Committee meets at least once per quarter.
- 30K Checklist Completion Rate:** Tool used by managers/leads during project/job planning to identify critical safety requirements, such as ventilation, safe work practices, training, PPE, etc.
 - Goal:** Year to year improvement by comparing the quarterly count to the corresponding quarterly count from the previous calendar year.
- Near Miss Submissions Rate:** Number of reported conditions, events, or incidents with the potential for more serious consequences if not addressed. Identifying a near miss is recognized as a positive action and helps avoid future injuries.
 - Goal:** Year-to-year improvement by comparing the quarterly count to the corresponding count from the previous calendar year.

MWD Safety Talk

Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Procuring Safety Items and Hazardous Materials/Chemicals

At Metropoint, you can procure goods through multiple purchasing methods such as the local Warehouse/MyWarehouse, Purchase Order (PO)/Request, or P-Card. However, safety items and hazardous materials/chemicals must be approved by Safety & Regulatory Services (SRG) before purchasing.

PURCHASE METHODS
Safety items and hazardous materials/chemicals can be purchased through:

Purchase Method	How Method Was	Approved Required?
Metropoint's local Warehouse or MyWarehouse	Most common, ensuring purchases that have already been approved by SRG.	No
Purchase Order Request	One-time purchases directly from a vendor or for special safety items not available through MWD's local Warehouse or MyWarehouse.	Yes
P-Card	Impromptu, after-hours or emergency circumstances.	Yes

Refer to the [Local Buying](#) for restrictions and requirements.

PURCHASING SAFETY AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/CHEMICALS
Safety items and hazardous materials/chemicals must go through the SRG review and approval process before they can be purchased. SRG review includes verifying compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, ensuring safety data sheets, seeking less hazardous alternatives, and comparing already approved equivalent items.

WAREHOUSE - NEW STOCK ITEM REQUEST
To start the approval process and/or add a new safety item or hazardous material/chemical to the Warehouse's stock item inventory, complete the New Stock Item Request Form. Follow the steps below to submit a new stock item request:

- Click on the "Inventory" link under the Applications section of the Intranet/Workspace.
- On the "Form Portal", click on "Submit New Items".
- Scroll down and click on "Purchase Order and General Department Expense Portal".
- Click on "New Stock Item" to submit the new stock item request.

NOTE

- Prior to purchase or use of a hazardous material/chemical, the product must be approved by SRG.
- Always follow the purchase and approval process. Purchased items "already received" prior to the creation of a PO, Purchase or Fund payment, items "already received" will require justification and the Assistant General Manager approval. Refer to the [Procurement Manual](#) or contact your Business Support Team for details.
- For further assistance on product evaluations or new stock item requests, contact your manager or local SRG Site Support Representative.

RESOURCES
[SRG - 100 Hazard Communication Program](#)
[Procurement Website](#)

Air Quality Bulletin

Air Quality Requirements for Off-Road Diesel Powered Equipment

(Effective 1/1/2024)

This bulletin highlights new requirements adopted in November 2022 that apply to Metropoint's Off-Road vehicle and equipment powered by diesel-fueled engines rated ≥ 25 Brake Horsepower (BHP). These requirements include phasing out of older engines, prohibition on adding old engines to the fleet, rolling averages for low-use equipment, secondary use of Renewable Diesel and reduced overhauling.



OPERATION OF EXISTING EQUIPMENT

- Off-Road Vehicle or Equipment with Tier 0, 1, or 2 engines are required to be **PHASED-OUT** per the Table below. Equipment with Tier 3 or higher engines are not subject to the phase-out.

Engine Tier	Phase-Out Date	Low-Use Designation Date
0	1/1/2024	12/31/2023
1	1/1/2026	12/31/2025
2	1/1/2028	12/31/2027

*Contact a Fleet Coordinator to determine Engine Tier, Phase-Out and Low-Use Designation dates for all Off-Road diesel equipment ≥ 25 BHP.

- Exceptions to the phase-out requirements are low-use engines limited to < 250 hours/year, based on a three-year rolling average, not including qualifying emergency use (Contact SRG for the qualifying conditions). To retain an engine after the phase-out date, it must be permanently designated as low-use prior to the phase-out date. If the engine exceeds the 250-hour/year rolling average, it must be salvaged.
- Effective 1/1/2024, all Off-Road diesel equipment must be fueled with Renewable Diesel, R99 or R100.

ENHANCED RECORDKEEPING

- Annual engine hour meter readings for Low-Use equipment must be maintained as log format or data-stamped photo. Photos and hour meter readings must be uploaded by Fleet into the CARS reporting database.
- If the equipment is designated as low-use, hour meter readings must be documented in January of the first year of the three-year period and in December of the third year of the three-year period.

REPLACEMENT

- Effective 1/1/2024, only equipment with Tier 4 fuel engines or higher must be purchased. The purchase of Zero Emissions (ZE) equipment may be used to extend the life of existing equipment subject to the phase-out requirements. Contact SRG for additional information.

SALVAGE

Once Fleet class equipment is used to salvage an item that the equipment can be entered into the CARS reporting database.

For additional questions, contact Carol Kaufman (763)55, Kierina Melville (771)81 or Anna Yonker (767)46.

New Safety Talks and Air Quality Bulletin posted on the Intranet

Optimize Maintenance

With billions of gallons of water passing through pumping plants annually, regular structural maintenance and repairs are required to ensure that the water is conveyed with minimal loss. This month, staff repaired a joint between the steel delivery lines and a concrete transition structure to ensure a leak free connection for many years to come at the Eagle Mountain pumping plant.



Headgate transition structure prepped for joint repairs at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

Along with maintaining 310 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, the Desert staff also provides expertise and support for pumping plant maintenance activities. While the system is energized, staff uses thermographic imaging equipment to identify high resistance connections or other concerns. This technology provides staff with increased equipment performance information and allows for more effective planning and prioritization of repairs.



Inspection of the 69kV operating bus at Intake pumping plant

The CRA pump motors require frequent maintenance to ensure reliable operation. The motors are inspected and cleaned on a weekly basis with carbon brushes that require periodic replacement. These carbon brushes are used to transfer power through the system from fixed points and are in constant contact with rotating equipment. As the motors spin, the carbon brushes are slowly consumed. This month, staff replaced the carbon brushes on a pump unit at Hinds pumping plant.



Staff replacing a carbon ring brush at Hinds pumping plant

During the 12-day Lake Mathews shutdown, staff replaced a failed gate within the Lake Mathews Forebay. The gate is one of four that controls flow to the Upper and Lower Feeders. Staff temporarily repaired this gate during a previous shutdown in March 2021 to make it operational and provide flow control flexibility for the Upper Feeder while a new gate was designed and fabricated. The gate replacement work included improvements to the actuator mounting plate, replacing the two lower gate stems, and installing a new stainless-steel gate and guides. Staff also repaired two gates at Corona and Temescal Towers on the Lower Feeder and replaced corroded valves on the Santiago Lateral.



