



# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## GENERAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT FEBRUARY 2015

February 28, 2015

This report identifies the actions and activities taking place during the month that support the objectives of the General Manager's Fiscal Year 2014/15 Business Plan.

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### Engineering Services Group

ESG steadily maintained its succession and workforce development efforts, and strategically positioned the organization for the future with Mentoring Program and Career Launch Program.

- The Mentoring Program began its third year with 34 pairs of mentees and mentors. This program sets out to enhance performance and strengthen the leadership pipeline.
- The Career Launch Program introduces new hires to Engineering's overall organization and Metropolitan's system, and proactively prepares entry-level engineers for career progression in engineering leadership roles for the long term.



Group Flash Mentoring session.



Mentoring Program Launch



Career Launch Series / Influence and Advocacy Presentation

# BAY DELTA INITIATIVES

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY: COMPLETE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

Continue to provide leadership in this process to restore the reliability of the State Water Project with the goal of completing the Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement within the upcoming fiscal year reaching decisions on the project.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)—Discussions continued this month with the California Department of Water Resources and other state agencies on the nexus between the Governor’s adopted California Water Action Plan (Water Plan) and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Many of the BDCP elements are complementary to the Water Plan. DWR continues to work on addressing the comments received during the public comment period on the Draft BDCP and Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, and work continues on the supplemental information to be provided as part of the recirculated draft documents. No formal decision on the scope or timing of the recirculation has been announced yet.

## CORE: BAY DELTA SOLUTIONS

Develop near- and long-term solutions that enhance the Delta ecosystem, improve water supply reliability, and protect water quality.

**Develop near-term measures, compatible with a long-term Delta solution, to improve water supply reliability and water quality, and facilitate protection and enhancement of Delta ecosystems and associated species.**

State Water Resources Control Board—On January 23, DWR and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation submitted a Temporary Urgency Change Petition to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to request temporary changes to the terms of the water rights permits for operation of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project. The Petition requested temporary modification of water rights requirements to meet the objectives for Delta outflow, San Joaquin River flow, Delta Cross Channel gate closure, and export limits. These changes would allow management of reservoir releases in a manner that conserves upstream storage for fish and wildlife protection and Delta salinity control while providing critical water supply needs.

On February 3, the SWRCB’s Executive Director issued the “Order Approving In Part And Denying In Part A Petition For Temporary Urgency Changes To License And Permit Terms And Conditions Requiring Compliance With Delta Water Quality Objectives In Response To Drought Conditions” (Order) approving some elements and denying some elements of the Petition. In particular, the Order approved elements of the Petition to adjust flow and water quality requirements that govern inflows and outflows in the Delta and operation of the Delta Cross Channel gates for the next two months. However, the Order did not approve the request for an intermediate level of export pumping under certain conditions to provide needed flexibility to increase exports above minimum levels only when water is moving through the system while maintaining protections for listed fish species. The Order denied this request due to stated

potential additional risk of entrainment to listed species.

Staff reviewed the Order and worked with state and federal water contractors to submit comments on the Order on February 13. The water contractors objected to the Order because it denied the request for an intermediate level of pumping, and that denial did not adequately consider the additional protections for Endangered Species Act listed species provided under the biological opinions nor did it consider impacts on agricultural and urban communities. The comment letter requests that the SWRCB reconsider the Order. Metropolitan also submitted separate comments on the Order addressing the water supply conditions and needs of Metropolitan’s service area.

The SWRCB held an informational workshop on February 18 to receive public comment on the Petition and the Order. Staff coordinated with the State Water Contractors to provide oral comments at the workshop. It is unclear when the SWRCB may provide input or make any decisions concerning the Order.

Science Activities—Dr. James Hobbs, an academic consultant of University of California, Berkeley, conducted fish surveys in small tributaries to San Francisco Bay during January and February as part of a study of longfin smelt spawning habits funded by Metropolitan. Dr. Hobbs found longfin smelt larvae in several tributaries downstream of the Delta, suggesting that longfin smelt may spawn much farther downstream in the Bay-Delta Estuary than commonly believed, even during dry years. This work is part of a larger collaborative study effort with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to understand the behavior and needs of longfin smelt in the Bay-Delta system

# BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

## CORE: BUSINESS PROCESSES AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Advance continuous business process improvements to improve effectiveness and efficiency while striving for innovation, flexibility, and integration with technology.

### **Upgrade and refurbish Information Technology applications and infrastructure to ensure system reliability and performance levels that meet customer needs.**

Hiram Wadsworth Pumping Plant—As part of the pump plant's control and electrical protection systems upgrades, staff completed the unit process flow diagrams that detail how the units will be programmed. Staff continues to proceed with work on electrical components of the system.

IT Disaster Recovery—Staff has completed an IT Disaster Recovery exercise involving critical applications for Water System Operations, Engineering, Finance, Water Quality, Legal, and Human Resources. These exercises provide live simulation of staff accessing critical applications at Metropolitan's remote disaster recovery facility.

### **Continue innovative sustainability efforts in business practices, including Spring Green, Our Legacy Newsletter, the rideshare program, energy conservation and recycling efforts.**

Our Legacy E-Newsletter—Twenty winners were selected as part of last month's *Green Smarts Quiz*. The electronic quiz was a review of water, energy and recycling facts that were covered in the 2013 and 2014 issues.

Spring Green Expo 2015—Preparations for the Spring Green Expo, scheduled for April 30, 2015, are in full swing. February activities included:

- The hiring of one student intern and selection of one Coro Fellow to support recruitment of students for the Eco Innovators' Showcase completed.
- Interest in the event remains high, with requests for vendor exhibit space doubling over last year

Managed Print Services Pilot Program—Staff completed data gathering and comparative analysis for costs associated with the fifth floor desktop printers that were removed as part of the Managed Print Services Pilot Project in June 2014. A final report and recommendations for reducing printing costs are being prepared and will be submitted to management for review in March 2015.

### **Foster a culture of innovation.**

H2O TechConnect Community—A new H2O TechConnect workshop entitled *Sunken Treasure: Cleantech Funding and Opportunities Hidden in the Water Bond* was developed in response to questions from our H2O TechConnect User Community about opportunities available in the Water Bond.

Staff hosted user group meetings on PlanetBids and NETConnect Systems and developed new shared platforms for Business 2 Business (B2B) resources through social networking. Recent user group meetings included:

- Business Outreach staff held two meetings of the California Business 2 Business Alliance.

Discovering Water Innovations and Technology—Recent activity included:

- Technology Approval Group (TAG)—The General Manager welcomed TAG members and innovators to TAG Meeting 8 at Metropolitan's Headquarters. He spoke about the drought and the importance of discovering new innovations and technologies for the water industry. TAG brings together industry know-how to facilitate technology development within the water industry. A recent TAG success story involved the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, with five pilot sites using a technology presented in TAG. The pilot project is replacing 6,500 feet of pipe with earthquake resistant pipes manufactured in Japan.

### **Deploy security technologies to enhance Metropolitan's cyber security position.**

Cyber Security and SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition)

- Staff finished the implementation of System Center tools for Water System Operations that are used to monitor workstations for configuration compliance, push out updates for software and anti-virus, etc.
- Staff has completed review of cyber security legislation, HR85, Terrorism Prevention and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2015. Applicable impacts will be discussed at March's Organization, Personnel and Technology Committee.

# BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

## CORE: BUSINESS PROCESSES AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY continued...

**Seek fair and equitable contract agreements with Member Agencies, federal, and state governments to maintain a long term sustainable wholesale water resource to Southern California.**

### Annexations

- The annexation charge for calendar year 2015 is \$5,062 per acre. During 2014, Metropolitan's service area expanded by 158.77 acres to a total of 5,179.52 square miles.
- All annexing member agencies completed their Water Use Efficiency Reports and are in compliance with Metropolitan's Administrative Code, Section 3107.
- Staff met with Local Agency Formation Commission representatives for Riverside and Orange Counties to coordinate a potential annexation near the Cleveland National Forest above Elsinore Lake.

**Maintain an effective Business Outreach Program for regional, small businesses and veterans to ensure broad participation and competitive costs.**

Business Outreach and Engineering partnered to support the Southern California Business Community by participating in and exhibiting at The Construction Management Association of America, Southern California's Owners' Night. Business Outreach and Engineering were able to provide over 500 business owners with information on upcoming Metropolitan design, construction, and procurement opportunities.

