



# The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

## General Manager’s Monthly Activity Report for July 2019

This report identifies the actions and activities taking place during the month that support the objectives of the General Manager’s Fiscal Year 2019/20 Strategic Priorities and the Core Business of the GM’s work groups.

JULY 31, 2019

### GENERAL MANAGER’S BUSINESS PLAN FISCAL YEAR 2019/20

There are seven key strategic priorities that the Office of the General Manager will be focused on for this fiscal year 2019/20. Additionally, Groups reporting to the General Manager continue to work on core business.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1—Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security, and Resiliency.** Metropolitan’s vast network of aqueducts, pipelines, pumps and treatment facilities are the backbone of Southern California’s regional water system. However, this vital infrastructure is aging and heightened reinvestment in this system is essential to ensure Metropolitan can continue to deliver on its promise of reliability in the coming decades.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2—Prepare for More Extreme Hydrology.** Staff will work closely with the Board to assess Metropolitan’s storage capabilities, current strategies and review future needs to identify whether new strategies and/or new investments are needed. Metropolitan will examine new opportunities to leverage technology and innovation to promote conservation, efficient water use and water stewardship through a comprehensive demand management program that includes investments in research, innovation, and public education along with targeted incentives for the residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3—Ensure Imported Supply Reliability.** Southern California’s foundational water supply remains the Colorado River and the State Water Project and their ongoing reliability is critical for the region. The emphasis for the State Water Project will be on working with the Newsom Administration to make the necessary revisions to the process to accommodate a single-tunnel approach with minimal loss of time. On the Colorado River, the emphasis over the next year will be on implementing the completed Drought Contingency Plan providing stability on the Colorado River while protecting Metropolitan’s supplies and access to storage in Lake Mead.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY #4—Maximize Local Resources.** Staff will begin work with the Board and member agencies on a review of issues associated with the Regional Recycled Water Program.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY #5—Promote Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability.** Metropolitan will continue to lead with programs that promote actions that support sustainable practices, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect natural habitat and water quality.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY #6—Foster Leadership and Strengthen Workforce Capability.**

More than half of Metropolitan’s workforce has reached retirement age. This is a challenge to Metropolitan’s capacity to adequately train and prepare its workforce but is also an opportunity to build a workforce geared for the challenges of the future. While Metropolitan’s workforce is becoming increasingly more diverse, Metropolitan will continue to foster an inclusive and innovative workplace, promoting a safe and discrimination-free work environment, and provide opportunities for all employees to use their diverse talents to support Metropolitan’s mission.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY #7—Maintain Sound Business Practices and Fiscal Integrity.**

Metropolitan will continue its longstanding practice of operating in a productive, cost-effective, transparent, and efficient manner to ensure sound financial stability.

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## BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES

### **CORE BUSINESS: Bay-Delta Solutions**

Develop and pursue near- and long-term solutions that will ensure improved water quality and water supply reliability. Efforts include providing leadership for proposed Delta improvements, participating in on-going federal and state Bay-Delta regulatory processes, effectively managing studies and research activities that promote collaborative science, identifying opportunities for Delta Islands land management, and monitoring Delta levees performance to ensure long-term levees integrity.

Objective: LONG-TERM DELTA ACTIONS—Provide a leadership role in pursuing the state's Proposed Delta Improvements, including the new Delta Conveyance Project, California EcoRestore, and Sites Reservoir.

#### Joint Powers Authorities

Both the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) and the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (Finance Authority) held meetings on July 18. Action by the DCA Board included approving a letter of credit for approximately \$847,000 for the DCA office lease. Also during the meeting, Carrie Buckman, the California Department of Water Resources' new Environmental Manager for the one-tunnel conveyance program, was introduced. The Finance Authority Board approved the amended investment policy, which delegates authority to the Treasurer to invest funds. In addition, the Finance Authority received a report from Kathryn Mallon, DCA Executive Director, regarding DCA activities and anticipated budget for the next three years.

Objective: NEAR-TERM DELTA ACTIONS—Develop and implement near-term measures, compatible with long-term Delta solutions to support regulatory processes that improve water quality and water supply reliability. Near-term actions include important efforts such as Regulatory, Planning, and Legislative Support; Science Development, and Emergency Preparedness Planning and Implementation.

#### a. Regulatory, Planning, and Legislative Support

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Department of Water Resources have been working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the reinitiation of consultation for the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The USFWS and NMFS are continuing to address comments on the draft proposed action and biological opinion documents, and in July the fish agencies reported that they have been granted a two-month extension for completing the biological opinions. The fishery agencies are planning to release revised draft biological opinion documents for another round of independent peer review and for review by the public water agencies as authorized under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. Staff is preparing to review the documents. The final biological opinions are expected to be released by the end of August.

#### State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

The State Water Resources Control Board is in the process of developing and implementing updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan). The Natural Resources Agency has been leading a separate but related effort to negotiate Voluntary Agreements (VAs) with upstream and export water users to support environmental objectives through a broad set of management tools. On July 1, the Secretaries of CalEPA and Natural Resources released a Voluntary Agreements Progress Report. The report describes progress to date on evaluation of assets, development of recommendations for a governance structure and science-based decision-making approach, and identification of key policy issues for enforcement of the VAs. The report also describes a general timeline for moving forward that includes State determination of the adequacy of the VAs by October this year and completion of SWRCB environmental review by 2021. Staff is providing technical review of VA documents and providing input to the process.

## BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES

### CORE BUSINESS: Bay-Delta Solutions

Objective: NEAR-TERM DELTA ACTIONS—continued...  
b. Science Development

Staff is working with the State Water Contractors and ITN Industry News to produce a news and current affairs-style program that will explore the threats posed to fish and wildlife. The program will highlight the impact of effective fisheries management and look at how organizations are addressing the complexities of fisheries conservation and creating a sustainable future. The collaborative science that SWC is investing in and supporting will highlight how fisheries science is being used to inform water project operations and policy decisions. The Fisheries Strong video will provide a platform for the exchange of ideas, highlight the important work of fisheries and conservation professionals, and showcase some best practice stories from across America on what people and organizations are doing well from the top down to the grassroots level. The program will be launched at the American Fisheries Society annual conference this fall, featured on the association website, and shared widely online to their members and will be featured across 50 or more different distribution channels, including the AFS website, social media, newsletters, YouTube, and more as a means to provide practical, real-world solutions for advancing the industry.

A scientific paper published in the June edition of the San Francisco Estuary & Watershed Science Journal presented results of a study funded by Metropolitan to characterize early 20th century salinity conditions in the Delta. The paper compares two salinity datasets from the early 20th century – the records of distance travelled by C&H Sugar’s freshwater barges and salinity measurements by the State of California. The C&H Sugar’s barge data has been used extensively in the Bay-Delta community as a surrogate for the degree of salinity intrusion in the Delta. This paper finds that the salinity intrusion estimated through C&H Sugar’s barge data is systematically lower by up to 10 km when compared to other salinity measurements during the same period, and therefore, questions the conclusions about salinity intrusion based on the barge data.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In July, CAMT and the CSAMP Policy Group discussed and approved the Process Guidelines for the Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making (SDM) project, which will allow the consultant to proceed with the next phase of the project. The overall objective of this SDM project is to identify actions to benefit Delta smelt and evaluate and rank the actions in a scientifically structured process to support consideration of prioritized management actions.