The forebay outlet tower during the dewatering process at Lake Mathews



The new replacement gate for Lake Mathews Forebay



Staff setting up for dewatering on the Santiago Lateral



Corroded valves removed from the Santiago Lateral



Gate No. 12 with repairs (left) and staff installing additional fasteners to the actuator mounting plate (right) at Lake Mathews



Staff performing test lift of the gate assembly (left) and lowering equipment (right) into the Lake Mathews Forebay



New Gate No. 12 installed

Red Mountain Pressure Control Structure (PCS) consists of two large sleeve valves that control flow on San Diego Pipeline No. 5. Recently, staff removed and refurbished one of the valves, while the second valve was heavily damaged and unavailable to meet this month's return-to-service date for the pipeline. Staff designed and the La Verne Shops fabricated a bulkhead to temporarily take the place of the heavily damaged valve. This month, staff installed the first refurbished valve and the bulkhead, which required some field welding, in preparation of the pipeline's return-to-service. Completing this work allowed staff to refill the upstream portion of the pipeline to return one of Western Municipal Water District's service connections to service, while the San Diego County Water Authority continues its scheduled work downstream of the PCS.



Staff lifting the bulkhead into position for installation at Red Mountain PCS

The La Verne Shops continued their work this month to refurbish the remaining heavily damaged valve for Red Mountain PCS. The sleeve valve required weld repairs and machining to return components back to their original condition. This second refurbished valve will be installed in the near future to replace the temporary bulkhead.



Dye penetrant test (left and center) and as-found damage on the sleeve valve gate (right) for Red Mountain PCS



Staff weld-repairing valve gate (left) and machining of inner valve body (right) for Red Mountain PCS



Damage discovered on outer valve body (left) and completed weld repairs (right) for Red Mountain PCS



As-found sleeve valve cover (left) and completed valve cover (right) for Red Mountain PCS



Machining of bulkhead flange (left) and fabrication of lower bulkhead segments (middle and right) for Red Mountain PCS



Completed bulkhead components for Red Mountain PCS



Vendor performing machining work (left) and overlaying hard-face material on valve gate (right) for Red Mountain PCS



Rigging of valve gate (left) and sleeve valve installation (right) at Red Mountain PCS

Staff completed vegetation clearing along the CRA in the town of Whitewater. The local fire marshal requested a 20-foot wide by 2,380-foot-long strip to be cleared of vegetation to reduce the fire concerns of residents. Staff removed and disposed of 200 tons of vegetation.



Staff loading a dump truck with vegetation from along the CRA

Staff performed direct current (DC) system testing at Lake Mathews Hydroelectric Plant (HEP) to ensure proper availability of backup system power during emergency events. Staff also replaced a 40-year-old datalogger with modern monitoring and protection equipment.



Staff performing battery testing (left) and data logger replacement (right) at Lake Matthews HEP



Newly installed data logger at Lake Mathews HEP

Staff installed a new water quality panel at the Beverly Hills PCS. The new water quality panel equipment uses a reagentless chlorine probe. The self-cleaning turbidity analyzer and the reagentless probes require less maintenance while providing reliable, real-time water quality data. This new equipment will generate an overall cost saving in labor, parts, and reagents. The old equipment was obsolete and no longer supported by the manufacturer.



Staff removing old water quality panel (left) and installing new panel (right) at Beverly Hills PCS

Staff performed quarterly preventative maintenance on the emergency generators at the Diemer plant. This work included visual inspection of the generators and switchgear, and a generator load test and is critical in ensuring the readiness of the emergency generators in the event of a power outage at the plant.



Staff performing testing of emergency generators (left) and associated equipment (right) at the Diemer plant

Staff completed a four-day shutdown of the Mills plant to support the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). DWR removed its bulkhead and installed a 108-inch roll-out section, reconnecting the Northern reach with

the Southern reach of the Santa Ana Valley Pipeline. This was a several-day process, which required dewatering about 12 acre-feet of water and the Mills plant being off-line for 96 hours. Eastern and Western Municipal Water Districts met demands during this time with their own supplies and had access to the Mills finished water reservoirs, if needed.



Large roll-out section installed at Santa Ana Valley Pipeline

Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution

The State Water Project (SWP) target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants transitioned from zero to 100 percent in March to support the Lake Mathews shutdown and maximizing the delivery of Article 21 supplies. Weymouth and Diemer plants implemented operational changes to ensure a smooth transition to the change in source water blend. Also, the increased SWP allocation allowed the Mills plant to switch its source from Diamond Valley Lake to Silverwood Lake. The SWP target entering Lake Skinner remained at zero percent.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from January through December 2022 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 601, 606, and 603 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

This month, staff completed annual preventative maintenance for Ozone Contactor #4 and switched over to Ozone Contactor #3 at the Diemer plant. The work included removing quagga mussel shells, cleaning, and testing ozone diffusers. This work is critical to ensure proper functioning of the ozone feed system.



Staff removing quagga mussel shells around ozone diffusers inside Ozone Contactor #3 at the Diemer plant

Staff installed backflow devices on two sodium hypochlorite containment sump pump seal water lines at the Skinner plant. These devices will prevent the backflow of chemicals into the plant's potable water line in the event of a leak in the chemical containment trench. This ensures that chemicals cannot be cross-contaminated with potable water in the case of potable water system pressure loss.



Staff installing backflow prevention device on sodium hypochlorite trench sump pump seal water supply line at the Skinner plant

Staff worked with a vendor to clean-out a sulfuric acid tank at the Diemer plant. Approximately 700 gallons of acid and sludge from the tank floor, and 4,300 gallons of rinse water were removed. Staff will coordinate with Engineering to perform the five-year tank inspection. This work ensures tank integrity and availability for service.



Outside of sulfuric acid tank (left); tank inside before cleaning (center); and inside tank after cleaning (right) at the Diemer plant

Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response

On March 7, staff was advised by the California Office of Emergency Services that Metropolitan's Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for Diamond Valley Lake and Cajalco Creek Detention Basin were approved. Approval of these plans involved extensive collaboration between staff across Metropolitan and multiple outreach meetings with many regional jurisdictions and stakeholders. Metropolitan is continuing to update other dam EAPs and is reaching out to its partners throughout the Southern California area.

