



Water Resource Management Group

Strategic Priority: Rebuild Water Storage Accounts

Hydrologic conditions in 2011 have led to the highest State Water Project allocation since 2006. These abundant supplies will allow Metropolitan to continue to increase regional storage reserves, thus reducing the potential for shortage actions in the near future. As storage space in Diamond Valley Lake is filled, the task of delivering water into other storage facilities will become more challenging. Staff will work to optimize the use of storage agreements in the region, the Central Valley, and on the Colorado River system. The goal of these actions is to capture available supplies in order to end 2011 with a new record for the highest level of dry-year storage in Metropolitan's history. This strategic priority will help reduce the likelihood that Metropolitan will need to declare a Water Supply Allocation in coming years. Staff will work with current storage partners to schedule deliveries to storage in an effort to maximize the capture of available supplies.

Objective#1:

Optimize the effective use of storage capacity for future needs.

Action(s):

1. Analyze and report on the range of developing supply and demand conditions to recommend the appropriate storage and water management actions.
2. Optimize importation of water to meet demands and fill storage.
3. Implement and manage State Water Project (SWP) and Colorado River Aqueduct water management programs, including banking, exchanges, and transfers.
4. Renegotiate existing agreements with water management partners to maximize mutual benefits, secure cost savings, and improve operational efficiency and water quality.
5. Explore opportunities for new or expanded programs.
6. Evaluate and revise the regional contractual groundwater storage program as needed to improve local and regional benefits, incorporate changed conditions, and simplify administration.



Core Business: Water Supply

Manage and execute water supply management strategies and programs to acquire water supply and demand management resources to meet development targets specified by the IRP.

Ensure water supply reliability by incorporating emerging trends and challenges, including climate change, in the near term through adaptive strategies and in the long term through updating the IRP.

Performance Measure(s):

- Dry-year Storage Levels above 2.2 million acre-feet by end of 2011
- 100% of SWP and Supply Program invoices processed on time
- Manage Supply Program expenditures within 2011/12 budget
- Board adoption of new programs in FY 2011/12:
 - *Replenishment Program*
 - *Update of the Water Surplus and Drought Management Plan*
 - *Local Resource Program*
 - *Long-Term Conservation Plan*
 - *Adjustments to the Water Supply Allocation Plan*

Objective#1:

Develop a process to evaluate potential partnerships for water resource project development.

Action(s):

1. Review existing policy principles and recommend revisions as needed on partnerships for development of local resources and water management programs.
2. Review or develop as needed administrative guidelines for solicitation, receipt, and evaluation of each type of water management program.
3. Prepare policy guidelines with member agencies' input for Board consideration.

Objective#2:

Complete Local Resources Development Strategy, review Local Resources Program, and obtain Board approval.

Action(s):

1. Conduct member agency workgroup meetings to obtain input on approaches to meet 2010 IRP target.
2. Identify alternative mechanisms to support local project development, including equity partnerships and non-incentive-based methods.
3. Evaluate costs, water rate impacts, and financing approaches.



Objective#3:

Ensure cost-effective and reliable State Water Contract Supply.

Action(s):

1. Ensure access to SWP conveyance facilities to make full use of Metropolitan's water transfer and banking programs in a cost-effective manner.
2. Conduct annual audit of the SWP Statement of Charges and review monthly billings from Department of Water Resources (DWR) for accuracy, resolve discrepancies, and influence sound financial decisions.
3. Continue to seek avenues to assist DWR in overcoming some of the impediments to effective procurement process.
4. Provide DWR with timely schedules of SWP deliveries.
5. Collaborate with the State Water Contractors (SWC) and State Water Project Contractors Authority (SWPCA) to influence DWR actions focusing on increasing collaboration, spending, operational flexibility and efficiency, and Delta solutions.
6. Provide technical leadership in various SWC and SWPCA committees.

Objective#4:

Participate, and lead where appropriate, in statewide and regional planning efforts.