Objective: NEAR-TERM DELTA ACTIONS—continued...  
c. Emergency Preparedness Planning and Implementation

#### Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

DWR has invited Metropolitan to participate as a member of the Delta Working Group, which coordinates Delta emergency response programs among local, state, and federal agencies and provides a sounding board for current studies and initiatives. The group is composed of flood response agencies, including Local Management Agencies (LMAs), Delta counties, California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, DWR, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

DWR also reported that the State Department of General Services will post for bid a large sheet pile procurement contract in August to supplement rock inventories supporting levee breach and channel closures for development of the freshwater pathway in an emergency. Previous DWR technical reports have supported pathway development through sheet pile closures in lieu of or in combination with rock closures.

DWR is receiving and making available large inventories of super sacks from commercial sources that can supplement local, state and federal agency inventories for channel closures generally inaccessible by other means. DWR also announced a new \$10 million local agency grant program to support emergency response inventories and programs of Delta Local Management Agencies.

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

### CFO STRATEGIC PRIORITY: 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.

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

The Risk Management Unit completed 56 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

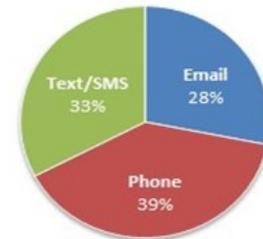
Risk Management completed 53 risk assessments on contracts, including professional service agreements, construction contracts, entry permits, special events, and film permits. .

### CORE BUSINESS: 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.

- Completed the Fusion Business Continuity Planning software upgrade. The latest version includes a streamlined user interface and increased functionality.
- Conducted an employee-wide MetAlert emergency notification test, resulting in 73 percent of employees successfully responding. (see chart right)
- Collaborated with Information Technology to implement Geographic Information System mapping functionality to the MetAlert system. This will provide the ability to select a geographical area and send a MetAlert to any employees within the selected area.
- Created emergency templates to simplify the process of MetAlert notifications. These will be used for training the security special agents to send notifications

Responses by Device Type



### CORE BUSINESS: 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.

Objective: 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 the month ended June 30, 2019 were 137.7 thousand acre-feet, which was 43.0 TAF or 23.8 percent lower than budget.
- Fiscal year 2019 water transactions of 1.42 million acre-feet were 231.7 TAF, or 14 percent lower than the budget of 1.65 million acre-feet.
- Water Revenues for the month ended June 30, 2019 were \$94.1 million.
- Fiscal year 2019 Water Revenues totaled \$1.15 billion and were \$246.8 million or 17.7 percent lower than the budget of \$1.40 billion.
- Accounts Payable processed approximately 4,000 and 47,000 vendor invoices, in June 2019 and fiscal year 2019, respectively. Discounts taken for June 2019 and fiscal year 2019 were \$9,100 and \$123,700, respectively.
- In June 2019, KPMG commenced its interim audit test work for the fiscal year 2018/2019 financial statements audit.
- On July 24, 2019, KPMG presented its audit plan to the Audit and Ethics Committee. Their final test work is scheduled in August and September 2019. Final audited financial statements are scheduled to be completed in October 2019 for presentation to the Audit and Ethics Committee on October 22.

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

### CORE BUSINESS: Financial Management continued...

Objective: 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.

June 2019: Federal Funds Rate: 2.37% Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) Index: 1.90%

- In August 2018, Metropolitan entered into a Note Purchase and Continuing Covenant Agreement with Bank of America, N.A. (the 2018 BANA Agreement) to provide advance funding for costs related to California WaterFix. There was no draw on the 2018 BANA Agreement in June 2019.
- In June 2019, Metropolitan closed on two bond refundings totaling \$459.6 million, which will result in \$135.5 million in debt service savings over the next 20 years.

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

- As of June 30, 2019, the balance in Metropolitan's investment portfolio was \$1.19 billion; for the month of June 2019, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 118 trades.
- During the month of June 2019, Treasury staff processed 1,756 disbursements by check, 16 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 50 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 67 receipts by check, 27 receipts by ACH, and 46 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

## ENGINEERING SERVICES

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency

Metropolitan's vast network of aqueducts, pipelines, pumps and treatment facilities are the backbone of Southern California's regional water system. However, this vital infrastructure is aging and heightened reinvestment in this system is essential to ensure Metropolitan can continue to deliver on its promise of reliability in the coming decades.

Objective: Manage and execute Board-authorized projects within the Capital Investment Plan (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:

- Jensen Finished Water Reservoir No. 2 Cover Replacement—This project replaces the floating cover and liner at the Jensen plant's Reservoir No. 2 and improves the existing inlet configuration for the reservoir. Preliminary design is 91 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by November 2019.
- Mills Finished Water Reservoir Rehabilitation—This project rehabilitates the Mills plant's two finished water reservoirs, including replacement of the floating covers and liners, refurbishment or replacement of existing shutoff gates, installation of a new drop gate, and installation of enhanced security features. Preliminary design is 91 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by November 2019.
- Yorba Linda Hydroelectric Power Plant Completion Project—This project fabricates and installs an enclosure for rain protection for the plant generator. Final design is complete and Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract for the enclosure in July 2019. This project also upgrades various facility subsystems and procures spare parts for the power plant. Final design on these subsystems is 43 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2019.
- Wadsworth Pumping Plant Control and Electrical Protection Upgrade—This project replaces the obsolete turbine/pumping unit controls and electrical protection systems for the Wadsworth Pumping Plant and pressure control

## ENGINEERING SERVICES

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency continued...

structure. The control system upgrades for the pressure control structure Turbine/Pump Units 6, 7, and 8 are proceeding. The upgrades are 82 percent complete and are scheduled to be complete by February 2020.

- Greg Avenue Pump Station Rehabilitation—This project improves reliability of the Greg Avenue Pump Station by replacing the existing pumps and by upgrading the electrical and control systems. Construction is 15 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2021.
- Orange County Region Service Center—This project constructs a new 12,000 sq. ft. permanent service center for the Orange County operating region. The existing service center was removed in 2008 to provide space for the ORP construction. Construction is 65 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2019.
- Orange County Feeder Lining Repairs—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. Rehabilitation is proceeding along four reaches. Construction of Reach 1 is complete. Construction of Reach 2 is 75 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2019. Final design for the remaining two reaches is 84 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2019. *(see photo right)*

Orange County Feeder Lining Repairs –  
Extraction of machine that removes coal  
tar lining from pipeline's interior



### 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. Recent activities include the following:

- Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation—This project rehabilitates the remaining 28 miles of PCCP segments within the Second Lower Feeder. Long-term rehabilitation of the Second Lower Feeder will be staged over a period of eight to ten years, with multiple construction and procurement contracts. A total of 6.4 miles of PCCP on the Second Lower Feeder have been relined; this includes 2 miles of previous urgent repairs and 4.4 miles completed under Reach 1. The scope of the second construction contract for Reach 4 includes lining approximately 2 miles of existing PCCP segments with a steel liner. Construction for Reach 4 is 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by November 2019. The scope of the third construction contract for Reach 2 includes lining approximately 4.5 miles of existing PCCP segments with a steel liner. Construction for Reach 2 is five percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by November 2020. Final design of Reach 3 is 72 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2019.
- Second Lower Feeder Pipe Fabrication—Fabrication of steel liner pipe for Reaches 2 and 4 is underway and will provide approximately 21,100 feet of 75-inch-diameter welded steel liner pipe. Fabrication is 90 percent complete and the initial delivery of pipe for Reach 2 is scheduled to be complete by October 2019.
- Second Lower Feeder Shutoff Valve Procurement—This contract provides 216 shutoff valves that will replace deteriorated valves along the length of the Second Lower Feeder. These valves range in diameter from 4 inches to 16 inches and are used to control and isolate flow at air release/vacuum valve locations, dewatering vaults, and blowoff

## ENGINEERING SERVICES

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency continued...

structures. The first 150 valves were received and inspected and are in protective storage. The remaining 66 valves will be delivered by September 2019.