Staff participated in annual chemical responder training and conducted two response exercises using the Incident Command Post (ICP) at the Skinner plant. Management and unit staff members used the WebEOC event logging system and activated the plant's ICP to mitigate simulated chlorine and ammonia leaks. This training was conducted by professionals in the hazardous waste emergency response industry, who provided constructive feedback relating to how staff handled the response.



Staff participating in the annual chemical responder refresher training at the Skinner plant

Actively Engage in Capital Project Planning and Execution

Staff began the installation of a new security camera and additional LED lighting to improve camera visibility at Lake Mathews Reservoir. The security cameras, when installed, will provide theft deterrence and additional security for the facility. The new security cameras will also increase the ability to remotely monitor the facility by staff at Eagle Rock.



Staff upgrading LED lighting (left) and newly installed security camera with motion detector (right) at Lake Mathews Reservoir

Protect Source Water Quality

On March 2, staff participated in the annual meeting of key stakeholders regarding perchlorate cleanup at the former Tronox site in Henderson, Nevada. The Nevada Environmental Response Trust and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection updated stakeholders on the long-term remedy plan development, project budget, and interim remediation efforts. Staff continues to monitor remedial operations, plan development, and the disbursement of funds from a settlement between Tronox and its site predecessors. The project is expected to reach a significant milestone by completing the Remedial Investigation report for Operable Units 1 and 2 at the end of 2023.

Examine and Mitigate Adverse Water Quality Outcomes

In mid-March, high rainfall resulted in significant runoff in the Silverwood Lake watershed with increased flows into the lake. Coincident with the storm, on March 18, staff was notified of a spill of about 15,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater into a creek that eventually flows into the lake. Staff's response to the potential influx of contamination into the lake included increased microbial monitoring, closely monitoring plant operations, maintaining higher than required level of disinfection, notification of potentially affected member agencies and subagencies, and communication with the state's Division of Drinking Water, the Department of Water Resources, and Crestline Sanitation District. Elevated turbidity and *Giardia* were detected in raw water samples leaving the lake but microbiological monitoring of the Mills, Weymouth, and Diemer treatment plants in the days after the spill showed no impact to the quality of treated water leaving the plants.

Manage the Power System

Energy costs for the CRA for fiscal year 2022–23 are currently projected to be higher than budgeted. Current estimates on the total CRA energy cost range from \$145 to 150 million, compared with an original budget of \$102.5 million.

Metropolitan completed its annual self-certification for calendar year 2022, attesting to compliance with mandatory electric reliability compliance requirements as promulgated by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) in March 2023. Metropolitan is subject to 39 NERC standards with 135 unique requirements. The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) is the Regional Entity tasked with enforcing NERC standards. For calendar year 2022, WECC required Metropolitan to self-certify for the following standards:

- FAC-003-4 R6—Transmission Vegetation Management
- PRC-005-6 R3—Protection System, Automatic Reclosing, and Sudden Pressure Relaying Maintenance

The self-certification documentation was submitted to WECC on March 1, 2023. Following best industry practice, Metropolitan reviews and ensures compliance with all applicable NERC standards each year.

Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation

Staff worked with the California-Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association and the California Municipal Utilities Association to provide comments on the Division of Drinking Water's (DDW) proposed revisions to the Notification Level (NL) and Response Level (RL) for manganese in treated drinking water, and the potential impacts to public water systems within Metropolitan's service area and throughout the state. In a March 21 meeting, DDW presented information supporting the revisions. Manganese is a naturally occurring element and an essential trace nutrient for humans. However, there are concerns that ingestion of high levels can cause neurological effects.

The proposal reduces the existing NL from 500 micrograms per liter (µg/L) to 20 µg/L and the RL from 5,000 µg/L to 200 µg/L. The proposed NL of 20 µg/L for manganese is below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Health Advisory of 300 µg/L and the current Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level of 50 µg/L established in California. Based on the State Water Board's data, it is estimated that over 3,700 sources and over 1,900 Public Water Systems will be affected by the proposal. If the proposed values are finalized, Metropolitan will be affected because manganese in some plant effluents occasionally exceeds the proposed NL. Staff will continue tracking updates to the manganese NL and RL and other future compliance and regulatory activities.

On March 3, Cal/OSHA released a 45-day Public Comment draft of the Proposed Amendments to Lead Standards in General Industry and Construction (Lead Standards). First proposed in 2011, the rule lowers the Action Level from 30 to 2 µg/m³, and the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) from 50 to 10 µg/m³. In addition, the standard lowers the threshold for more frequent Blood Level testing for when employees Blood Lead Levels (BLL) reaches 10 µg/dl, as opposed to 40 µg/dl; and updates the annual medical examination and consultations requirements. Metropolitan complies with the requirements of the Construction Lead standard and has a Lead Management program for employees working with lead. Staff are currently reviewing the proposed amendments and working with Phylmar Regulatory Roundtable to prepare comments due April 20, 2023.

On March 8, staff submitted a letter asking DDW to exempt the Eagle, Gene, and Iron Mountain pumping plants from the need to report under the Drought and Conservation Technical Reporting Order (Order No. DDW_HQ_Drought2023_001) (Order). The letter pointed out that SB 552, passed in 2021, exempts Metropolitan's small water systems from the need to conduct drought reporting. DDW has verbally told staff that they will not be honoring this request; therefore, staff is gathering the requisite data to comply with the Order.

On March 14, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released draft maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFAS at 4 parts per trillion (ppt) each— the detection limit of the EPA's testing method. The proposed rule also set maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs) for both PFOA and PFOS to 0 ppt. Finally, the EPA proposed regulating PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX as a mixture using a Hazard Index value of 1.0. The EPA hopes to finalize the regulation by early 2024 with a three-year compliance timeline from the rule's effective date. Once published in the Federal Register, the 60-day comment period will start. Staff is evaluating the impact of the proposed rule on Metropolitan and its member agencies.

Support and Engage with Member Agencies on Technical Matters

On March 20, a memorandum summarizing the proposed PFAS standards was distributed to member agency managers, and a more extensive PFAS update was provided during the March 29 Member Agency Managers meeting. Staff will coordinate with member agencies and industry associations for potential comments on the proposed regulation. Metropolitan has voluntarily monitored source and treated water for PFAS, including PFOS and PFOA since 2013 and has occasionally detected four compounds at very low concentrations. The PFAS covered by this new proposed regulation have not been detected in Metropolitan's treated water, and Metropolitan's water deliveries are not currently affected by these proposed drinking water standards.