Action(s):

1. Represent Metropolitan on DWR's California Water Plan public advisory committee and applicable regional caucuses.
2. Coordinate with and provide technical assistance to the eight Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) groups in Metropolitan's service area as they update their IRWM plans to ensure consistencies with the Integrated Water Resources Plan.
3. Participate in coalitions (such as CUWA, ACWA, Southern California Water Committee) and task forces in water policy development related to water reliability, quality, water use efficiencies, management of existing and development of new water resources, financing, planning approaches, etc.
4. Provide leadership in water conservation through the California Urban Water Conservation Council and other statewide stakeholder workgroups.
5. Participate in watershed management activities discussion, and perform joint studies when appropriate, through the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, Greater Los Angeles Basin IRWM leadership committee, and other applicable organizations.
6. Collaborate with member agencies and water associations to provide education, advocacy, and recommendations on proposed legislation, regulatory actions, and policies regarding water supply issues, including recycled water, stormwater, and groundwater.
7. Continue efforts with the Water Utility Climate Alliance to assess changes in climate, including quantifying key vulnerabilities, implementing low-regrets resource management strategies, and monitoring and assessing climate science research.



Objective#5:

Collaborate with member agencies to coordinate planning efforts, develop policy recommendations, and promote consistent public communications in water resource management issues.

Action(s):

1. Complete the Water Supply Allocation Plan review and recommend revisions for Board consideration by August 2011.
2. Develop a long-term Replenishment Water Services program for Board consideration by the end of 2011, with input from member, retail, and groundwater management agencies.
3. Review and update the Water Surplus and Drought Management Plan by the end of 2011 for Board consideration.
4. Complete review of Long-Term Conservation Plan and obtain Board approval.
5. Work with member agencies and groundwater basin managers to update the 2007 Groundwater Assessment Study.

Objective#6:

Implement the Local Resources Program and Conservation Program effectively.

Action(s):

1. Provide technical assistance to member agencies to implement programs, including supporting, as requested and appropriate, member agency permit applications, grant applications, and regulatory and legislative agendas.
2. Collaborate with member agencies to advance local resources and water use efficiencies by coordinating outreach strategies and priorities, providing end-user training in landscape irrigation efficiency, and developing content for public messages for various media.
3. Manage local resources and conservation program agreements to ensure contract compliance, timely and accurate payments, and timely status reports to management.
4. Perform research and market studies to assess program effectiveness and seek improvements to programs.
5. Pursue state and federal partnerships and grants for projects and research of new technologies.
6. Assess new project proposals in a timely manner and recommend new agreements for Board consideration and approval.
7. Partner with public interest groups, non-governmental organizations, and industry groups on outreach efforts and support of Metropolitan's long-term water use efficiency goals.



Objective#7:

Maintain Colorado River water supply and operational benefits regardless of QSA implementation.

Action(s):

1. Implement strategies, including water banking, conservation, and storage programs to optimize Metropolitan's use of Colorado River water.
2. Seek opportunities to collaborate with other Colorado River water contractors to develop new supplies for the benefit of Metropolitan.
3. Continue to pursue opportunities to develop and improve supply development programs.

Objective#8:

Prepare reports and studies to support the IRP implementation.

Action(s):

1. Prepare necessary reports tracking the IRP implementation, including the annual SB 60 report to the legislature on Metropolitan's achievements in conservation, recycled water use and groundwater recharge; USBR Part 417 report that demonstrates water use efficiency; and the annual IRP implementation Board report.
2. Initiate the System Overview Study to assess facility needs under the 2010 IRP incorporating the adaptive management strategy by developing a scope of study, schedule and member agencies process for Board input.

Objective#9:

Implement Foundational Actions for Potential New Sources of Supplies.

Action(s):

1. Evaluate ocean desalination projects, including partnership opportunities, technical studies for intakes/outfalls and treatment, and system integration and financial aspects of proposed projects.
2. Evaluate the potential for enhanced stormwater and recycled water recharge to sustain and increase groundwater production in the region.
3. Participate in regulatory and legislative processes with associations, such as CalDesal, Association of Groundwater Agencies, WateReuse, Groundwater Resources Association, and others.



Objective#10:

Work cooperatively with Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to streamline approvals for future Sacramento Valley water transfers.

Action(s):

1. Encourage DWR and USBR to implement a transparent public review process for their water transfer technical guidelines.
2. Explore opportunities to streamline DWR/USBR/Buyer/Seller storage and conveyance agreements.
3. Collect and analyze 2011 Sacramento Valley cropping and water use data to develop baseline information needed for future water transfers.