Metropolitan continued support for the Los Angeles Business Community by sponsoring and participating in the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce's 126th Annual Inaugural Dinner. More than 1,500 business and civic leaders were in attendance.

Metropolitan conducted workshops; participated in conferences, expos, and panel discussions; and introduced over 1,200 businesses to opportunities at Metropolitan. Some of the events covered were:

- Southwest Water and Energy Consortium, Los Angeles—Consortium of government agencies, public utilities, universities, non-profits, incubators, manufacturing, private sector, and I-Hubs working together to share resources, expertise and knowledge.
- The Energy Network, Los Angeles—Public Agencies Taking Action to Save Energy – Water-Energy Nexus in partnership with the County of Los Angeles and the California Public Utilities Commission.
- Asian Business Association Los Angeles—Driving Success: Business Trends for 2015. Over 100 businesses and resource partners participated in the event.
- PortTech LA, Global Clean Port Summit—Water, Energy, and CleanTech Innovation presentations from around the globe.
- Asian American and Pacific Islands Construction Expo—Over 60 businesses and resource partners participated in the event.
- National Association of Women Business Owners Inland Empire—How to Prepare Your Business for Corporate Contract Opportunities.

# CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

## **CFO PRIORITY: SUCCESSION PLANNING**

Focus on planning, management, and employee development to ensure continuity of duties and services. Work to ensure that employees and managers are prepared to effectively carry out their roles as a result of changes in workplace business needs, technologies and increased retirements.

### **Manage succession in preparation for anticipated retirements.**

The Finance Training Program continued in February with Excel classes.

## **CORE: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

Manage Metropolitan's finances in an ethical and transparent manner and provide consistent, clear, and timely financial reporting. Update Metropolitan's capital financing plans and work with rating agencies and investors to communicate Metropolitan's financial needs, strategies, and capabilities thus ensuring Metropolitan has cost-effective access to capital markets and the ability to finance ongoing future needs. In addition, actively manage Metropolitan's short term investment portfolio to meet ongoing liquidity needs and changing economic environments.

### **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.**

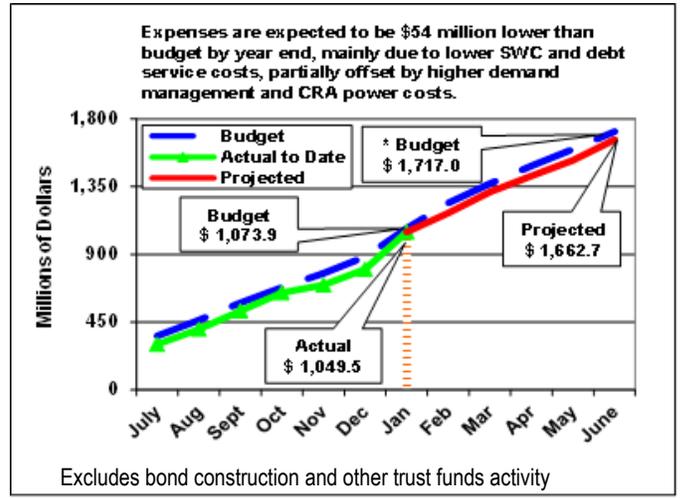
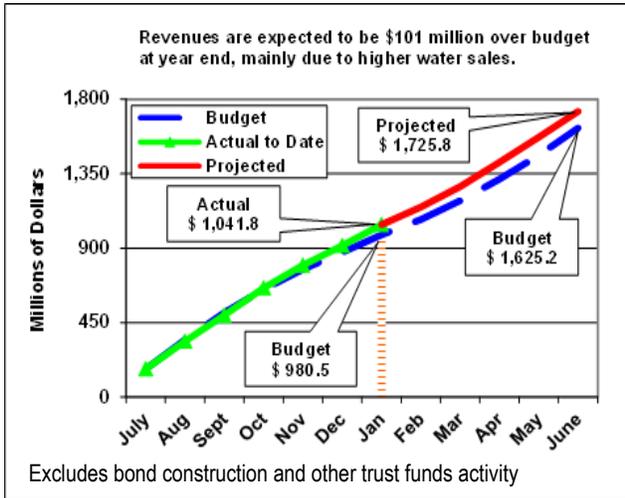
Financial activities are recorded in a timely and transparent manner.

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

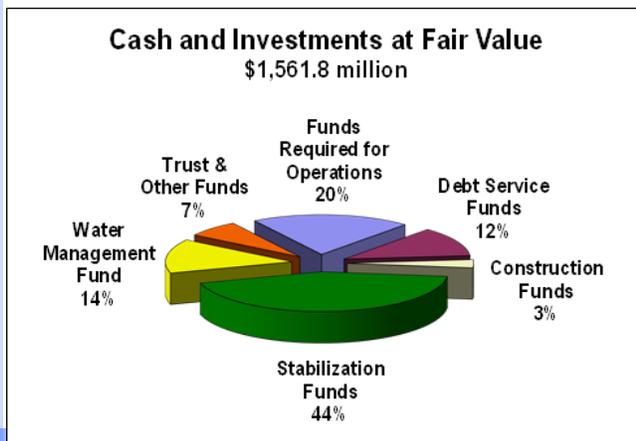
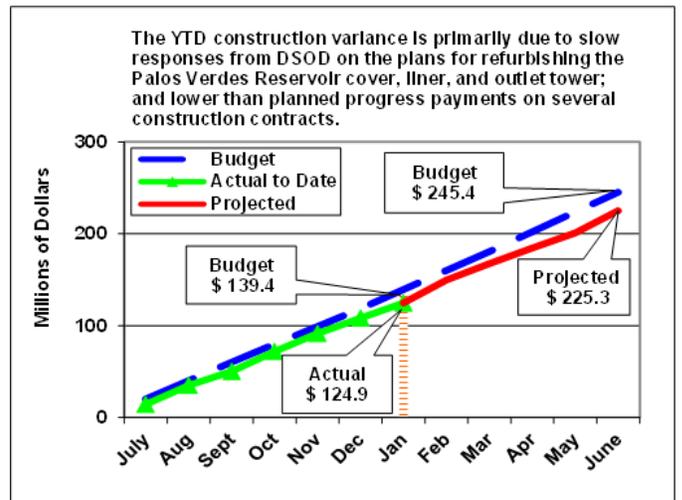
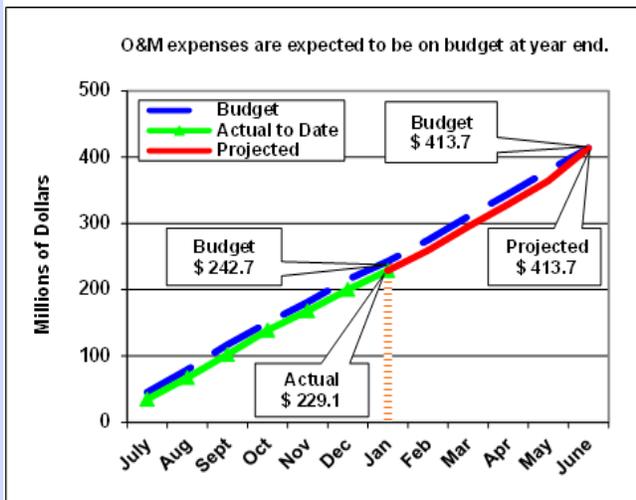
Staff continues to provide the necessary liquidity for Metropolitan's operational and capital expenditures with no loss of principal, no policy violations, while generating a portfolio return that exceeded the benchmark.

# CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF JANUARY 31, 2015



\* Includes \$17.6M and \$61.8M Board-approved increase for Water Supply Programs and Conservation, respectively.



**Summary Financial Statistics**

	Target	Year-End Projected
Fixed Charge Coverage	≥ 1.20 x	2.20 x
Revenue Debt Service Coverage	> 2.00 x	2.69 x
Revenue Bond Debt / Equity Ratio	< 100.0%	57.9%

**Credit Ratings**

	Target	Actual
- Moody's Investors Service	Aa2	Aa1
- Fitch Ratings	AA	AA+
- Standard & Poor's	AA	AAA

# ENGINEERING SERVICES

## CORE: INFRASTRUCTURE RELIABILITY

Manage Board-authorized projects in the Capital Investment Plan and collaborate with the Water System Operations Group to identify and address system vulnerabilities to ensure reliability of the region's water treatment and delivery infrastructure. In addition, coordinate closely with WSO to integrate project planning and facility assessment efforts with near-term actions and planned shutdowns.