Monthly Update as of:

3/31/2023

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	5,370,000	22%
Lake Mead	7,402,000	29%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	2,915,585	82%
Shasta Lake	3,796,288	83%
San Luis Total	2,002,098	99%
San Luis CDWR	1,067,141	100%
Castaic Lake	268,260	83%
Silverwood Lake	69,688	93%
Lake Perris	107,259	82%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	495,712	61%
Lake Mathews	163,181	90%
Lake Skinner	39,698	90%



Hoover Dam

Information Technology

Project Highlights

MAXIMO Mobile Project

The Maximo Mobile Project is replacing the outdated handheld technology with Apple iPads with full wireless capabilities. The iPads will be used to update Preventative Maintenance Work Orders, record labor hours, update asset information, and other data collection activities in the field. Additionally, the iPad provides access to email, text, phone and video communications with staff and teams. Mapping capabilities and photo capturing allow for greater productivity for mobile assignments. The project has deployed over 200 iPads and is working with maintenance teams to deploy and integrate the devices into their workflows. Full deployment is expected to be completed in the upcoming months.



Fuel Management System

The Fuel Management System provides essential management controls over fuel inventories and dispensing at 13 Metropolitan facilities. The benefits of the newly implemented FuelMaster System are the control of dispensing of fuel to authorized vehicles and employees, and simultaneously recording vehicle information including odometer and service codes. The system uses such information to develop preventive maintenance schedules to fit the usage levels of specific vehicles or equipment. The system is fully installed and operational with reporting enhancements currently underway.

Real Property Business System Replacement Project

This project provides an application for the acquisitions and property management functions of the Real Property Group. The new application, Flairdocs, has replaced the property management application Reportfolio and is now live. The Flairdocs application centralizes the creation of data related to projects and agreements in Real Property. This will allow reporting that is automatic and always available. The largest benefit to Real Property will be the time saved in reporting. Before Flairdocs, representatives needed to put information together from different sources, including spread sheets, paper files, the financial system, etc. This produced a one-off report that would need to be recreated each time in the same inefficient and time-consuming manner.

The next phase of the project will be to integrate data from Oracle Enterprise Business Suite (OEBS). The OEBS integration will automate the creation of invoices for lessees of Metropolitan properties as well as assisting with payments. Completion of this integration is targeted for the end of summer 2023.

Real Property

Highlights

Foster staff training and development.

Attended the following trainings:

Attended International Right of Way's Course 102—Elevating Your Ethical Awareness. This course is for all employees seeking IRWA designations or recertifications intended to help resolve ethics and compliance issues by providing information and resources to make good decisions in the right-of-way profession. This course will ensure that all real property transactions are completed in the utmost ethical manner while striving to fulfill Metropolitan's mission.

Attended the joint Southern California chapter of the Appraisal Institute and IRWA meeting in which the topic "The impact of Recession and Inflation on Property values" was discussed, which should enable staff appraisers to properly value land and understand the key drivers of land value changes within Metropolitan's service area.

Provide right-of-way planning, valuation, and real property acquisition support services for the sustainability and reliability of both imported and regional water supplies, and protection of water rights.

Obtained an entry permit from a private property owner to allow Metropolitan's Construction Services Unit to repair erosion damage to the Foothill Feeder north of Creekview Park. This repair work will ensure continued reliability and water delivery of Metropolitan's Foothill Feeder pipeline

Core Business: Real Property Acquisition, Management, and Revenue Enhancement

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

Southern California Edison (SCE) was granted a permanent easement comprising approximately 1,300 square feet of land near Lake Matthews. The easement will allow SCE to replace switchgear and electrical equipment in connection with Western Municipal Water District's Cajalco MCC Replacement Project.

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

Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District hosted the 34th annual Bunny Hop event at the Diamond Valley Lake Soccer Fields in the East Recreation Area. The event drew many families and members of the community to participate in the friendly competition which included a walk, a 1K, and 5K family fun run for children and adults of all ages.



Staff completed work to repair a chronic plumbing issue at the Palos Verde Reservoir employee housing. The work required the removal of an outside wall to access the kitchen drain. This repair resolved the ongoing issue of a clogged drain in the kitchen.



District Housing Maintenance and Management.

Staff responded to Tenant Requested Work Orders resulting from high winds associated with recent atmospheric storms. House siding, roof shingles, and fencing were replaced.



Pre-occupancy repairs on one house were completed this reporting period. Repairs to this house consisted of minor interior paint touchups, yard cleanup, exterior paint touchups, and thorough cleaning.

Desert Housing and Recreation Interim Action Plan (DHRIAP) has been implemented, and work continues with the installation of carports at Gene. Eleven out of seventeen carports have been completed. The remaining six carports are expected to be complete by mid-April. Once all carports at Gene are complete, focus will shift to installing carports at Iron Mountain. In addition, as part of the DHRIAP, work on the Iron Mountain Wellness Center is progressing. The floor strengthening has been completed as well as the insulation installation. Rough electrical is complete, and the drywall is currently being hung. Plumbing work has been completed, air conditioning/heating has been installed, and flooring and paint have been scheduled.



Before and After Carport Installation at House 48-G



Insulation and Drywall Installed at Iron Mountain Wellness Center

Security

Project Highlights

Security and Emergency Response

On average, security specialists respond to at least one illegal dumping incident every week on Metropolitan's fee properties. Most of these incidents typically occur in remote, environmentally sensitive areas adjacent to public access roadways.

When routine contract security patrols come across illegal dumping or abandoned vehicles, they immediately secure the location, document the damage with photographs, locate the coordinates, and notify internal stakeholders to quickly initiate the removal and remediation response.

Metropolitan senior security specialists recently updated protocols, resources, and plans addressing metal theft, illegal dumping, and abandoned vehicle incidents occurring within Metropolitan's fee properties. These topics and additional prevention, education, and remediation resources can be found on Security's Intramet page.



Metropolitan Security Specialists develop metal theft, illegal dumping, and abandoned vehicle abatement plans.

Security and Emergency Response

The safety and security of Metropolitan's infrastructure and its people depend on modern and resilient security systems. While physical security measures like locks, gates, and fences have traditionally been relied upon, technology-based solutions are increasingly being used to supplement and enhance these measures.

One of the primary benefits of technology-based solutions is its ability to detect and respond to potential security threats with higher accuracy and real-time precision. By using sensors, alarms, and other monitoring tools, security personnel can quickly detect and respond to potential threats before they escalate into significant security incidents.

Metropolitan's Security Management Unit (SMU) and Information Technology Group launched a special project featuring advanced technology that secures the information transmitted to and from various security devices within Metropolitan's facilities.

Maintaining a balance between technology-based solutions and traditional on-site security measures will ensure that security strategies remain effective, thereby protecting Metropolitan's infrastructure and its people from potential threats.



Technology-based solutions supplement Metropolitan's traditional physical security measures.

Finance and Administration



Finance

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.