- Second Lower Feeder Isolation Valve Procurement—This contract provides 13 conical plug isolation valves for the Second Lower Feeder rehabilitation. These valves range in diameter from 48 to 54 inches and provide primary isolation for maintenance activities, inspections, and repairs required to maintain reliable water deliveries with Metropolitan’s distribution system. Fabrication of the first three 48-inch conical plug valves is 20 percent complete, and the valves are scheduled to be delivered by June 2020.
- Sepulveda Feeder, Calabasas Feeder, Rialto Pipeline, and the Allen-McColloch Pipeline—These projects rehabilitate the four other priority PCCP lines. Preliminary design efforts for the four priority lines are being conducted simultaneously and are 35 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by mid-2020. Staff will return to the Board in early 2021 with a detailed plan for phasing the long-term rehabilitation of all feeders included in the program.

### Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

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

- CRA Gene Wash and Copper Basin Discharge Valve Rehabilitation—This project replaces the existing deteriorated cone valves at Copper Basin and Gene Wash Reservoirs on the Colorado River Aqueduct. The project will be completed in two stages. Stage 1 will replace the valve at Gene Wash Reservoir, while Stage 2 will replace the valve at Copper Basin Reservoir. Final design for Stage 1 is complete and award of construction contract by Metropolitan’s Board is scheduled for November 2019. Final design for Stage 2 is 30 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2020.
- CRA UPS Replacement—This project replaces the uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems at the five CRA pumping plants. Each plant has a UPS system to prevent fluctuations in power quality and to serve as a backup for communications, data, and control equipment in case of loss of power. Construction is 17 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by November 2019.
- CRA Circulating Water & Sump Discharge Piping Systems Rehabilitation—This project replaces the 75-year-old pump house circulating water and sump pump discharge piping systems at all five CRA pumping plants. The systems include parallel pumps and piping that circulate cooling water and collect drainage water from several sources return cooling water flows; washwater from plant maintenance activities; used backwash water from the plants’ potable water treatment systems; and leakage from the main CRA pumps. Construction is two percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2020.
- CRA Cranes Rehabilitation—This project replaces the overhead crane systems within each pump house and the portable pump-bay crane systems, including bridges, trolleys, hoists, drive trains, and system controls. Final design is 60 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2019.
- CRA Motor Cable Replacement—This project replaces the electrical cables that provide power to the main pump motors. Construction is two percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by July 2020.
- Intake Power Line and Communication Replacement—This project relocates a power transmission line that serves Intake Pumping Plant and several remote CRA facilities. Construction is 70 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2019. *(see photo right)*

Intake Power Line and Communication Replacement – Contractor erected a new steel pole]



## ENGINEERING SERVICES

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency continued...

#### 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 Plant

- Weymouth West Washwater Tank Seismic Upgrades—This project performs seismic strengthening and refurbishment of the west washwater tank at the Weymouth plant. Construction is 85 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2019.
- Weymouth Domestic Water Upgrade—This project upgrades the aging domestic and firewater loop at the Weymouth plant. Construction is 32 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by February 2020.
- Weymouth Chlorination System Upgrades—This project expands an existing chlorine building to house additional chlorinate feed equipment and instrumentation at the Weymouth plant. Construction is 15 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2020.

##### Diemer Plant

- West Basin and Filter Building Rehabilitation—This project performs rehabilitation of the west flocculation/sedimentation basins and filter building at the Diemer plant, including replacement of treatment basin equipment and filter valves, abatement of hazardous materials, and seismic strengthening of the filter building. Construction is 30 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2020.
- Diemer Water Sampling System Improvements—The project upgrades the existing Diemer water sampling system. This system is comprised of 13 sample locations. At each location, the sample pump, piping, and field analyzers will be upgraded. Construction is 30 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by January 2021.

##### Jensen Plant

- Jensen Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2—his project upgrades the electrical system with dual power feed to key process equipment in three stages to achieve conformity with current codes and industry practices. Stage 1 work is complete. Stage 2 improvements will upgrade UPC-7, UPC-9, and their associated motor control centers to support critical process equipment. These include the washwater pumps, service water pumps, washwater return pumps, filters, thickeners, sludge pumps, and ammonia facilities. In July 2019, Metropolitan's Board awarded the construction contract for the Stage 2 electrical upgrades at the Jensen plant.
- Jensen Module 2 and 3 Flocculator Rehabilitation—This project rehabilitates the Modules 2 and 3 flocculators at the Joseph plant. Construction is two percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in February 2021.

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Maximize Local Resources

Staff will begin work with the Board and member agencies on a review of the institutional issues associated with the Regional Recycled Water Program and its relationship to Metropolitan's ongoing Local Resources Program.

Objective: Develop and support opportunities to collaborate with other agencies to enhance local water supplies.

**Regional Recycled Water Program**—This program includes the design and construction of an Advanced Water Treatment Demonstration Plant, which represents the initial step in development of a potential regional recycled water system for recharge of groundwater basins within Southern California.

Advanced Water Treatment Demonstration Plant—This project constructs a 0.5 mgd demonstration facility on the grounds of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson. The demonstration facility will collect data for regulatory acceptance of the proposed process train for a full-scale recycling plant and will enable testing that will optimize the treatment process. Construction is complete and the contract-required testing and commissioning of the facility is underway. It is anticipated that the contractor will complete all of its required activities and turn over the facility to Metropolitan in September 2019.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency**

Metropolitan's vast network of aqueducts, pipelines, pumps and treatment facilities are the backbone of Southern California's regional water system. However, this vital infrastructure is aging and heightened reinvestment in this system is essential to ensure Metropolitan can continue to deliver on its promise of reliability in the coming decades.

Objective: Provide planning, CEQA/NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), and regulatory permitting support for enhancement of infrastructure, safety, security, and resiliency.

#### CEQA/NEPA

Completed Mitigation Monitoring Report documenting compliance with CEQA mitigation measures for the Palos Verdes Reservoir Upgrades Project.

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Promote Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability**

Metropolitan will continue to lead with programs that promote actions that support sustainable practices, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect natural habitat and water quality.

Objective: Continue to actively manage Metropolitan's conservation lands through cooperative relationships with public agencies and non-governmental conservation organizations.

#### Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

The Reserve Management Committee approved the Annual Work Plan and Reserve Management budget submitted by Riverside County Parks for fiscal year 2019/20 for management of the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve.

Objective: Continue cultural resources planning and education to protect and preserve the historic legacy of Metropolitan.

Staff attended a meeting and took a tour of the Western Science Center to view Metropolitan archaeological and paleontological collections curated at the center. *(see photos below)*



Mastodon and ground sloth fossils found during construction of Diamond Valley Lake.



## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Foster Leadership and Strengthen Workforce Capabilities**

More than half of Metropolitan's workforce has reached retirement age, including many members of Metropolitan's executive management team. This is a challenge to Metropolitan's capacity to adequately train and prepare its workforce but is also an opportunity to build a workforce geared for the challenges of the future.

Objective: Emphasize employee development, recruitment, knowledge capture, cross-training, management training and succession planning

- Staff attended the *LA County Sustainability Plan: Gearing Up Economic Opportunity and Jobs* conference and the *CEQA Update: New Laws on Streamlining, Exemptions and Special Legislation for Expediting the CEQA Process* presentation.
- Staff is enrolled in a Sustainability certificate program at UCLA.
- Staff completed temporary rotation in Real Property Group and returned to Environmental Planning.