**Manage and complete Board-authorized projects within the CIP to ensure the reliable delivery of water to Metropolitan's member agencies.**

### Distribution System Reliability Program

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

- Orange County Feeder Relining—This project replaces the deteriorated internal lining along an 11-mile portion of the Orange County Feeder within the cities of Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, and Newport Beach. Final design for Phases 1 and 2 is 75 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2015. Final Design for Phase 3 is 5 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by June 2016.
- Lakeview Pipeline/Inland Feeder Intertie—This drought-response project constructs an intertie from the Inland Feeder to the Lakeview Pipeline so that water stored in Diamond Valley Lake can serve as a backup supply for the Mills plant. The work is being completed in two phases. Phase 1, which included construction of the intertie at the PC-1 pressure control structure and installation of a surge protection system at the Perris Pumpback Facility, is complete. Phase 2 includes installation of a steel liner for a one-mile length of the Bernasconi Tunnel. Phase 2 is 75 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2015, two months ahead of schedule.
- Greg Avenue Pump Station Rehabilitation—This drought-response project will improve reliability of the Greg Avenue Pump Station by replacing the existing pump and pump/turbine and by upgrading the electrical and control systems. Final design is 50 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2015.
- Santa Ana River Bridge Seismic Retrofit—This project strengthens the Santa Ana River Bridge, which supports an above-ground portion of the Upper Feeder as it crosses the San Ana River. Final design is 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2015.

- Upper Feeder Structural Protection—This project extends the existing encasement of the Upper Feeder within Union Pacific Railroad property in the City of Fontana to protect the feeder from additional loads imposed by a new rail line. Final design is complete and a request to the Board for award of a construction contract is planned for April 2015.
- Santa Monica Feeder Relocation Shutdown, Return To Service—This project relocates 1,400 feet of the Santa Monica Feeder to protect the pipeline from potential damage during construction of a proposed multi-story building and adjacent parking structure in the city of Beverly Hills. Construction was completed in February 2015.

### Water Quality/Oxidation Retrofit Program

This program adds ozonation facilities which reduce disinfection by-products and improve water quality at Metropolitan's five water treatment plants. Recent activities include the following:

#### Weymouth Oxidation Retrofit Project

- Main ORP Facilities—The Weymouth plant is the final facility to be upgraded under the ORP. Construction of the ozonation system is 70 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by late 2016.
- Weymouth ORP Chemical Facilities—These chemical systems are needed for integration of the upcoming ozonation system into the Weymouth plant's treatment process. Final design of the sulfuric acid system is complete. Final design of the hypochlorite facilities is 96 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2015.

# ENGINEERING SERVICES

## CORE: INFRASTRUCTURE RELIABILITY continued.....

### Right of Way and Infrastructure Protection Program

This program performs needed site improvements within the distribution system such as erosion protection for pipelines and access roads. It also addresses right-of-way issues such as access easements and third-party encroachments, and obtains long-term programmatic environmental permits to cover the entire conveyance and distribution system. Recent activity includes:

- Orange County and Western San Bernardino County Operating Regions—Final design of improvements is 25 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2015. Identification and final determination of additional right of way in support of the design improvements is 70 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2015. The draft Environmental Impact Report for the Orange County operating region is 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be released for public review and comment by March 2015.
- Los Angeles County Operating Region—Preliminary design of improvements is 20 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2015.
- Riverside/San Diego County Operating Region—Preliminary design of improvements is scheduled to begin in March 2015.

### Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

This program maintains the reliability of Metropolitan's Colorado River Aqueduct delivery system. Recent activities include the following:

- CRA Sand Trap Rehabilitation—This project replaces deteriorated sand trap equipment located upstream of the Iron Mountain, Eagle Mountain, and Hinds Pumping Plants. Final design is complete and a request to the Board for award of a construction contract is planned for June 2015.
- Iron Mountain Vehicle Service Center Rehabilitation—This project rehabilitates the existing vehicle service center located at Iron Mountain Pumping Plant. Final design is complete and a request to the Board for award of a construction contract is planned for April 2015.
- CRA Canal Improvements—This project improves curbs and lining along portions of the open canal. Final design is 75 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2015.
- Desert Wastewater System Replacement—This project replaces the wastewater collection systems and community septic tanks at the Hinds and Eagle Mountain Pumping Plants. Final design is complete and a request to the Board for award of a construction contract is planned for March 2015.
- Gene Warehouse Storage Replacement—This project replaces three deteriorated storage buildings located at Gene Pumping Plant with two new storage buildings. Construction is 15 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by June 2015.

### Treatment Plant Reliability Program

This program was initiated to maintain reliability and improve the operating efficiency of Metropolitan's five water treatment plants through specific improvement projects. Recent activities include the following:

#### Weymouth Plant

- Washwater Reclamation Plant Upgrades—This project replaces deteriorated equipment in the Weymouth plant's washwater reclamation plant. Construction is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2015.
- East Washwater Tank Seismic Upgrades—This project upgrades the Weymouth plant's east washwater tank to improve its ability to withstand a major seismic event. Construction is five percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by October 2015.

#### Mills Plant

- Electrical Upgrades, Stage 1—This project replaces electrical equipment, provides backup in the event of component failures, and upgrades the electrical system to be consistent with current codes and industry practices. Final design is 96 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 2015.
- Solids Handling Facility, Stage 1 – This project improves the current solids transfer system by adding two new solids thickeners, a solids pumping station, and a staging area for a temporary belt press. Final design is 99 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2015.

# ENGINEERING SERVICES

## CORE: INFRASTRUCTURE RELIABILITY continued....

### Treatment Plant Reliability Program continued....

#### Jensen Plant

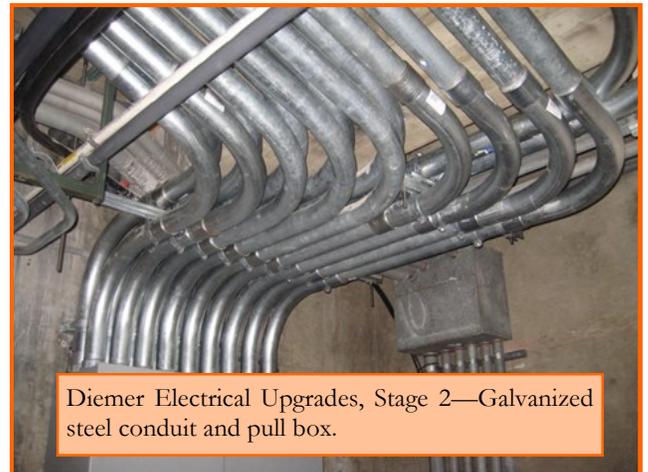
- Electrical Upgrades, Stage 1—This project replaces electrical equipment, provides backup in the event of component failures, and upgrades the electrical system to be consistent with current codes and industry practices. Final design is 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by October 2015. Replacement of the UPC-7 Reliability Upgrade is 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2015.
- Module No. 1 Filter Surface Wash Upgrades—This project replaces the existing surface wash system with a new fixed nozzle system. During filter backwashing, the top surface of a filter bed is sprayed with water to break the solids that build up during the filtration process. Construction is 94 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2015.
- Washwater Tank Seismic Upgrades—This project upgrades two washwater tanks to increase their capability to withstand a major earthquake. Construction is 55 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2015. *(see photo below)*
- Jensen Solids Transfer System—This project enables Metropolitan to use four solids lagoons on the grounds of the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant. The initial construction contract is installing 7,600 feet of solids transfer piping and a utility crossing structure across Bull Creek Channel. Construction is 55 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2015.

#### Skinner Plant

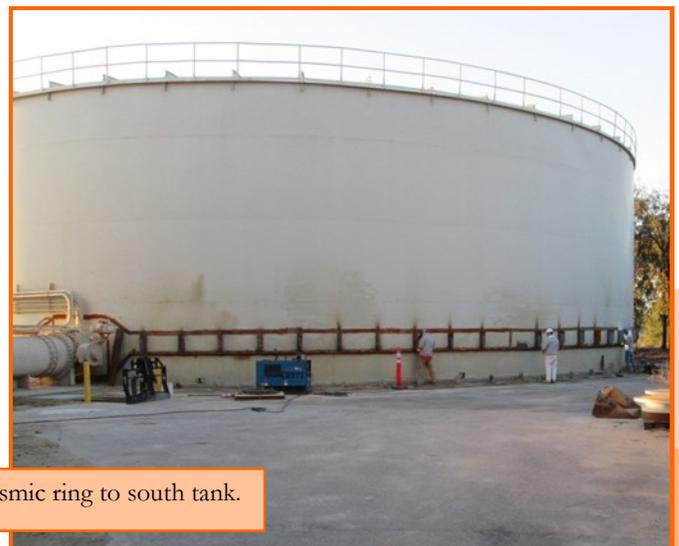
- Solids Handling Area Improvements—This project replaces an existing bridge crane, constructs a concrete containment pad, replaces existing asphalt pavement around the belt press building, and improves drainage. Construction is 30 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 2015.