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

The Risk Management Unit completed 43 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 56 risk assessments on contracts, including professional service agreements, construction contracts, entry permits, special events, and film permits.

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.

Manage the Business Continuity Management Program in accordance with Operating Policy A-06.

- Facilitated meetings between Payroll and Information Technology to better understand impacts during an extended system outage and develop strategies to continue paying employees.
- Worked with the Fusion vendor to make updates to the guided workflows used by planning coordinators to update their business continuity plans.
- Assisted Risk Management in conducting interviews of candidates for Third-Party Administrators for liability/property claims.
- Attended EOC training at the Eagle Rock facility.

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 that 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.

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 February 2023 (for water billed in December 2022) totaled 147.0 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 11.8 TAF higher than the budget of 135.2 TAF, translating to \$131.0 million in receipts for February 2023, which was \$11.5 million higher than the budget of \$119.5 million.
- Year-to-date water transactions through February 2023 (for water billed from May 2022 through December 2022) were 1,152.2 TAF, which was 27.4 TAF lower than the budget of 1,179.6 TAF. Year-to-date water receipts through February 2023 were \$1,067.2 million, which was \$44.8 million lower than the budget of \$1,112.0 million.

- In February 2023, Accounts Payable processed approximately 2,900 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$3,200 in discounts.

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

Staff and Metropolitan's finance team is working on documentation for a \$330 million bond sale, expected to close on May 4, 2023.

Bond proceeds will fund a portion of FY's 2022–23 and 2023–24 Capital Investment Program, and refund outstanding revenue debt.

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.

In early February, Staff updated Moody's on the latest conditions in the negotiations of reductions on Colorado River Supplies. This briefing was requested prior to a Special Report release.

Staff has scheduled and begun to prepare for a meeting with Moody's Investors' Service and Standard and Poor's, in early May 2023, to update the rating agencies on Metropolitan's current operations and finances

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

As of February 28, 2022, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.3 billion; in February 2023, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 28 trades.

In February 2023, Treasury staff processed 903 disbursements by check, 20 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 114 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 75 receipts by check, 31 receipts by ACH, and 51 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

In addition, 8,829 P-One Card transactions, totaling \$1.4M, were recorded in the February bank statement.

Administrative Services

Accomplishments

Asset Management

In March, the Professional Services Contracting Team (PSCT) completed RFQ 1320 for Asset Management and Asset Reliability Services. The purpose of this RFQ is to develop a list of pre-qualified respondents to provide on-call asset management and asset reliability services using state-of-the-art technologies and to establish project-specific agreement award procedures for work that falls within the Water Systems Operations Group.

DSU - College of H2O Knowledge

The Document Services Unit (DSU) launched its College of H2O Knowledge in March. The vision for the college is to educate staff about Metropolitan's operations and water-related topics to understand how their jobs help Metropolitan achieve its mission to deliver high-quality water to 19 million people throughout Southern California. Their first speaker, Bart Garcia, Inspection Trip Manager from External Affairs, gave a highly informative presentation about the history of Metropolitan. Future topics will include the Metropolitan facilities; the River Policy (expiring in 2026); One Water; Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation, and other topics requested by staff.

Human Resources

HR Priorities

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

In March, 635 Metropolitan employees attended virtually facilitated classes, including Drug & Alcohol Awareness, Avoiding Workplace Burnout, Communication Strategies, Conflict Resolution, and Recruitment Procedures for Managers.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online e-learning content platform, was accessed for such topics as Improving Your Focus, Communicating Nonverbally, Coaching Employees Through Difficult Situations, Being an Effective Team Member, and Root Cause Analysis.

The Organizational Development & Training Unit (OD&T) developed and facilitated an Emotional Intelligence team building for the Water Purification Team at Weymouth, and a Collaborative Communication Team Building for External Affairs' Administration Team.

OD&T developed the Recruitment Procedures training for Metropolitan management.

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

Recruitment successfully filled 17 positions for March. Recruitment received 24 new staffing requisitions, resulting in 218 positions currently in recruitment.

HR Core Business: Provide Excellent Human Resources Services

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

HR Benefits Unit hosted a financial education webinar on March 15, in connection with The Institute of Student Loan Advisors (TISLA) on the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program administered by the Department of Education. This webinar is to educate employees on the requirements to have outstanding school loan balances forgiven by the Federal government after 10-plus years of employment with Metropolitan, provide instructions for requesting, and resources for assistance with filing the application.

HR Benefits Unit hosted the Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC) meeting on March 8 to ensure compliance and help meet its fiduciary responsibilities for administering the 401(k) and 457(b) plans. The DCAC voted to replace Invesco Global R6 (OGLIX) fund with American Funds Global Insights R6 (RGLGX), and place MFS Growth Fund (OTCKX) on watch. HR Benefits will work with Empower to have the fund replacement completed by end of May 2023 and all affected participants notified. The HR Benefits Unit provided the members of the DCAC with a summary chart of the SECURE Act 2.0 mandatory and optional provisions available for the 401(k) and 457(b) plans for review and discussion at the Q2 meeting on June 8. Once final decisions are made and provisions are adopted, a communication campaign and financial education plan will be developed and deployed to all active employees and plan participants.

HR Core Business: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations

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.

HR Benefits worked with HRIS and IT to issue the 1095-C statements to all employees and filed the 1094-C Employer report with the IRS by March 1, 2023, as mandated by law under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

In March, five new workers' compensation claims were received. Ten employees are currently off work because of an industrial injury or illness, and three employees have returned to work. This reflects Metropolitan's effort to accommodate injured workers, while enabling them to be productive and on the job.

In addition, staff is working on adding industrial medicine providers to the roster to increase the number of options for Metropolitan employees. Staff continues to work closely with our Workers' Compensation Third-Party Administrator, TRISTAR Risk Management.

Activities of the Medical Screening Unit are summarized as follows for March:

- Coordinated two medical Medvan visits (DMV, respirator exams, and hearing tests) at La Verne.
- Facilitated return-to-work from leave for five employees.
- Addressed 34 accommodation issues, referrals, and follow ups with Shaw Consulting Group.