### **CORE BUSINESS Business Processes**

Metropolitan will continue to lead with programs that promote actions that support sustainable practices, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect natural habitat and water quality.

Objective: Provide timely and professional planning services and CEQA and regulatory support to Engineering Services, Water System Operations, Water Resource Management, External Affairs, and Real Property Groups

#### CEQA Clearances

Provided environmental planning clearances for 9 WSO projects, 4 Real Property actions, and 10 board letters.

#### Engineering Services Support

- Reviewed design plans and provided the environmental specification sections (Section 01065) for the Casa Loma Siphon Barrel No. 1 Replacement, Weymouth La Verne Shop Phase 5 Upgrades, Weymouth Water Quality Instrument Improvements, and East Orange County Feeder Service Connection Meter Replacement projects.
- Obtained authorization to use existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 and Regional Water Quality Control Board 401 permits, prepared Notice of Exemption in compliance with CEQA, and coordinated with project team on final design for the Whitewater Erosion Repair.
- Began noise monitoring for the Headquarters Retrofit Project.
- Coordinated nesting bird surveys and general monitoring for the construction of drainage and erosion improvements at Garvey Reservoir.
- Completed environmental review for Jensen and Diemer Underground Storage Tanks Replacement projects.
- Finalized biological surveys and began jurisdictional delineation in support of an environmental document and permitting for the CRA Structural Protection Project.
- Concluded construction monitoring activities for the CRA Urgent Repairs project.

#### Water System Operations Support

- Coordinated with WSO and performed environmental surveys for erosion repairs at the CRA Potrero Shaft.
- Attended a meeting with WSO, ESG, and representatives of the California Office of Emergency Services regarding repairs resulting from February 2019 storm damage.
- Provided environmental clearance for mowing and grading at Lake Mathews and for valve inspection at the Upper Feeder.
- Completed nesting bird surveys in support of projects at Pleasant Peak, Lake Mathews, the Allen-McColloch Pipeline, and the Yorba Linda Feeder.
- Coordinated biological surveys in support of the Lake Mathews Fencing Project and Rialto Feeder road grading.
- Coordinated with California Department of Park and Recreation and WSO and conducted biological surveys to allow repair of an exposed section of the Lower Feeder and patrol roads in Chino Hills State Park.

#### Construction Monitoring

Continued construction mitigation monitoring for the following projects: Palos Verdes Reservoir Upgrades, PCCP Second Lower Feeder Reach 4, Orange County Conveyance and Distribution Team Maintenance Building, Weymouth Plant West Wash Water Tank Seismic Upgrades, Weymouth Plant Domestic Water System Improvements, Weymouth Plant Chlorine System Upgrades, Orange County Feeder Relining Reach 2, Powerline Replacement at Gene and Intake, and CRA Urgent Repairs.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PRIORITY: Advance Initiatives to Educate and Inform the Public, Elected Officials and Stakeholders on Water Supply Conditions and Important Water Management Decisions.**

External Affairs will develop and maintain relationships with the public, legislative leaders, government officials, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders, and implement effective and diverse communication and outreach strategies on the value of water, current water supply conditions, innovative strategies to address current and future challenges, and the importance of Metropolitan actions and leadership to promote stewardship, planning and investments to benefit the region.

Objective: Recognizing there is a new normal that is directly impacting California water conditions, driven in part by more volatile supply conditions due to climate change, inform key stakeholders, news media, businesses and the public on the need for sustained conservation actions, support for new water supply projects and continued investment in imported water systems to maintain water supply reliability and protect the environment.

California's Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot visited Metropolitan to share information about the Newsom Administration steps to address climate change impacts and modernize the state's water systems. Recognizing that Metropolitan's Board previously voted to support the California WaterFix twin tunnels project, Crowfoot reiterated the governor's support of a single-tunnel solution to Delta conveyance. Crowfoot also spoke about the state's Water Resilience Portfolio, which is being developed with input from water agencies and stakeholders. He acknowledged Metropolitan's regional significance and emphasized his commitment to collaborating with Metropolitan and other water agencies. *(see photo below)*

Metropolitan's summer water conservation advertising campaign moved into full swing with expanded placements of multilingual digital advertisements, social media, radio spots on iHeartRadio stations, and promotions with the Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers NFL teams. As part of the campaign, Metropolitan partnered with KNBC in Los Angeles and KNSD in San Diego to feature on-air segments promoting turf replacement rebates. Marketing efforts also continue with member agencies to encourage Southern California residents to replace thirsty lawns with California-Friendly® native landscaping. *(see photo below)*



Director Record, Secretary Wade Crowfoot, Board Chairwoman Gray, and General Manager Kightlinger



Metropolitan partnered with NBC Los Angeles to feature turf rebate themed segments. NBC host Jessica Vilchis discussed the many drought tolerant gardening resources available on [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com).

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### **CORE BUSINESS: Legislative, Communications, Community Relations, Public and Business Outreach**

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. Inform the public about Metropolitan projects, facilities, operations and initiatives to gather input and support, foster competitive and diverse business opportunities, and facilitate innovation and technology sharing.

Objective: LEGISLATIVE SERVICES - Develop and implement local, state and federal legislative and regulatory strategies consistent with Board-adopted policies. Promote interaction between Metropolitan leadership and various stakeholders, including elected officials, to facilitate support for, and garner greater understanding of, water policy issues.

#### **Federal**

Metropolitan submitted correspondence to the House and Senate Chairmen, ranking members of the Armed Services Committee and the California Congressional delegation on pending federal legislation related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water. PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s, and are (or have been) found in many consumer products like cookware, food packaging, and stain repellants. (July 11)

As part of the official hearing record for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on water storage and conservation, Metropolitan submitted a letter

of support for S.1932 (Feinstein, D-CA), the Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act. (July 18)

#### **State**

FY 2019/20 State Budget

Governor Newsom's signed into law his first state budget, a \$215 billion spending plan that implements a broad policy agenda to address issues that included health care access, housing, climate change, and education. The budget includes \$70 million for the voluntary agreements and enabling language to ensure eligibility for priority projects and activities to restore habitat for listed fish in the Delta and Sacramento and San Joaquin tributaries.

#### **State Legislation**

Metropolitan and the State Water Contractors continue to push for amendments to SB 1, the California Environmental, Public Health and Workers Defense Act. The bill could have unintended consequences that would impact the State Water Project and efforts to secure voluntary agreements for the Bay-Delta and its tributaries.

The following bills of interest to or impacting Metropolitan were signed into law by Governor Newsom:

- AB 1054 (Holden, D-Pasadena) and a companion budget trailer bill, AB 111, enact reforms for investor-owned utilities on cost recovery and safety and establishes a new catastrophic wildfire fund.
- AB 1220 by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens) was sponsored by Central Basin MWD, prohibits a Metropolitan member public agency from having fewer than the number of representatives it had as of January 1, 2019.
- SB 200 by Senator Monning (D-Carmel) continuously appropriates \$130 million each year from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, providing a funding source to help disadvantaged communities provide clean, safe, and reliable water.
- AB 756 by Assemblymember Garcia (D-Bell Gardens) authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to monitor Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and requires reporting of detection.