#### Diemer Plant

- Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2—This project replaces electrical equipment, improves backup capability, and upgrades the Diemer plant's electrical system to be consistent with current codes and industry practices. Construction is 50 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2016. *(see photo below)*
- Yorba Linda Power Plant Turbine Replacement—This project at the Diemer plant replaces the existing Pelton wheel turbine with a Francis turbine capable of operating under post-ORP hydraulic conditions. Manufacture of the turbine generator is complete and the equipment has been delivered to the site. Construction is 69 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2015.



Diemer Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2—Galvanized steel conduit and pull box.



Jensen Washwater Tank—Welding seismic ring to south tank.

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY: EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDERS ON CRITICAL WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS AND CRITICAL WATER MANAGEMENT DECISIONS**

External Affairs efforts will focus on educating the public, legislative leaders, government officials, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders on critical water supply conditions and critical water management decisions.

### **Expand and enhance Metropolitan's outreach to key stakeholder groups in Southern California, statewide, nationally and internationally in support of strategic priorities.**

On February 27, participated in the South Bay Council of Government's 16th Annual General Assembly entitled *A View from the Front Porch: Neighborhoods in the South Bay*. Metropolitan staff briefed conference attendees on the drought, the 2014 Water Bond, Metropolitan's conservation rebates and local water issues affecting the South Bay. Over 250 elected officials, city employees and the general public attended this year's conference.

### **Inform Southern Californians about the drought/water supply conditions and how they can help improve water supply reliability through conservation actions and support for water supply projects.**

- Set up separate interviews with Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer Debra Man and KCBS-TV Channel 2, KCAL-TV Channel 9 and KABC-TV Channel 7 reporters for stories about potential allocation decision by the Board of Directors in April.
- Arranged interview with General Manager Kightlinger and Freedom magazine reporter to discuss the drought's impact on Metropolitan and water supply challenges in 2015.
- Set up interview with Metropolitan's John Clairday, Group Manager Real Property Development and Management, and Riverside Press-Enterprise columnist for story about drought impacts on Diamond Valley Lake boat ramps.
- Arranged separate interviews with Metropolitan's Bill McDonnell, Water Resource Management, and Chance of Rain blogger and KCSN radio reporter to discuss Metropolitan's turf removal program.
- Set up interview with General Manager Kightlinger and Circle of Blue reporter for story about the drought's impact on Metropolitan water supplies.
- Arranged interview with Metropolitan's Deven Upadhyay, Group Manager Water Resource Management, and Bill McDonnell and KCET-TV reporter for story about water-saving rebates and the turf removal program.
- Issued press release about Metropolitan considering various scenarios that could lead to the Board of Directors approving an allocation plan in April.
- On February 26, staff participated in a groundbreaking event for a landscape retrofit project in partnership with the San Diego County Water Authority and San Diego Gas and Electric.
- On February 28, staff was invited to speak to Harvard Kennedy, University of San Diego, and Stanford alumni regarding the drought/water supply conditions.
- Staff conducted a Request for Proposals for media and campaign consulting services. Staff will return to the Board in March 2015 with a consultant recommendation and request authorization to enter into an agreement for the 2015 water awareness and conservation advertising campaign.
- Metropolitan communicates daily about conservation tips and resources through digital and social media. Bewaterwise.com® had over 38,000 unique visitors in January and over 150 people are now following @Bewaterwise2o on Twitter.

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## CORE: LEGISLATIVE, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Engage the public, labor, business community, agriculture, government leaders, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders in California's water issues, communicating Metropolitan's interests and Board-adopted policies through federal and state legislative strategies, multimedia and multi-cultural communications, and educational and other outreach programs.

**Develop and implement local, state, and federal water policy and legislative strategies consistent with Board-adopted policies.**

### FEDERAL

On February 4, staff met with Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and the House Transportation Water and Environment Subcommittee staff to discuss pending water resource and drought legislation and Colorado River operations and other topics of interest to Southern California water users.

On February 25 – 26, Directors Ackerman, LeFevre, Vasquez, and staff participated in the annual Association of California Water Agencies Conference in Washington, D.C., where discussion centered on priorities of interest to water users during the 114th Congress.

### STATE

#### Key Legislative Deadlines

February 27:	Last day for bills to be introduced
March 26 – April 6:	Spring recess
May 1:	Last day for policy committees to hear fiscal bills in house of origin

#### Water Bond Implementation

On February 6, the California Natural Resources Agency announced the Agency's bond accountability website will be the depository for all draft guidelines and program criteria governing the award of water bond funds. The website will include all notices of required public meetings and other information regarding grant solicitations. This consolidation and transparency should make it more convenient to track and identify grant opportunities. The Resources Agency will also utilize its website for posting the master schedule for release of draft guidelines.

### LOCAL

On February 4, Metropolitan staff participated with the Southern California Gas Company and the Southern California Air Quality Management District on a panel sponsored by the North Orange County Legislative Alliance to discuss the role of energy in delivering of services to the business community.

On February 20, Director Michael Camacho and staff met with newly elected Congressman Pete Aguilar (D-Redlands) for an introduction and to discuss Metropolitan's federal legislative priorities, including an overview of the drought, water supply issues and the BDCP.

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## CORE: LEGISLATIVE, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS continued...

**Support board member and executive management communications and working relationships with elected officials, other government leaders, business, agriculture, non-governmental organizations, community leaders and other stakeholders to improve awareness and understanding of water policy issues.**

- On February 5, Metropolitan Directors Ackerman, LeFevre, Peterson and McKinney and staff attended the Metropolitan Water District of Orange County Water Policy Dinner. The event featured guest speaker Dr. Lucy Jones of the U.S. Geological Survey, who spoke before an audience of hundreds of water leaders from throughout Southern California about the major changes needed to maintain the integrity of water systems.
- On February 20, Director Friedman and staff attended the Valley Industry and Commerce Association's annual State Elected Officials Dinner at Universal Studios. Over 35 state and local elected officials and 400 business leaders were in attendance.

**Support Metropolitan's operations through communication and outreach to various stakeholders (including local government agencies and utilities) regarding water resources; water supply system operations and maintenance; water quality protection and water treatment; infrastructure replacement, refurbishment and development; and emergency management.**

- Staff provided outreach to communities affected by capital improvement, repair and maintenance projects in Glendale and Los Angeles.
- Staff met with the City of Santa Ana to discuss the Orange County Feeder Pilot Project.

**Provide public outreach in coordination with member agencies to increase awareness of water issues and communicate Metropolitan's interests and Board-adopted policies.**

### MEDIA

- Arranged interview with General Manager Kightlinger and KNBC-TV Los Angeles reporter for a story about the threat to state water supplies from levee collapse in the Delta due to an earthquake.
- Set up interview with Assistant General Counsel Joe Vanderhorst and Daily Journal reporter for a story about the latest appellate court developments in the Quantification Settlement Agreement litigation.

- Online search on Google Search and the Google Content Network continued this month. Links to bewaterwise.com appear when keywords such as "water," "California weather," and "water rebates" are searched for by Southern California users.

### EDUCATION

- There were approximately 5,400 unique visits to the Education Web Site from December 16 – January 15, 2014. The website was updated and includes new video links to YouTube educational videos as well as downloadable curriculum.
- Facilitated school workshops and tours for about 500 students from the River Springs Charter, Twenty-nine Palms, Smiley, Anna Hause, Winchester and North Ridge Elementary Schools.
- Provided outreach materials for student events at Wickman Elementary, Hamilton High School, and Bald Mesa Elementary.
- Hosted a field trip to the Wadsworth Pumping/Hydro-generating facility for the Western Center Academy.
- Provided in-service water education presentations to Oakwood Elementary, Los Angeles Trade Tech, and Dominguez High School.
- Presented at the 2015 Teacher Institute on Best Practices of Environmental Education presented by the California Environmental Education Foundation and sponsored by Metropolitan's Community Partnering Program. (*see photo page 13*)
- Hosted the second technical workshop for the 2015 Solar Cup program at Occidental College. (*see photo page 13*)
- Throughout the month the Education Unit directly interacted with over 300 students.
- The Student Water is Life Art Exhibit was displayed in South Pasadena, at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Anaheim Public Utilities, Eastern Municipal Water District and the Rancho California Water District. These events were captured in articles and on social media.