HR Metrics	June 2022	March 2023	Prior Month February 2023
Headcount			
Regular Employees	1,762	1764	1,758
Temporary Employees	37	19	17
Interns	2	0	1
Recurrents	18	18	18
Annuitants	19	25	25

	March 2023	February 2023
Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	218	211
Number of New Staffing Requisitions	24	30
	March 2023	February 2023
Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress	10	8
Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits	4	2
Number of New Job Audit Requests	2	3

Finance and Administration

(continued)

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 21/22 Totals</u>	<u>March 2023</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	82	7	86
Temporary Employees	36	4	14
Interns	4	0	0
Internal Promotions	70	7	48
Management Requested Promotions	152	8	105
Retirements/Separations (regular employees)	127	1	83
Employee-Requested Transfers	15	1	13

Departures

Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Reason	Group
Anderson	Frederick	Wtr Trtment Plant Operator III	1/6/2023	Retirement – Service	Water System Operations

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I)

Tribal Outreach & Engagement

DEI Staff participated in the Colorado River Indian Tribe's regional event, MegaThrow. MegaThrow is a cultural event that celebrates the indigenous Bird songs and dance of the tribal region. Spiritual ceremonies were also performed. Metropolitan participated as an exhibitor and talked about workforce opportunities at Metropolitan.

Business Outreach & Community Engagement

Metropolitan Business Outreach Program co-sponsored The National Association of Women in Construction/Los Angeles & OC Chapters—Women in Construction Week Program. The program featured a panel presentation on "Shaping Your Career Now for the Future." About 200 people participated (March 7)

Staff attended the Construction Network conference. Chief Engineer John Bednarski presented Metropolitan's CIP forecast. (March 15)

Staff attended the Annual California Procurement Expo hosted by the Small Business Development Network in San Diego. (March 14–15)

Staff attended the Veteran Resource Expo in Newport Beach. The event was hosted by the national business organization Veterans in Business network. (March 16)

Staff attended the United Construction (UCON) Contractors forum in Anaheim. UCON is a business organization with a membership of 700 union contractors.

Staff attended the CMAA SoCal's Owner's Night in Long Beach. Owner's Night is one of the industry's premier networking events for industry professionals to meet with local public and private owners to learn about their projects and staffing needs. Over 400 design, construction, and consulting professionals attend Owner's Night. (March 22)

Hosted the inaugural hybrid Project Labor Agreement (PLA) small business training workshop in Moreno Valley to give small businesses an overview of PLA's and to provide technical assistance. (March 22)

Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) – Women's History Month

Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and Women at Metropolitan joined forces to host a webinar entitled "Crashing the Gatekeepers: Dismantling Structures of Unintentional Bias Against Women". Women from these two ERGs and male allies then came together for a happy hour to celebrate Women's History Month (pictures below) .





External Affairs

Highlights

Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Camacho, Directors Luna, Dennstedt, Erdman, Jung, Quinn, McMillan, and McCoy, GM Hagekhalil, AGM/CEAO Zinke, and staff held meetings in Sacramento with DWR Director Nemeth, State Water Board Chair Esquivel, Senators Becker, Min, and Seyarto, and Assembly Members Bauer-Kahan, Calderon, Mathis, and Rivas to discuss Metropolitan's priorities and initiatives to respond to challenges related to water management, supply conditions and climate change. (March 6–7)



Chairman Ortega, Metropolitan Directors and GM Hagekhalil with Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan.

Chair Ortega was a featured speaker on a World Water Day panel hosted by Tree People and CWEA, "Be the Change, Every Drop Counts." (March 22)



Vice Chair Repenning and GM Hagekhalil were among the featured speakers at the BizFed Institute Water Forum at MWD's Headquarters

begins refilling Diamond Valley Lake with State Water Project supplies for the first time in three years. Secretary for Natural Resources Crowfoot, Vice Chair Repenning, and GM Hagekhalil spoke about the many actions underway to maximize the amount of water stored in reservoirs and groundwater basins depleted by drought, develop new local supplies, and encourage conservation. Director Armstrong also attended the event, which earned media coverage from KABC, KNBC, KTLA, Fox News, Spectrum News, KNX News Radio, Los Angeles Times, Southern California News Group, and Press Enterprise. (March 27)

Metropolitan hosted and sponsored and Vice Chair Repenning, GM Hagekhalil and Chief SRI Officer Crosson addressed the BizFed Institute Water Resiliency Forum to discuss water supply, actionable solutions, and water innovation. (March 24) Metropolitan held a press conference as the agency



Press Conference at DVL

Legislative Services

Federal

Hearings were held on the President's FY 2024 budget proposal, which includes double-digit increases for the EPA and the Department of Interior. Metropolitan is closely tracking the appropriations process and continues to advocate for increased investments in water infrastructure funding.

State

Metropolitan staff is monitoring work of the Legislative budget and policy subcommittees on investments and priority issues including non-functional turf, water rights, climate, and drought resiliency programs.

Local

Metropolitan provided briefings to the following district staff of federal and state legislators:

- Legislative staff for Representative Ruiz (D-Indio). Meeting also included a tour of Wadsworth Pumping Plant and Diamond Valley Lake. (March 14)
- District representative for Senator Umberg (D-Garden Grove). MWDOC staff participated in the meeting. (March 21)
- District director of newly elected Senator Menjivar (D-Burbank). (March 23)

Metropolitan staff served as Master of Ceremonies for the South Gate State of the City, featuring Mayor Gloria Olmos, who recognized the leadership of Metropolitan and USGVMWD to meet the region's water needs. (March 23)

Staff met with Director McCoy and Compton city officials to talk about local and member agency assistance programs available to help with conservation activities and water bottle filling stations. (March 26)

Metropolitan staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 75 webinars, virtual meetings, and events this month with community organizations, trade associations, and local officials on water-specific topics.

Metropolitan sponsored the Fullerton State of the City event, which featured Director Jung, Mayor of the City of Fullerton. (March 29)

Media and Communications

Media interest in Southern California's water outlook and Metropolitan's actions to respond to the extreme rain and snowpack conditions remained high. Staff coordinated interviews for GM Hagekhalil, COO/AGM Upadhyay and WRM staff with the LA Times, KNX-AM 1070, KABC-TV Channel 7, KPCC-FM's Larry Mantle, KCBS2/KCAL-TV, KFI-AM 640, Burbank Leader and University of La Verne's Campus Times.

Arranged interview with Director Luna and Univision's Gabriela Teissier for a World Water Day broadcast.



Hosted water conservation exhibit booth at Fan Fest opening game of the Angel City Football Club attended by 15,000. The event is part of Metropolitan's season sponsorship with the team. (March 26)

Arranged an interview with Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp and Las Vegas KLAS 8 News reporter Kyle Paine on Southern California's use of Colorado River water.

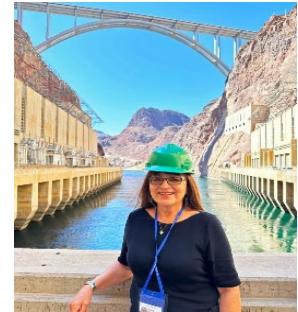
Set up an interview between Nick Cahill of the Water Education Foundation and Water Quality Manager Rochelle on California's microplastics testing requirement.