#### **Local**

- Metropolitan staff attended the Oxnard Government Affairs Committee and provided an update to business leaders, legislative staffers, and Oxnard city officials on current water conditions and Delta Conveyance. (July 8)
- Metropolitan sponsored and staff attended the Ventura County Economic Development Association Policy Committee and provided information to business leaders and legislative staffers about Metropolitan's water policy platform and legislative initiatives, Delta conveyance, and current water conditions. (July 10)
- Chairwoman Gray was the featured speaker at a Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed) Leadership Roundtable. General Manager Kightlinger and Metropolitan staff attended the event, which included a discussion of Metropolitan's policy priorities and local initiatives. (July 10)

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### CORE BUSINESS: Legislative, Communications, Community Relations, Public and Business Outreach

Objective: LEGISLATIVE SERVICES continued...

- Metropolitan sponsored and staff attended the Pomona Chamber of Commerce's 2019-20 annual membership meeting. (July 11).
- Metropolitan sponsored a multi-chamber event in the southeast Los Angeles County entitled "Breakfast with Senator Bob Archuleta." Metropolitan Director Heldman introduced Senator Archuleta, who spoke about key state and regional issues. The event was organized by the Artesia, Cerritos, Downey, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier chambers of commerce. (July 12)
- Staff attended the United Chambers Government Affairs Committee and provided an update to business leaders and district legislative staff on current water conditions and the Delta Conveyance. (July 15)
- Staff provided an update on the Delta Conveyance to the Ventura County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business. About 35 leaders from labor, agriculture, and business were present. (July 17)
- Metropolitan hosted a Community Leaders Water Briefing (CLB) in El Monte with Director Treviño, featuring Assemblymember Blanca Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) and Senator Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park). General Manager Kightlinger provided an update on Metropolitan's statewide efforts to promote water supply reliability. Approximately 70 community stakeholders attended. (July 18)
- Metropolitan hosted a Community Leaders Water Briefing in Newport Beach with Directors McKenney and Solorio, featuring Congressman Harley Rouda (D-Laguna Beach). Chief Operating Officer Upadhyay provided an update on Metropolitan's efforts to modernize conveyance and promote initiatives for recycled water, water quality, conservation, and climate change. Approximately 50 community stakeholders attended. (July 22)
- Director Ballin and Metropolitan staff attended the United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley's annual State of the County luncheon featuring Los Angeles County Supervisors Kuehl (District 3) and Barger (District 5). The supervisors spoke to an audience of 300 people about water conservation and Metropolitan's partnership with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts on the Regional Recycled Water Project. (July 24)
- Chairwoman Gray spoke at the board meeting of LA Metro about Metropolitan's work to promote diversity in its workforce and support for STEM education and youth employment initiatives. (July 25)
- Chairwoman Gray provided remarks to the California Latino Water Coalition at a luncheon they held in Fresno in her honor. Vice Chairs Kurtz and Butkeiwicz and Agricultural and Industry Relations Vice Chair Dick joined the Chairwoman along with Director Ballin, who currently serves as Chair of the California Latino Water Coalition Foundation Board of Directors.

Objective: MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS - Communicate Metropolitan's policy priorities, actions and initiatives through various means to raise public awareness, enhance Metropolitan's visibility and cultivate support for Metropolitan priorities. Update and develop new communications tools, materials and platforms to ensure Metropolitan information reaches diverse audiences throughout its service area in a cost-effective, timely, relevant manner that reflects current communications trends.

#### Media Interviews

- Arranged interview between Chief Operating Officer Upadhyay and Bloomberg's Luke McGrath on Metropolitan's land management and crop rotation programs with Palo Verde Irrigation District.
- Coordinated interview between General Manager Kightlinger and Bettina Boxall of the *Los Angeles Times* regarding federal biological opinions.
- Staff handled an interview request from Jim Carlton of the *Wall Street Journal* regarding the Walton family purchasing agricultural lands in the West.
- Arranged interview between Araceli Martinez of *La Opinion* and General Manager Kightlinger about the Colorado River's importance to Southern California.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### CORE BUSINESS: Legislative, Communications, Community Relations, Public and Business Outreach

Objective: MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS continued...

#### Communication Activities

- Issued monthly Metropolitan newsletter to more than 15,000 recipients with stories about conservation, resiliency, recycled water, and water quality initiatives.
- Metropolitan partnered with Long Beach Water to help sponsor a new exhibit by the Long Beach Historical Society, "Water Changes Everything," and staff attended the opening event. The year-long exhibit is open to the public and shows how early residents, the Long Beach Water Department, Metropolitan Water District, and other entities worked together to provide a reliable water system for the growing city. (July 19)

#### Press Releases/Statements

- Metropolitan Launches Do-It-Yourself Guide to Lawn Removal.
- Metropolitan Names U.S. Department of Labor Investigator as New Ethics Officer (Abel Salinas).

#### Social Media

- Tweeted about the activities of Chairwoman Gray, including an inspection trip and meetings with officials, which garnered nearly 40,000 impressions.
- Promoted turf replacement posts on Facebook that brought 53,000 users to bewaterwise.com rebate pages and garnered 62,000 impressions on Twitter.
- Created four new lawn removal video tutorials that are featured on bewaterwise.com and SoCalwatersmart.com. (*see photo below*)

One of the quick, new video tutorials that guide users through removing their lawn to make way for a beautiful, more sustainable California native garden



Objective: PUBLIC OUTREACH AND MEMBER SERVICES - Conduct public outreach to increase awareness and input on Metropolitan projects and initiatives and ensure impacted communities are aware of Metropolitan construction and maintenance activities. Enhance public awareness of Metropolitan's systems and facilities and the role they play in regional supply reliability while protecting environmental resources. Serve as liaison to Metropolitan's member agencies and facilitate their engagement with Metropolitan.

#### Public Outreach for Metropolitan Projects

- Metropolitan provided 960 notices and text alert updates to residents and businesses in the vicinity of the Orange County Feeder relining project. Information materials were also provided to the South Coast Plaza management company for distribution to mall tenants. (July 1 and 10)
- Metropolitan met with engineering staff in the city of Carson to discuss the upcoming Second Lower Feeder Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Reach 2 construction work. (July 3)
- Metropolitan met with Costa Mesa engineering staff to discuss the Orange County Feeder relining project on S. Bristol Street. (July 8)

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### **CORE BUSINESS: Legislative, Communications, Community Relations, Public and Business Outreach**

Objective: PUBLIC OUTREACH AND MEMBER SERVICES continued...

#### **Member Agency Support**

Metropolitan met with the member agency managers to discuss water operations and supply conditions, emerging water quality issues, allocation of demand management costs, California's water resilience portfolio, and stormwater pilots for direct use and groundwater recharge. (July 12)

Objective: EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS - Facilitate public engagement in and understanding of water resource issues through community relations activities and education projects. Build awareness of and appreciation among Southern California for the value of clean, reliable water supplies and the importance of good water stewardship.

#### **General Education**

Staff supported education outreach events that included a water presentation to BOSS (Business Of Success beyond Sports) summer camp; a presentation to a Municipal Water District of Orange County board workshop; California State University, Los Angeles Engineering Launchpad for high school students; a meeting of statewide education coordinators hosted by Department of Water Resources; and Generation Earth teacher open house. The Education Unit directly interacted with over 400 students and teachers this month.

Metropolitan's Student Art Exhibit was displayed at Elsinore Valley MWD, Central Basin MWD, Anaheim Public Utilities Agency, and Las Virgenes MWD.

#### **Diamond Valley Lake Education Program**

Metropolitan staff hosted 566 visitors at the DVL Visitor Center and guided nearly 300 visitors to the Clayton Record viewpoint.

Objective: BUSINESS OUTREACH AND INNOVATION - Facilitate opportunities for small businesses to work with Metropolitan. Help position Metropolitan as a leader in water innovation.