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CORE: LEGISLATIVE, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS continue....



Metropolitan's Solar Cup Technical Workshop for over 300 students was held at Occidental College.

2015 Teacher Institute on Best Practices of Environmental Education presented by the California Environmental Education Foundation and sponsored by Metropolitan's Community Partnering Program.



# HUMAN RESOURCES

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY: EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

Increase cross-training and employee development efforts to meet the challenges of increased retirements due to an aging workforce. Expand recruitment and retention initiatives to keep pace with retirements and to ensure a diverse workforce who is prepared for the future needs of Metropolitan. Define competencies critical to future needs of the organization.

### Acquire talent.

Implemented change in purchasing advertising for job openings that reduced overall costs while also expanding media outreach to a diverse candidate pool.

### Partner with senior leadership to address future business, organizational, cultural and people challenges.

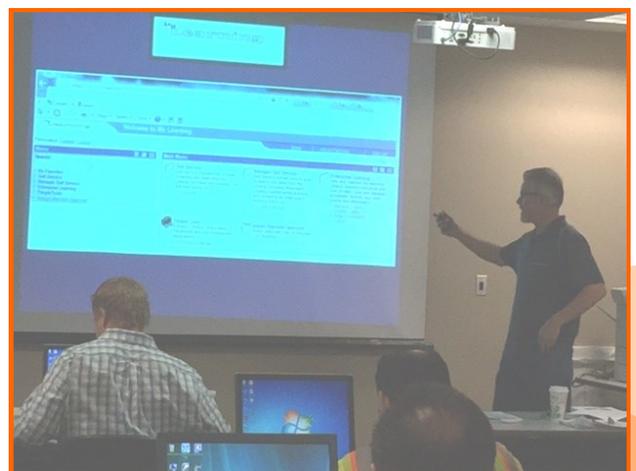
Discussed additional follow-up strategies and actions on the Voices 2014 Survey at regularly scheduled HR/Group Managers meeting.

### Foster learning and organizational development to support development of internal talent pipelines.

- Designed and coordinated the fourth session of the *Water System Operations Management Academy* that focused on providing learning opportunities for potential managers. *(see photos below)*
- *Lunch'n'Learn* session held for Strategic Leader Series of classes offered by University of California, San Diego. The last class in the Water Leadership and Management Certificate Series, *High Performance Management*, was presented by California State University, Los Angeles. The Certificate Program is ongoing.
- *Preparing for Interviews* class, attended this month by eight employees on their own time, was provided to help interested employees better compete for open positions.
- Supported Engineering Services Group to kick off the third mentoring cohort with 34 mentor-mentee pairs. *(see photo on cover)*
- Delivered teamwork and influence skills modules for Engineering Services Group *Career Launch* activities for 25 new employees. *(see photo on cover)*

### Foster management excellence.

- Continued to support management development through consultations and coaching for three managers.
- Facilitated team building efforts and identified strengths in the workforce for teams in Engineering and Water Resources to help managers promote high performance in the workplace.
- Day 2 and Day 3 of the revised New Manager Orientation program were delivered to eight new managers.
- Two managers attended an Institute Management Studies workshop on *How Innovative Thinking Leads to Extraordinary Outcomes*.



Water System Operations Management Academy.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## CORE: HUMAN RESOURCES EXCELLENCE

Foster Human Resources excellence with innovative and efficient processes that attract, hire and develop the right people with the right skills at the right time; provide management with the tools to swiftly and proactively address employee issues and poor performance; enable cost-effective workforce management together with the tools to continually improve workforce skills, competencies, productivity and customer support.

Ensure Metropolitan is a high-performance workplace with excellent leadership and management practices that engage and empower employees; foster alignment with Metropolitan's business goals; provide the right talent and skills for future business needs; and foster a workplace where employees implement cost-effective processes and programs to deliver outstanding value and customer support.

### Control Workers' Compensation Costs.

- Conducted initial investigations on 12 injury incidents.
- Submitted 7 new claims to Metropolitan's workers' compensation claim administrator.
- Settlements were negotiated in 2 claims, finalized in 2 claims, and 5 claim files were closed.
- Conducted MedVan evaluations at Mills, Lake Skinner, and Lake Mathews facilities.
- Arranged 18 medical evaluations (DMV, medical surveillance, hearing conservation, etc.).
- Addressed 1 accommodation issue.
- Finalized 2014 Occupational Safety and Health Administration logs for posting at all facilities.

### Provide proactive, swift, and consistent employee relations and positive labor relations.

- Employee Relations staff continued to engage the bargaining units on a number of single-issue negotiations. Staff also conducted training for new managers as part of the HR's New Manager Orientation program.
- Equal Employment Opportunity Investigations staff continues work on internal investigations into alleged unlawful discrimination.

### Maintain compliance and effectiveness in benefit programs.

- Continued with the Request for Proposal process for the Deferred Compensation plans.
- Partnered with CalPERS to establish a Tardy Cargill Claim process to resolve potential claims in a timely manner.
- Coordinated review and potential replacement of various investment options within the 401(k) and 457 plans.

### Identify, assess and manage risk.

- The Risk Management Unit completed 49 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits and spills.
- Risk Management completed 59 risk assessments on contracts, including professional service agreements, construction contracts, entry permits, special events and film permits.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## METROPOLITAN RETIREES FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST—DECEMBER 2014

Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Group
Holmes	David	Sr IT Network Engineer	9/17/2014	BUS TECH
Turney	Steven	Sr Engineering Technician	12/12/2014	BUS/TECH
Freyberger	Janet	Team Manager IV	12/26/2014	BUS/TECH
Meggerson de Martinez	Nicole	Pr Admin Analyst	12/26/2014	BUS/TECH
Peters	Anne	Team Manager IV	12/26/2014	BUS/TECH
Meng	Shan	Engineer	9/3/2014	ENG
Spira	Melvyn	Engineer	11/20/2014	ENG
Behnke	Robert	Construction Inspector III	12/26/2014	ENG
Burch	Maureen	Engineering Program Mgr	12/31/2014	ENG
Foley	James	Construction Inspector III	12/26/2014	ENG
Kashyap	Vinod	Assoc Engineer	12/26/2014	ENG
Lieu	Wally	Section Manager II-Eng	12/30/2014	ENG
Parsons	Douglas	Sr Engineering Technician	12/26/2014	ENG
Richardson	Janice	Sr Admin Analyst	12/26/2014	ENG
Anderson	Barbara	Admin Assistant I	12/26/2014	EXT AFF
Glisson	Brenda	Executive Assistant II	12/26/2014	GM
Bennion	Sydney	Asst General Counsel	9/13/2014	LEGAL
Masouredis	Linus	Chief Dpty General Counsel	12/26/2014	LEGAL
Akingbemi	Ayo	Pr Admin Analyst	12/27/2014	WRM
Martin	James	Engineer	12/27/2014	WRM
Graff	Kevin	Team Manager IV	8/19/2014	WSO
Kaiser	Jeffrey	O&M Tech IV	9/25/2014	WSO
Curry	Steven	O&M Tech IV	11/19/2014	WSO
Lontoc	Meynardo	O&M Tech IV	11/29/2014	WSO
Whitmore	Robert	O&M Tech IV	12/6/2014	WSO
Mitchell	Keith	Water Sampling Field Tech	12/12/2014	WSO
Black	Lionel	O&M Tech IV	12/26/2014	WSO
Butler	Randall	Team Manager IV (Desert)	12/27/2014	WSO
Christie	Dinah	Ops and Maintenance Assistant	12/31/2014	WSO
Fisk	John	Unit Manager V	12/26/2014	WSO
Foster	Kenneth	Wtr Trtment Plant Operat III	12/26/2014	WSO

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## METROPOLITAN RETIREES FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST—DECEMBER 2014 *continued...*

Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Group
Gold	Robert	Wtr Trtment Plant Operator III	12/24/2014	WSO
Hernandez	Raul	O&M Tech IV	12/26/2014	WSO
Huizinga	Ronald	Team Manager IV	12/27/2014	WSO
Keeney	Lonnie	Hydroelectric Specialist II	12/31/2014	WSO
Kennedy	Sharon	Admin Assistant III	12/26/2014	WSO
Miller	Ronald	O&M Tech IV	12/26/2014	WSO
Miller	Paul	Team Manager VI	12/31/2014	WSO
Neault	Dorothy	Admin Assistant III	12/26/2014	WSO
Risch	David	Engineering Tech III	12/26/2014	WSO
Rodriguez	Frank	Sr Crane Certification Tech	12/26/2014	WSO
Suarez Jr.	Armando	Instrument & Control Tech III	12/26/2014	WSO
Williams	Michael	Pump Plant Specialist	12/27/2014	WSO

## METROPOLITAN'S BLACK EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION HOSTS BLACK HISTORY MONTH



MWD Choir performed at Feb. 3 Black History Month Opening Ceremony and Feb. 10 Board Meeting.