Press Releases

- Director Cordero appointed by Gov. Newsom to Colorado River Board
- Board rescinding emergency conservation mandate for SWP-dependent areas
- Statement from GM Hagekhalil on Gov. Newsom's revisions to emergency drought order and increased State Water Project allocation to 75 percent
- Diamond Valley Lake media event

Creative Design

Launched the winter/spring flight of the regional conservation advertising and outreach campaign including the world's largest digital billboard, The Reef, as well



Director Cordero was appointed by Gov. Newsom to represent Metropolitan on Colorado River Board.



Examples of multi-lingual ads for outdoor advertising

as 188 transit shelters with messages in six languages, radio on English/Spanish stations, billboards, CTV spots in six languages and a geofencing in-store notification for smart sprinkler timers at Home Depot, Lowe's, and Ace Hardware.

Produced video projects with social media influencer spots with natural beauty innovator Josie Maran and actor/comedian Fred Armisen, innovation video featuring SRI Chief Crosson for BizFed event, and the Delta smelt propagation project.

Produced new postcards in-house for director's inspection trips and other events featuring historical hand-tinted slides taken during the Colorado River Aqueduct's original construction.

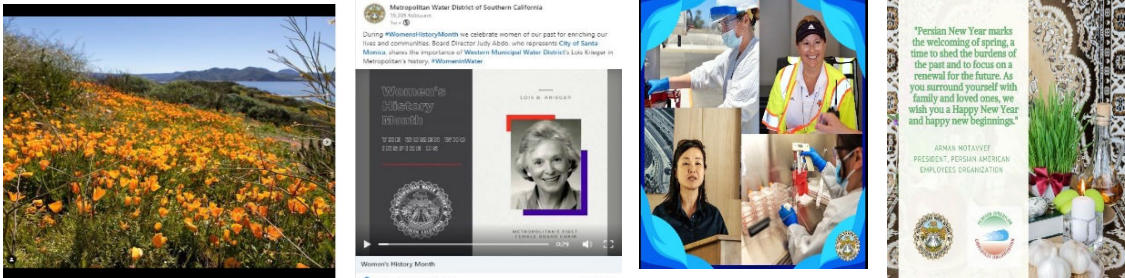
Website and Social Media

Garnered nearly 86,000 views on mwdh2o.com, more than 26,000 views on bewaterwise.com, and 21 million social media impressions, with turf replacement, native plants, and rebates pages generating the most interest.

Celebrated Fix a Leak Week by participating in a Twitter party hosted by the U.S. EPA.



Featured social media assets for Women's History Month, highlighting some of Metropolitan's female "firsts," featured employees for Employee Appreciation Day and Persian New Year, and posted photos of Diamond Valley Lake's Wildflower Trail, which received strong engagement on Instagram and Facebook.



The month's highest performing social media posts highlighted the opening of the DVL wildflower trails, Women's History Month, International Women's Day and Persian New Year

Public Outreach and Member Services

Provided an overview of California's water conveyance systems for WELL Fellowship Program. (March 2)

Conducted three director inspection trips to the State Water Project and Diemer. (March 2–3, 24–25, 24)

Met with Member Agency managers to discuss water supply conditions, Colorado River issues, PFAS regulations, and collaboration on infrastructure funding. (March 3, 29)

Provided notices to local community for Santiago Lateral and Lower Feeder Shutdowns (March 6); Middle Feeder Shutdown (March 22), and Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B. (March 28)

Provided a tour of Intake and Copper Basin for the Water Education Foundation (March 9) and the LaVerne Machine Shops for IEUA staff. (March 22)

Hosted Southern California Edison executives at Metropolitan's HQ. (March 30)

Pure Water Southern California Activities

- Host Pure Water Southern California Outreach Member Agency Workgroup Meeting (March 1)
- Meeting with Wilmington Boys and Girls Club to discuss partnership opportunities (March 14)
- Tour for Central Basin Municipal Water District staff and purveyors (March 15)
- Presentation at United Contractors Association Public Works Summit (March 20)
- Presentation to JWPCP Citizens Advisory Committee (March 21)
- Tour for staff of State Senator Gonzalez (D-Long Beach) (March 22)
- Booth at South Bay Council of Governments General Assembly (March 23)
- Tour with LA Valley College (March 25)



Education and Community Relations

Interacted with nearly 1,100 teachers, students, and parents through in-person and online field trips, community events, meetings, and customized ZOOM class presentations including a scouting event for the Soil and Water Conservation merit badge.

Displayed the 2023 Water is Life Poster Contest art at Anaheim Public Utilities and Irvine Ranch Water District.

Community Partnering and Sponsorship Program

- American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting (March 1)
- WaterReuse Association 2023 Symposium (March 5-8)
- Future Green Leaders' Summit to introduce students from disadvantaged communities to careers in sustainability (March 15)
- Climate Resolve's Coolest in LA Gala 2023 (March 16)
- North American Carbon World conference providing information on the Climate Action Plan, Pure Water Southern California, and conservation programs (March 22-23)
- WELL Annual conference (March 31)

Metropolitan sponsored the following events through the Community Partnering Program:

- Olivenhain MWD Open House and Drought Outreach Project
- Generation STEAM San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering
- 2023 Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair
- Orange County Water District Children's Water Education Festival



Metropolitan staff hosted a booth at the Future Green Leaders Summit

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation



Sustainability, Resiliency, Innovation and Environmental Planning

SRI Core Activities

On March 3 and 8 the Chief SRI Officer participated at the Member Agency Managers meeting and focused on *Board Retreat Follow-up: Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water Process*. On March 20, as part of UN Water Week, the Chief SRI Officer participated virtually in a New York gathering of water agencies representing global megacities to discuss water challenges and identify synergies for future collaborative research around water recycling, water planning, and climate action. The CSRIO also moderated a panel on water innovation at the BizFed Water Forum. The panel showcased how the water community and the business community are adopting new technologies to prepare for climate change and adapting with more efficient water practices.

SRI Lunch and Learn

This month's SRI Lunch and Learn introduced Metropolitan's newly formed Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation (SRI) Council, composed of 17 members representing WSO, Engineering, Administrative Services, External Affairs, Legal, IT, Bay Delta, Colorado River, DEI, Human Resources, Environmental Planning, Real Property, and Finance. The Council shared its strategies for elevating staff ideas and initiatives to help Metropolitan Groups and Sections achieve their SRI goals.