Metropolitan supported small businesses throughout the region through its participation and sponsorship of the following programs, conferences, and events:

- Attended the 16th annual American Indian Chamber of Commerce of California Expo. The expo provided business networking opportunities and workshops on the impacts of climate change on tribal lands, including water. The event was attended by 400 participants. (July 14-16)
- Participated in the Supplier of the Year Awards luncheon hosted by the Southern California Minority Supplier Development Council. Approximately 300 business and agencies were in attendance. (July 18)
- Attended Innovation Tech Day in Los Angeles, which included a pitch competition for new technologies and a staff presentation about Metropolitan's innovation and infrastructure programs. (July 24)
- Participated in the interactive "Build Your Brand" conference, hosted by Women's Business Enterprise Council-West. Approximately 100 women-owned businesses were in attendance. (July 24)
- Attended the city of Compton Business Roundtable with approximately 75 businesses. (July 25)
- Attended the Asian Business Association Los Angeles Chapter quarter Advisory Council meeting with approximately 25 members in attendance. (July 25)

Business Outreach hosted the quarterly Technology Approval Group (TAG) meeting. More than 50 attendees representing member agencies, East Bay MUD, Denver Water, Southern Nevada Water Agency and consultants attended

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### CORE BUSINESS: Legislative, Communications, Community Relations, Public and Business Outreach

Objective: BUSINESS OUTREACH AND INNOVATION continued...

Metropolitan organized, sponsored, and attended the 14th Annual Cal Con Expo 2019, which included workshops and networking with more than 150 exhibitors and 400 attendees. The event provided businesses with information about Metropolitan's Small Business Program and construction and procurement opportunities. (July 18-19)

*(see photo right)*

CalCon connects industry professionals seeking to build relationships and receive the opportunity to work with the state's leading government agencies



## HUMAN RESOURCES

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Foster Leadership and Strengthen Workforce Capabilities

More than half of Metropolitan's workforce has reached retirement age, including many members of Metropolitan's executive management team. This is a challenge to Metropolitan's capacity to adequately train and prepare its workforce but is also an opportunity to build a workforce geared for the challenges of the future. While Metropolitan's workforce is becoming increasingly more diverse, Metropolitan will continue to foster an inclusive and innovative workplace, promoting a safe and discrimination-free work environment, and provide opportunities for all employees to use their diverse talents to support Metropolitan's mission.

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

Human Resources presented the third of the Succession Planning components focused on Employee Development, *Preparing Talent for the Future*, at the Organization, Personnel and Technology Committee meeting held on July 8.

Water System Operations Management Academy session held at Mills plant covered the topics of interviewing, writing guidelines, and water treatment.

Classes delivered this month:

- *Success Signals for Communicating Effectively* had 67 participants at the La Verne Water Quality Library
- *Access, Excel and Word* at Weymouth plant

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Foster Leadership and Strengthen Workforce Capabilities continued...**

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

- Recruitment filled 35 positions for the month of July, which included 12 job bid promotions and 23 external hires. We received 16 new staffing requisitions resulting in 124 positions currently in recruitment.
- Sixteen new apprentices received training on developing effective study skills and successful stress management techniques at Diamond Valley Lake.
- A presentation on Resume Building and Writing was presented at the Lunch 'n Learn sponsored by the Women at Metropolitan Employee Resource Group.
- A total of 262 employees received training during the past month, covering a wide variety of topics including *Managing Email*, *Managing Excel*, and *Cybersecurity Awareness*.

Objective: Implement employee engagement programs to ensure Metropolitan is a competitive organization.

- Organizational Development and Training facilitated a team planning retreat on Building a Culture of Engagement for the Legislative Services Section in External Affairs Group.
- Organizational Development and Training staff debriefed the results of a team survey on teamwork and collaboration to the Engineering Services Group Design Team.

### **HR PRIORITY: Ensure Effective People Management**

Partner with management to ensure that employees are appropriately managed, evaluated, engaged, motivated, developed, and recognized. Provide opportunities for career development, skills training, and knowledge capture in order to prepare for the future.

Objective: Ensure Metropolitan managers have foundational knowledge, on-going support to effectively manage employees, and the tools to prepare for a changing workforce.

Staff supported the Chief Engineer in conveying the Engineering Services Group's vision statement and facilitating the first Chief Engineer's Quarterly Management Forum, which included a learning module on "Giving Feedback."

HR completed the creation of the new HR Strategic Partner job description, which will be implemented/ recruited in August.

### **HR PRIORITY: Strengthen Partnerships with HR Customers**

Collaborate and partner with customers at all levels to support strategic decisions on workforce planning, hiring strategies, advancement and learning opportunities, disciplinary issues, and other challenges as they arise.

Objective: Establish partnerships focused on strategic solutions to various Human Resource management challenges.

Classification and Compensation continues to work on the Supervisors Association's Class Study with a goal of completing work by August 2019, and providing new job descriptions to the Association for review.

The Human Resources Group Manager launched the Board's annual Department Head Evaluation Process of the General Manager, General Counsel and General Auditor. Results from the Board feedback will be shared in closed session at the August Board meeting.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### **HR PRIORITY: Provide Excellent Human Resources Services**

Human Resources provides a wide range of services and support from pre-hire to post-retirement care. HR policies, procedures, and practices will be reviewed and revised as appropriate. HR will continually improve service and better utilize technologies.

Objective: Continue to upgrade HR's technological capabilities and continue to seek out improved technologies to better serve HR's customers.

Human Resources is finalizing implementation planning for the new MyLearning learning management system (through SABA), which will offer improved capabilities for customized training scheduling, participant feedback capabilities, pre-work activities before each training session, and the ability to follow up with participants after each training. Implementation is planned for mid-August.

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

- HR Benefits participated in the New Employee Orientation for 23 new hires regarding benefits; including, CalPERS pension and various optional benefits.
- HR Benefits along with Financial Finesse, conducted a hands-on Stepping into Retirement workshop at the Weymouth plant. At the session Empower Retirement also covered Late Career Retirement Planning and Distribution Options.
- HR Benefits has posted a Request for Proposal for an Insurance Broker to provide vision, dental, and other voluntary benefits. As a result, Metropolitan has received eight submissions and interviews are scheduled.
- Digitizing HR records is continuing in preparation for the office move due to the seismic upgrade. This effort will reduce the amount of paper that HR needs to store, while retaining critical records.

### **CORE BUSINESS: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations**

Ensure all policies, programs, and practices comply with ever-changing laws and regulations. Compliance with applicable laws and policies requires monitoring and analyzing changing requirements, determining impact on Metropolitan management and staff, and implementing any changes necessary to maintain compliance. In addition, these changes must be clearly communicated to all customers as necessary, with any needed training provided, as appropriate.

Objective: Effectively administer all Human Resources policies, programs, and practices in compliance with applicable federal and state laws and Metropolitan's Administrative Code, Operating Polices, and Memorandum of Understanding.

A review aimed at enhancing and streamlining Metropolitan's Workers' Compensation function is ongoing. Currently, three employees remain off work due to an industrial injury or illness. This reflects Metropolitan's continued efforts to accommodate injured workers, while enabling them to remain productive and on the job.

In addition, two workers' compensation law firms were added as Special Counsel to provide legal representation in workers' compensation and subrogation matters.