At the Opening Ceremony, BEA Officers recognized Gilbert Ivey, founding member of BEA.

Metropolitan's Black Employees Association arranged for plenty of opportunities to salute the accomplishments of Black Americans. Speakers included Bob Watt, L.A. Philharmonic classical horn player; Dr. Michele Turner, Executive Director, USC Black Alumni Association; and Jeanenne Mackling, author. Activities also included a presentation by David Keller on *Breaking Down Barriers, Jazz & Equality in 1950s*; a Poet's Corner, viewing of *The Story of Dr. Ben Carson* and the Board invocation provided by engineer James Spicer.

# REAL PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT

## CORE: REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION, MANAGEMENT AND REVENUE ENHANCEMENT

Manage Metropolitan's real property assets with a focus on revenue enhancement while ensuring that Metropolitan's core operations are protected. Acquire real property for future operational business needs.

**Pursue development of the Diamond Valley Lake area, including the DVL Visitor Center and marina facilities, to support recreation, develop additional leasing and revenue opportunities for Metropolitan, and benefit the surrounding community.**

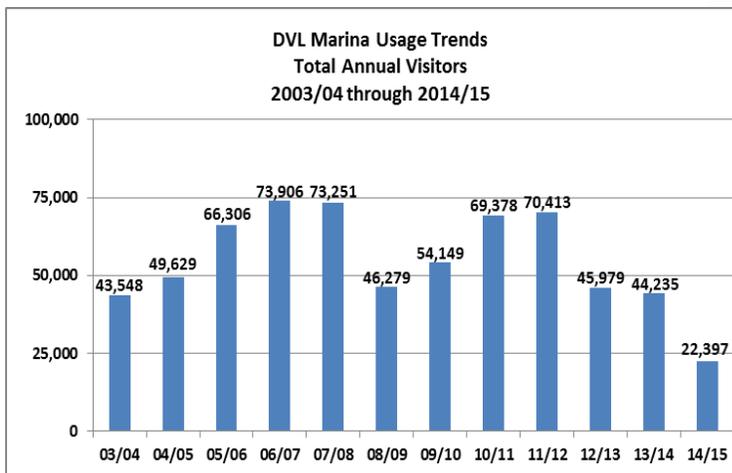
The United States of America was issued two entry permits allowing the Navy and the Army to conduct a joint military training exercise on the water at Diamond Valley Lake. The three-day boat-lift exercise consisted of launching Navy boats onto the lake with Army helicopters working in the airspace above. (*see photos on page 19*)

Assisted External Affairs with on-water tour of Diamond Valley Lake for a NBC4 I-Team investigative producer preparing story on the effects of Delta seismic activity on southern California.

In Fiscal Year 2014/15, Metropolitan received \$12,813 through January on the percentage lease with Urban Park Concessionaires for the operation of the DVL Marina, Lakeview Trail, and North Hills Trail. The rent received represents seven percent of the gross receipts. Diamond Valley Lake has hosted 656,000 visitors at its marina facilities, and 155,000 private boats have launched since the 2003 public opening.

### Foster staff training and development.

Staff attended the International Right of Way Association course, *Eminent Domain Law Basics for Right of Way Professionals*.



**Implement strategies for right-of-way planning and acquisition support of Bay-Delta Initiatives and infrastructure reliability and protection programs.**

- An easement was acquired from the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, to build a secondary access road to the Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant in Yorba Linda.
- Staff provided property research, valuation, and planning support to Bay-Delta Initiatives related to potential near- and long-term projects in the Delta.

**Seek revenue-generating opportunities for real estate assets in several market segments, such as telecommunications, solar development, film production, and sustainable technology and research.**

- A lease previously issued to Rain for Rent was amended to increase the rent for storage of irrigation pipe on the Box Springs Feeder right of way in Riverside County.
- A lease previously issued to City of Monterey Park was amended to provide additional acreage and use of the property at a recreational area near Garvey Reservoir in consideration for less restrictive operational guidelines at Garvey Reservoir.
- Sunnyslans Broadcasting, LLC, was issued a license to access property along the Colorado River Aqueduct right of way in the county of Riverside to facilitate an offsite radio communications project on adjacent land owned by the Bureau of Land Management.
- A license previously issued to Orange County Water District was amended to change the access for grading of Santiago Creek for groundwater recharge.
- A quitclaim of property was granted to the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, in exchange for the easement acquired to build a secondary access road to the Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant in Yorba Linda.
- A permanent easement was granted to Los Angeles County Flood Control District for access and maintenance of an existing soil cement bank protection over an area near the Foothill Feeder right of way in the county of Los Angeles near Newhall Ranch.

Note: Actuals are thru February 2015;  
Project 45,000 visitors for FY2014/15

## REAL PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT

United States Army conducting military training exercises on Diamond Valley Lake. The exercises involved deployment and extraction of swift-water military craft with the use of a helicopter and specialized rigging cables. Two sets of teams performed these exercises at both the east and west ends over a three-day period.



# WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY: LOCAL PROJECTS AND INTEGRATED RESOURCES PLAN UPDATES**

Review Local Resources Program and conservation rebate programs during this drought period to review what new actions might be appropriate, learn from this experience as to how to improve Metropolitan programs and work with the public and member agencies on expanding conservation efforts. Metropolitan's IRP was adopted in 2010 and will be updated in 2015 along with the state-required Regional Urban Water Management Plan.

### **Implement the Local Resources Program.**

Local Resource Program Application—Los Angeles Department of Water and Power submitted LRP applications for two water recycling projects with a combined yield of 600 AFY. The North Hollywood and Sepulveda Basin Water Recycling Projects would expand Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's recycled water deliveries in the San Fernando Valley area. In addition, Oxnard Advanced Water Purification Facility Project (2,310 AFY) and Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility Expansion Project (3,475 AFY) began operations.

On-site Retrofit Pilot Program—The On-site Retrofit Pilot Program, launched in July 2014, has successfully committed to provide \$1.6 million for converting potable water to recycled water at 45 sites.

### **Implement the Conservation Program effectively.**

Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium—A Metropolitan conservation staff was the keynote speaker at the Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium. Staff discussed Metropolitan's regional program design and how that concept has helped implement drought conservation actions.

53rd Annual California Irrigation Institute Conference—This conference is for both urban and agricultural users with separate and combined sessions. Metropolitan staff facilitated an urban session on the State Water Resources Control Board Regulations titled: Barriers and Issues in the Urban Setting and provided a presentation on LRP. Metropolitan is a member of the Board of Directors of The California Irrigation Institute.

Staff presented at the Golf and Water: Evolving Best Management Practices seminar. This seminar showcased new innovations for saving water at golf courses, such as efficient irrigation and turf reduction. It was attended by municipal officials, landscape architects, golf course superintendents, water efficiency professionals, and other stakeholders. Staff's presentation included information about water efficiency, turf removal at golf courses, and Metropolitan's Turf Removal Rebate Program.

## **CORE: WATER SUPPLY**

Develop and execute water resource strategies that achieve the long-term reliability envisioned in the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP). Efforts include the negotiation and management of supply, storage, and water use efficiency programs, administration of imported supply contracts, development of new water resource policy recommendations in support of the IRP, collaborative planning with member agencies, and forecasting resource and facility needs.

### **Ensure cost-effective and reliable imported water supplies.**

Drought Awareness—Staff have given numerous presentations on current drought conditions and the potential for shortage allocations. Presentations made this month include the Glendale Water and Power, Verde Exchange Water Panel, Sage Society, Southern California Water Commission, Orange County Water Association, and the National Water Research Institute.