SRI Office Presenting at March's Lunch and Learn



SRI Council Member Scott Suzuki
Presenting at March's Lunch and Learn

23rd Annual General Assembly of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) in Los Angeles County

The Chief of SRI participated in the 23rd Annual General Assembly of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments panel. This year's topic is *"The South Bay: Leading the Way in Resilience and Adaptability."* The forum is designed to look at opportunities to make the South Bay subregion more resilient so that our cities can adapt to the increasing impacts of climate change, particularly in the face of competing state priorities.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)



The Chief of SRI Officer Speaking to the BizFed Institute Forum



Long-Term Regional Planning Process and Business Modeling (LRPPBM)

On March 28, 2023, the Chief of SRI Officer presented at the Long-Term Regional planning Process and Business Modeling subcommittee. The Chief of SRI focused on discussion of *Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water Process*. The LRPPBM Subcommittee will lead efforts to find mutual understanding among board members and member agencies on key terms including reliability, affordability, financial sustainability, and resilience.



Chief SRI Officer Speaking to the LRPPBM Subcommittee



SRI Council Meeting

This month's SRI Council Meeting focused on reporting and discussing the findings of the initial phase of Metropolitan's Climate Vulnerability Risk Assessment. Over 70 external and internal docents (regional plans, assessments, policy documents, etc.) were reviewed to assess known climate hazards and potential impacts. Previously unidentified potential climate hazards and cascading impacts were identified for discussion and further evaluation. The SRI Council also discussed novel SRI ideas generated by non-managerial staff and strategies for promoting promising initiatives.

Zero Electric Fleet (ZEV) Transition

The SRI Office, along with the ZEV Executive Task Force, continued to work with WSO, ESG, and other organizations throughout Metropolitan to establish a vehicle replacement strategy, financing and procurement options, and the build-out of infrastructure needed to transition the fleet to ZEVs.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)

Green Procurement

The SRI Office is working with Administrative Services Section procurement management to continue development of a sustainable procurement policy and a cooperative agreement to position Metropolitan to procure zero-emission vehicles.

Innovation

Instrumentation and Monitoring Assessment Levee Pilot Project

The SRI Office is participating in the Instrumentation and Monitoring Assessment Levee Pilot Project. The purpose of this project is to address existing conditions and long-term plans for prioritization of best innovative technologies applicable to the Delta Island levees and freshwater conveyance corridors in the Delta region.

The instrumentation and monitoring needs identified for the Delta Islands levees include the following:

- Visual inspection and monitoring
- Deformation monitoring
- Remote erosion monitoring
- Geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring
- Geophysical surveys of subsurface conditions and unknown encroachments/anomalies



Innovative Instrumentation



Sensoil – Upper Levee Zone Monitoring



Environmental Planning Section

Core Business: Environmental Planning and Regulatory Compliance Support

Bay Delta Initiatives

- Initiated preparation of responses to comments received on the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Delta Smelt Preservation and Enhancement Project during the public comment period, which closed on March 13.
- Initiated preparation of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Delta Smelt Preservation and Enhancement Project.
- Assisted in reviewing and preparing responses to comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project in the resource areas of Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources on behalf of Public Water Agencies.
- Began preliminary environmental work in support of a concept grant proposal for a proposed project on Webb Tract.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)

Engineering Services Group

Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Access Road Improvements Project

- Prepared the board letter and presentation for the March board action to adopt the MND and MMRP for the project; the Board adopted the MND and MMRP at its March 14 meeting.
- Prepared and filed the CEQA Notices of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research and the County of San Bernardino following the adoption of the MND for the project.

Perris Valley Pipeline

- Held a kick-off meeting and initiated biological clearance surveys in support of environmental construction monitoring activities.

Pure Water Southern California

- Continued preparation of biological resources, hazardous materials, and paleontological resources technical reports in support of the Program EIR.
- Conducted Tribal Cultural Resources consultation.

Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Project

- Finalized the technical report for traffic/transportation analysis in support of the Program EIR.
- Continued preparation of cultural resources, noise, air quality, and greenhouse gas emissions technical reports in support of the Program EIR.

Design Support

- Provided design support for the Weymouth Plant Wheeler Gate Security Upgrades, Weymouth Plant Hazardous Waste and Storage Facility, and Diemer Plant North Slope Upgrades projects.

Construction Monitoring

- Continued environmental construction monitoring efforts for the following projects:
 - Etiwanda Pipeline Relining
 - Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Second Lower Feeder Reach 3A
 - PCCP Rehabilitation Valve Storage Building
 - Orange County Feeder Relining Reach 3
 - Weymouth Basins 5–8 Rehabilitation
 - La Verne Shops Upgrades
 - Battery Energy Storage System
 - Live Oak Reservoir Cathodic System Replacement
- Completed construction monitoring for the Orange County Feeder Station 901+14 Erosion Protection Project.



PCCP Second Lower Feeder Reach 3A Noise Barriers at Palos Verdes North Storage Area

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)

External Affairs Group

- Participated in California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB) Natural Resources Task Force (NRTF) monthly meeting.
- Provided legislative analysis on Senate Bill (SB) 649 and Assembly Bill (AB) 606, both related to the California Endangered Species Act.

Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation Office

Climate Action Plan (CAP) Monitoring and Reporting

- Gathered data and continued preparation of the draft 2023 CAP Annual Report.
- Continued to gather data for the Natural Gas Equipment Inventory Usage, Employee Commute/Transit, and Net Zero Waste policies.
- Initiated data gathering for the LED Lighting Inventory to document LED technologies within Metropolitan.

Water System Operations Group

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Compliance

- Prepared and filed the CEQA Notices of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research, County of Riverside, and County of San Bernardino following board approval of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Master Reclamation Plan and adoption of the MND for the project.
- Coordinated with State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) personnel and supported SMGB's public hearing to consider and approve, as the SMARA Lead Agency, Metropolitan's CRA Master Reclamation Plan; the SMGB considered and approved Metropolitan's CRA Master Plan on March 23.

Shutdown Support

- Completed CEQA analysis and regulatory permitting compliance and conducted coordination with WSO staff for the Lower Feeder and Santiago Lateral shutdown and dewatering activities.

Reserve Management

Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Conducted coastal California gnatcatcher surveys in Riversidean sage scrub communities that had not been surveyed since the reserve's establishment in 1995.
- Conducted approximately 45 acres of mowing on reserve grasslands.
- Continued sheep grazing on approximately 500 acres of reserve grasslands south of Cajalco Road.
- Continued stinknet removal, with reserve staff mapping and treating 25 acres during this month; the total amount of stinknet treated this year is approximately 125 acres.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Conducted rare plants surveys in the Lake Skinner area and observed Parry's spineflower, chocolate lilies, Munz's onion, and Palmer's grappling hook.
- Continued weed abatement.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)



Mule Deer at Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve



Chocolate Lilies Identified at Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve during Rare Plant Surveys

External Document Reviews

- Reviewed 13 CEQA notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.



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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