Activities of the Workers' Compensation/Medical Screening Unit are summarized as follows:

- Submitted 11 new claims to Metropolitan's Workers' Compensation Claim Administrator
- Closed 13 Workers' Compensation Claim Files
- Currently 3 employees remain off work due to industrial injury or illness
- Arranged 25 medical evaluations (DMV, pre-employment, medical surveillance)
- Addressed 2 accommodation issues
- Coordinated 2 Random Drug Tests - La Verne and Skinner
- Coordinated 3 Medvan visits for Lake Mathews and Diemer (Respirator Exams, Hearing Tests, and Commercial and Vanpool Driver exams).

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### **CORE BUSINESS: Prepare to Meet Challenges of Future Workforce Changes**

Human Resources can provide a wide range of services and support to ensure that Metropolitan positions itself for future workforce changes, by maintaining a collaborative and inclusive work environment, as well as a diverse workforce.

Objective: Promote an inclusive and collaborative workplace, maintain robust policies and procedures to ensure diversity, and prevent harassment and discrimination.

In June, for the sixth consecutive year, Metropolitan has participated in the Hire LA's Youth program employing high school seniors and college students to intern during the summer. Twelve interns are participating this year and will be working at Headquarters and Soto Street sites. *(see photos below)*



General Manager Kightlinger greeting high school seniors and college students participating in the Hire LA's Youth program employing high school seniors and college students to intern during the summer.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### **CORE BUSINESS: Information Technology**

Collaboratively work with customers to deliver information technology options, services, and solutions in the areas of enterprise and business applications, Engineering Services and Water System Operations applications, data analytics, mobile/wireless computing, telecommunications, network services, information security, and personal computing.

Objective: Strengthen Metropolitan's cyber security capabilities by deploying new and emerging technologies and implementing enhanced security countermeasures.

On-going efforts include operational initiatives and capital projects to upgrade and protect Metropolitan against evolving cyber threats.

- Continued enhancements to Metropolitan's Cybersecurity capabilities by improving processes and tools as they relate to Elevated Access Privileges (administrative rights to access networks and systems).
- IT Cybersecurity continued to partner with key stakeholders to enhance network security capabilities for Metropolitan's computing environments against evolving cyber threats.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### CORE BUSINESS: Information Technology continued...

Objective: Strengthen Metropolitan's cyber security capabilities by deploying new and emerging technologies and implementing enhanced security countermeasures.

- Collaborated with key stakeholders and business units on deploying new technology and upgrades to Metropolitan's business and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition networks.
- Continued to execute the Cybersecurity II Project to enhance Metropolitan's security posture by deploying new and emerging technologies as part of the Information Technology Cybersecurity Roadmap.
  - Rolled out an IT pilot program by deploying flash drive storage media with built-in hardware encryption and onboard PIN authentication keypad. As part of enterprise-wide deployment planning, initial rollout was initiated within the IT Group to allow for troubleshooting of potential issues and refinement of processes. In conjunction with the pilot, the USB ports for IT users will be locked as part of increasing security measures to protect Metropolitan's computing environment.
- Monitored on-going federal, state, and local cybersecurity legislation applicable to Metropolitan, including the NIST Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity and regulatory compliance (i.e., Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, North American Electric Reliability Corporation).
- Conducted patching of software and systems to mitigate on-going and evolving risks to Metropolitan business networks and applications. Software patches are provided by vendors when vulnerabilities are identified. Before patches can be deployed to Metropolitan's computing environment, IT staff must conduct testing to ensure business-critical applications are not adversely affected.
- Maintained leadership role by participating in a cybersecurity discussion at the recent Global City Teams Challenge at the Smart and Secure Cities and Communities Challenge (GCTC/SC3) Expo. This event was co-hosted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in Washington, D.C.
  - IT Security Unit Manager Jake Margolis participated as a panelist in discussions with municipal governments and technology innovators to share issues faced by cities and communities and efforts to address evolving cybersecurity threats.

Objective: Strengthen Metropolitan's cyber security capabilities by deploying new and emerging technologies and implementing enhanced security countermeasures.

Continued to collaborate with the Engineering Services Group on IT services in support of the Headquarters Improvement Program.

- Headquarters Wi-Fi (Low-Rise) Project—This project scope is to design and install network equipment and Wi-Fi infrastructure within the five-floor wing portion of the Headquarters Building to support staff relocation. Work is proceeding according to plan to acquire, configure, and test wireless equipment needed to establish a robust wireless infrastructure for the low-rise portion of the Headquarters Building.
  - In July, IT initiated installation of network infrastructure on the first and second floor of the Headquarters building. Once installation is complete, network configuration adjustments will be made to fine-tune the system to provide a robust wireless network and enhance Wi-Fi coverage, capacity, and overall performance.
  - Continued to configure and test networking equipment in a test environment in preparation for installation in Headquarters Low-Rise. Deployment activities to be coordinated with Engineering Services due to dependency with the construction schedule of the Headquarters Improvement Program.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### CORE BUSINESS: Information Technology continued...

Objective: Manage Information Technology Projects within the Capital Investment Plan to ensure reliability of IT Systems and Infrastructure

Financial Planning and Analysis Solution—This project will upgrade Metropolitan’s budgeting system to support the capital and operating and maintenance budget processes and board deliverables. As part of this CIP Project, Metropolitan issued a competitive Request for Proposal to solicit bids from qualified vendors for a web-based tool to develop, maintain, analyze, and report on district-wide planning and budgeting information. Submissions from vendors are currently in review as part of the competitive RFP evaluation process.

Service Desk Application—As part of evaluating technology solutions for a self-service ticketing system to centralize and modernize service management within the Information Technology Group, a Request for Information was issued in July. The issuance of the RFI is part of the process in assessing solution alternatives that provide full Information Technology Service Management (ITSM) functionality. The new ITSM system will be used by staff to support service tickets generated by business users across the enterprise.

Desert Microwave Project—This project scope is to upgrade desert microwave tower sites by replacing end-of-life equipment and providing sufficient capacity and

reliability to Metropolitan’s wide area network in the Desert Region.

- During the period, the project team continued performing initial surveys of the microwave sites in the Desert Region as part of the Design Phase of the project.

Board and Committee Room Upgrade—The Board previously authorized staff to proceed with the design phase to upgrade the audiovisual (A/V) systems at Metropolitan’s Headquarters Building. IT is working collaboratively with Engineering Services and Facilities on this technology / construction project to replace the end-of-life A/V equipment in the Board and Committee rooms.

- The team is in the 60 percent design review phase for this project. Once the internal review process is completed (Value Engineering) and approved, the next step will be to transition to the 90 percent design review phase. Upon completion of the overall design of the new A/V system, staff will return to the Board to seek approval to proceed with the construction phase.

Objective: Modernize Operational Technology and Control System Upgrades as part of the Capital Investment Plan.

- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Network Fiber Optic Switch Replacement Project – This project is to replace end-of-life switches critical to Metropolitan’s control system. IT staff continued to work with stakeholders on this project to replace older equipment with current technology, providing greater infrastructure reliability and ensuring vendor support and maintenance.
  - During the period, IT worked in collaboration with WSO staff to complete the installation of switches at Lake Skinner for initial testing. Upon completion of testing, staff will proceed with additional replacement of switches. A phased approach is needed to reduce risk associated with connectivity and dependency of critical equipment requiring close coordination of activities.
- Automated Meter Reading (AMR) Upgrade – The AMR System is a critical component for transmitting flow information from meters for billing of member agency water deliveries and analysis of meter instrumentation by staff. This project will address equipment obsolescence as the communications equipment used in the system is approaching end-of-life. Currently, the project team continues to work on the pilot phase to determine features and benefits of potential technology solutions and how well each technology operates within Metropolitan’s AMR environment (e.g., radio communication, security, and integration).
  - During the period, the project team continued to evaluate design options, implementation alternatives, and potential migration path options as part of the requirements to develop a preliminary project plan. Final planning efforts and procurement activities are underway as staff prepares to kick-off a pilot phase to evaluate new technology options.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### CORE BUSINESS: Information Technology continued...