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum)—Metropolitan hosted Work Group meetings of the Forum at the Diamond Valley Lake Training Center. In conjunction with seven Colorado River basin states and the federal government, the Forum endeavors to reduce salinity by preventing salts from dissolving and mixing with the River's flow. Irrigation improvements (sprinklers, gated pipe, lined ditches) and vegetation management reduce the amount of salt transported to the Colorado River. Point sources such as saline springs are also controlled. Current topics of importance include the future of the Paradox Valley Unit, one of the largest efforts to reduce salinity in the Colorado River. Were it not for the efforts of the Forum, salinity concentrations of Colorado River water today would have been about 90 milligrams per liter (mg/L) higher.

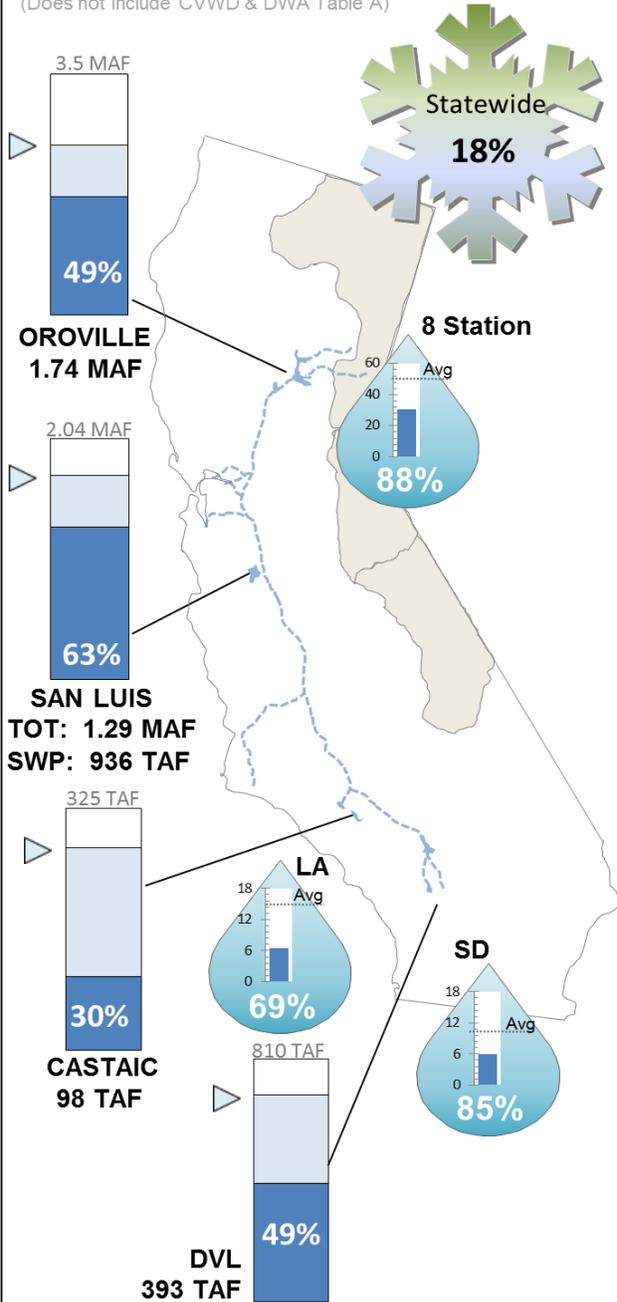
# WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS as of Feb. 28, 2015

## 2015 SWP Allocation

286,725 AF

15% of Table A

(Does not include CVWD & DWA Table A)

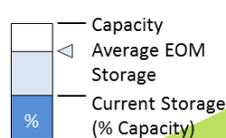
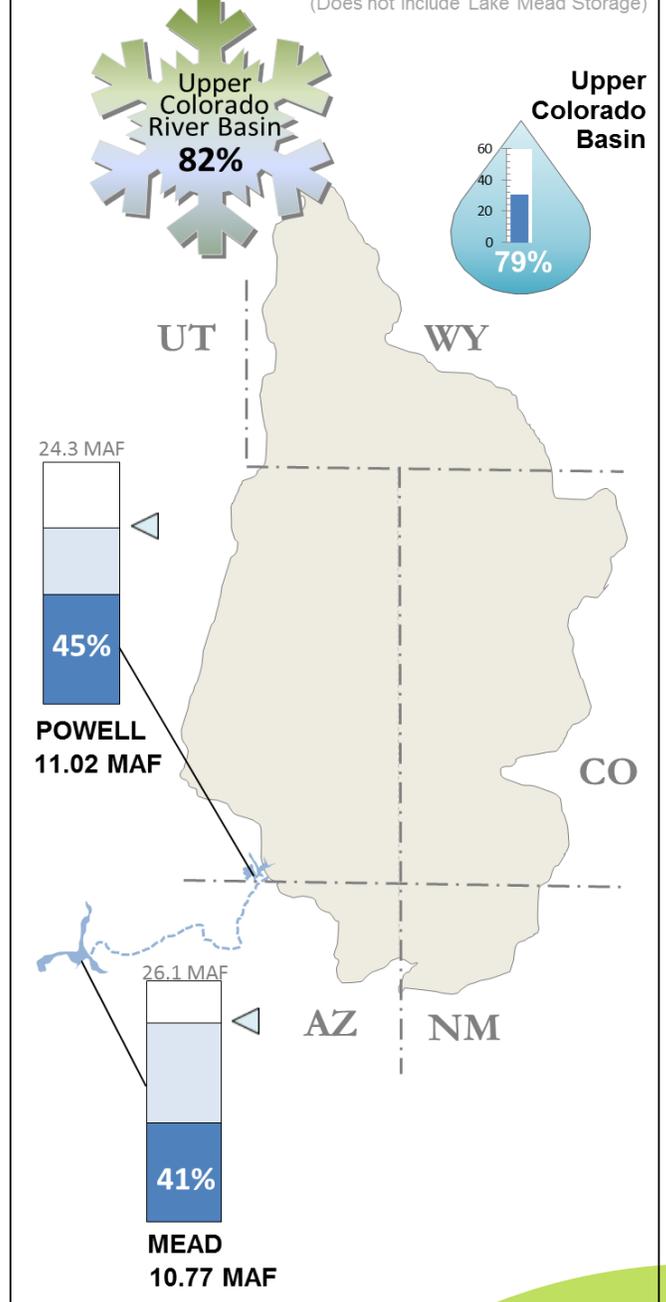


## 2015 Colorado River

925,000 AF

74% of full CRA

(Does not include Lake Mead Storage)



# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

## CORE: PROVIDE RELIABLE WATER SUPPLIES

System Operations delivered approximately 115,000 acre-feet of water to meet member agency demands in February, which averaged approximately 4,050 AF per day. This was an increase of about 500 AF per day versus January's deliveries. Treated water deliveries for February totaled 56,000 AF, or 48 percent of total deliveries for the month. In February, 57,700 AF of Colorado River water was pumped as the Colorado River Aqueduct remained on an eight-pump flow. State Water Project imports averaged 1,430 AF per day for 41,000 AF for the month. This was a decrease of 3,000 AF from January. System Operations continued the strategy of minimizing the use of SWP water wherever possible. For the month of February, the use of SWP water accounted for 35 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries.

Storage at Diamond Valley Lake held steady at 393,000 AF, or 48 percent full. There were no withdrawals from Diamond Valley Lake in February. Inland Feeder deliveries remained suspended in February until the CRA shutdown, when minimum flows from Devil Canyon were used to support agency service connection flows on the main aqueduct. SWP blends to the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants remained at zero percent due to the current low SWP allocation of 15 percent. The Greg Avenue pump station remained online for the month of February. Since March 19, 2014, the pumps at Greg Avenue have delivered 33,350 AF of CRA water to the western side of Metropolitan's distribution system. For the month of February, a total of 2,680 AF was pumped from Lake Perris to the Mills plant to meet member agency demands. The Mills plant used Lake Perris water exclusively in February.

System Operations staff met with representatives from Calleguas Municipal Water District to coordinate shutdowns of the Santa Susana Tunnel on February 21 and the Jensen plant on February 26-28. These shutdowns were coordinated with minimal impact to the member agencies.

System Operations continued to maximize power generation throughout the month. In February, Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of 14 megawatts per hour for 9,400 megawatt-hours for the month.

## CORE: OPTIMIZE MAINTENANCE



Preventive maintenance includes periodic removal of pump motors for cleaning and testing. This month, staff removed and serviced a motor at the Perris Pump-back facility. Though the Mills plant was receiving water from the pump-back facility, water flows were low enough to allow preventive maintenance. After being cleaned and baked to eliminate moisture, the motor was reinstalled on the pump, aligned, balanced, and tested. The use of vibration monitoring and electrical diagnostic testing equipment also aids in predictive maintenance by indicating small problems before damage is sustained. *(see photo to the left)*

Removal of pump motor for preventive maintenance at Perris Pump-back facility.

# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

## CORE: OPTIMIZE MAINTENANCE *continued...*

Staff continued the system-wide coatings program aimed at preventing corrosion and extending the life of pipelines and infrastructure. Projects completed this month included structures on San Diego Pipeline Nos. 3 and 4, and the Upper, West Orange County, and Second Lower Feeders. Corrosion prevention also includes proactive measures to prevent ground water intrusion into valve structures. *(see photo to the right)*

Sealing of a substructure to prevent ground water intrusion.



Preparing pipeline joints for mortar repair on the Rialto Feeder.

Staff completed several pipeline shutdowns to perform internal inspections and pipe maintenance across the system. Inspections of San Diego Pipeline No. 4 and the Rialto Feeder indicated that the pipelines were in good condition and required only minor mortar repairs. Dewatering of San Diego Pipeline No. 5 began this month to inspect and evaluate the condition of eight miles of prestressed concrete cylinder pipe and nine miles of mortar-lined steel pipe. Each of the San Diego pipeline outages has been coordinated with a San Diego County Water Authority Shutdown. *(see photo to the left)*

Staff completed the rebuild of a hydraulic relief valve at the Carbon Creek Pressure Control Structure. The 48-year-old structure regulates hydraulic grade and protects against over pressurization of the Second Lower Feeder. *(see photo below)*

Rebuilding a pressure relief valve at Carbon Creek Pressure Control Structure.



# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

## CORE: OPTIMIZE MAINTENANCE *continued...*

Seasonal temperature fluctuations sometimes result in minor leaks developing on the Colorado River Aqueduct in areas where the pipe is relatively shallow. During routine patrol of the aqueduct, staff discovered a minor leak in an underground section at mile 18.44. Leaks of this type are quickly sealed by excavating to uncover the leak and injecting a specialized sealant while the aqueduct remains in service. The compound activates when it comes in contact with water and transforms into a seal that expands and contracts with the concrete. *(see photos below)*



Excavation of a small leak along concrete pipe portion of the CRA.

Injecting hydrophilic resin to seal leak.



# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

## CORE: MANAGE THE POWER SYSTEM

In February, Metropolitan submitted documentation to Southern California Edison and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council showing compliance with nearly 80 national electric reliability standards as part of the required annual self-certification process.

On February 11, Metropolitan initiated wholesale energy purchases from Southern California Edison for the first time since the energy crisis of 2000-01. Changes to the California energy market instituted after the crisis had, until recently, prevented such transactions. The final step to restoring the ability to purchase energy from Edison was achieved when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission accepted an amendment to an existing contract between Metropolitan and Edison. The contract amendment was approved by Metropolitan's Board in October. Purchasing energy from Edison instead of from the energy marketplace located outside of California allows Metropolitan to comply with the AB32 Cap and Trade program requirements, as in-state energy has already offset any associated greenhouse gasses with Cap and Trade allowances.

Metropolitan and the existing Hoover power contractors initiated discussions with federal agencies to perform an audit of the current Hoover power contract. The current contract will expire in 2017 and the contractors desire to document balances in various operating and capital accounts and establish the processes to close out the contract. As established by the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011, Metropolitan and the other contractors will retain 95 percent of their present Hoover entitlement under a new 50-year contract that will start when the current contract ends.

Diemer plant staff provided support to its Electrical Reliability Project by supplying temporary power to critical plant processes during planned power outages. This effort allowed the contractor to pull in new high voltage cables to the Diemer power centers. This project will greatly improve Diemer's electrical reliability by providing redundant power supply to each critical power center.

## CORE: IMPROVE SECURITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Representatives from Three Valleys, Foothill, and Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water Districts were invited to join Metropolitan in designing an emergency exercise scheduled for this May. A kickoff meeting to design this exercise was held on February 11 and included staff from the member agencies and Metropolitan's Weymouth plant, Eastern Conveyance and Distribution, and Emergency Operations Center. This exercise is part of a multi-year exercise plan in which all Metropolitan member agencies will be invited to join Metropolitan facilities to prepare for an emergency response. Lessons learned from these exercises help shape Metropolitan's Emergency Response Plan and future emergency response training.

## CORE: PROTECT SOURCE WATER QUALITY

Wastewater dischargers in the Las Vegas area are in the process of renewing Las Vegas Wash discharge permits and propose to continue year-round phosphorus removal, maintaining levels well below current permit requirements. Metropolitan, through the Lower Colorado River Water Quality Partnership, sent a letter to the wastewater dischargers acknowledging their commitment to continue improving wastewater treatment for the long-term protection of the Colorado River.

## CORE: PREPARE FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency released the Draft Contaminant Candidate List 4 on February 4. This draft list includes 100 chemicals and 12 waterborne pathogens that are considered contaminants and known or anticipated to occur in public water systems. These chemicals and pathogens are not currently regulated. The US EPA uses the listing as the primary way to prioritize contaminants for regulatory decision making and for developing research needs. Metropolitan will continue to work with the American Water Works Association to provide comments and support activities to improve the contaminant prioritization and regulatory process.

# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

## CORE: OPTIMIZE WATER TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION

State Water Project target blends at the Weymouth, Diemer and Skinner water treatment plants remained at zero percent for February. Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids for December 2013 through November 2014 were 601, 601, and 528 mg/L for Weymouth, Diemer and Skinner plants, respectively.

In preparation for a project to install a sodium hypochlorite tank farm at the Weymouth plant, staff needed to isolate a section of abandoned piping from the washwater reclamation system. To avoid a plant shutdown, the work was scheduled during a 24-hour period when filters could be operated without backwashing. A bulkhead was installed in order to isolate the operational portion of the washwater reclamation system from the new construction area.

## CORE: ENSURE WATER QUALITY COMPLIANCE, WORKER SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during the month of February 2015.

The State Water Resources Control Board's Construction General Permit, which regulates storm water runoff from construction sites, is scheduled to expire in July 2015 and must be renewed. The Permit applies to both contractor and internal construction projects. SWRCB has issued some preliminary language additions and changes to stakeholder groups. Metropolitan staff will participate with stakeholder groups to provide input to the revised Permit. SWRCB will administratively extend the existing Permit until a new one is adopted and becomes effective.

## CORE: DEVELOP WORKFORCE

The Water System Operations Apprentice and Technical Training Programs help develop and train personnel to become qualified electricians and mechanics responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. The Class of 2015 Electrical Apprentices are preparing for their final proficiency assessments. The comprehensive examination measures proficiency on all aspects learned in the electrical program over the last four years

The Class of 2018 Mechanics and Electricians observed and handled power tools during a demonstration by a Metropolitan tool vendor. This portion of the first period class provided hands-on experience with the tools and addressed power tool safety. *(see photo to the right)*



# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

## CORE: PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO MEMBER AGENCIES

Metropolitan held a Member Agency Water Quality Managers Meeting on February 12. Topics included New Statewide Permit for Drinking Water System Discharges; Climate Change and Water Quality; and water supply and water quality updates.

Due to street improvements, the Municipal Water District of Orange County requested demolition of its OC-58 service connection meter structure through a reimbursable project. The demolition has been completed. MWDOC will contract with Metropolitan if it decides to rebuild this service connection in the future. Additionally, MWDOC is continuing construction work at service connection OC-70 site to install a new water pump station. Metropolitan staff is performing inspections to ensure no impacts to Metropolitan facilities.

Storage	As of 2/29/15	% of Capacity
DVL	392,958 AF	49
Lake Mathews	89,777 AF	49
Lake Skinner	32,947 AF	75

### Useful information:

**AF** = acre-foot, the volume of water to cover an acre of land, one-foot deep.

Approximately 326,000 gallons of water, serves annual needs of two typical California families.

**TAF**=thousand acre-feet

**MAF**=million acre-feet

**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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