Objective: Improve Metropolitan's IT Disaster Recovery and Response Capability.

IT Disaster Recovery Project—This project scope is to upgrade server, storage capacity, and backup devices at the IT Disaster Recovery (DR) Facility data center to provide sufficient capacity to run critical systems in a High Availability architecture mode in the event of a disaster.

- The project team continued to work with key stakeholders to test software applications to ensure they meet Metropolitan's DR criteria. Current efforts include working with key stakeholders to obtain final user acceptance of Phase I and II IT-DR application testing, which validated the new DR platform providing Metropolitan with new and enhanced disaster recovery and response capabilities.

On-Going IT Emergency Preparedness—In July, the Information Technology Group conducted on-going emergency preparedness by holding an IT-Incident Command Post training workshop to ensure IT responders are up to date on process / procedures in the event of a disaster.

*(see photo right)*



IT Incident Command Post Training Workshop

Objective: Provide leadership, planning, and solutions in support of Metropolitan's Strategic Priorities.

In July, the Board authorized staff to proceed with the Data Center Modernization Project, which is a key element of the IT strategic priorities in support of Metropolitan.

As part of the IT Roadmap, staff continued the installation and testing activities at CoreSite (off-site data center) to improve network reliability, capability, and redundancy as part of preparing for Metropolitan's migration to cloud processing. Commissioning of the CoreSite network is currently underway as staff continues the process of redirecting network traffic from HQ to CoreSite. Beginning in the first quarter of this fiscal year, IT staff will initiate the migration of selected applications to the cloud environment.

Objective: Enhance workforce productivity by simplifying access to business information and deploy technologies to support our customers in business decisions.

Simplify Access to Business Information—IT continued to implement and build an Enterprise Data Warehouse and Analytics platform to support operational and strategic decision-making at Metropolitan (i.e., dashboard reporting).

- Staff working in collaboration with Administrative Services has developed a dashboard for the Rideshare Mileage and Fuel Reporting. Currently, IT staff is refining the dashboard to further simplify access to business information to support customers in analysis and business decisions.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### CORE BUSINESS: Information Technology continued...

Objective: Deploy innovative solutions to improve operations, promote collaboration, and provide business value.

PC Replacement Project (PCRP)—This project will replace end-of-life computers for all Metropolitan staff and operations (instrumentation, testing, modeling, etc.). During this period:

- Continued to work with Metropolitan workgroups to identify business critical applications. In conjunction with finalizing the new Metropolitan's standard operating system, the Cybersecurity Team provided its approval of the Metropolitan-base image, which will be the platform that all business critical software resides and provides access to the web-based portals for the planned migration to a cloud-based environment.
- In support of PCRP, the IT Group continued to pilot Office 2016 and expanded the deployment of OneDrive, providing staff with cloud-based storage capabilities and allowing users easy access to files from their mobile devices and other PCs.

Continued to Provide Innovative Services—Staff continued to partner with Metropolitan business units to leverage technology to support business needs.

- Conducted on-going planning and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle drone missions to capture aerial video, photos, and data to support Metropolitan's business units.
- 3D printing enables quick production of precision prototypes or small-scale versions of the real object in less time than using conventional methods. In addition to on-going support using current methods and materials, IT staff continues to evaluate advancements in 3D printing capabilities using materials such as carbon fiber, fiberglass, and Kevlar, and applicable use-cases for Metropolitan. *(see photo right)*



3D Prototype - Pressure Relief Pilot Valve

## REAL PROPERTY

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency

Metropolitan's vast network of aqueducts, pipelines, pumps and treatment facilities are the backbone of Southern California's regional water system. However, this vital infrastructure is aging and heightened reinvestment in this system is essential to ensure Metropolitan can continue to deliver on its promise of reliability in the coming decades.

Objective: Provide right-of-way planning and real property acquisition services for infrastructure.

Two road easement deeds were acquired from the city of Yorba Linda in support of the Right-of-Way Infrastructure Protection Program to address gaps within an existing easement to access the Santiago Control Tower.

## REAL PROPERTY

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Foster Leadership and Strengthen Workforce Capabilities**

More than half of Metropolitan's workforce has reached retirement age, including many members of Metropolitan's executive management team. This is a challenge to Metropolitan's capacity to adequately train and prepare its workforce but is also an opportunity to build a workforce geared for the challenges of the future.

Objective: Foster staff training and development.

- Staff completed the following Metropolitan-sponsored courses: *Personal Security Awareness Training* and *Excel List Database and Tables Workshop*.
- Staff attended the Institute for Management Studies training, *How Managers Use Analytics to Drive Excellence*.
- Staff completed the following Skillport courses: *Ethics and Property Management*, *Finding Your Bearings as a Project Manager*, *Strategically Focused Project Management*, and *Project Management Introduction*.
- A staff member was awarded IRWA's Chapter 1 Educational Scholarship Award.
- Staff completed the Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) Institute training: *Controlling the Deal*.

### **CORE BUSINESS: Real Property Acquisition, Management and Revenue Enhancement**

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

Objective: Manage Metropolitan's real property assets to support water system operations and water supply needs, and seek maximum revenue and reduce costs where possible.

- A six-month Entry Permit was issued to Southern California Gas Company for the use of a portion of the Sepulveda Feeder Right of Way as a construction laydown site for the storage of materials and equipment, which is needed for a nearby gas pipeline replacement project.
- A five-year lease was granted for landscaping purposes abutting a residential property along the Upper Feeder right of way in the city of Pasadena.
- Agriculture leases in the Palo Verde Valley have been restructured a Request for Statements of Interest (RFSI) was issued in November 2018 for four new prospective tenants to replace existing tenants. As a result of the open competitive solicitation process, new three-year leases were granted to Noroian Farms, Joey DeConinck Farms, Quail Mesa Ranch, and Red River Farms.
- Two entry permits were acquired from property owners to install and replace drainage improvements adjacent to the Garvey Reservoir in the city of Monterey Park. The drainage improvement work is being done by Engineering Services in partnership with the city to improve and increase property slope drainage from Garvey Reservoir.
- Four single-family residences near the Chemical Unloading Facility in the city of Perris, were offered for sale to the public in March 2019 pursuant to the requirements of the Administrative Code and state law. The residences were acquired for chemical responders to live in to respond to any operational incidents and eventually declared surplus in 2018 following the completion of facility construction. Two of the homes have sold to private buyers above the original appraised value.
- The fee interest in a single-family residence near the Olinda Pressure Control Structure in Yorba Linda was acquired to resolve a long-standing legal dispute regarding vibration issues affecting the property.

Objective: Pursue development and improvement of the Diamond Valley Lake area, including the DVL Visitor Center and marina facilities, in support of recreation, additional leasing and revenue opportunities.

The National Bass West Night Fishing Tournament was held at Diamond Valley Lake on July 13-14. This fishing only event was the kick-off for the Diamond Valley summer season of night fishing, with over 100 fisherman participating in the tournament this year.

## REAL PROPERTY

### CORE BUSINESS: Real Property Acquisition, Management and Revenue Enhancement continued...

Objective: Efficiently maintain and operate Metropolitan's Headquarters Building, Diamond Valley Lake Visitor Center, and District Housing.

District Housing Spec 1932, which includes three home refurbishments at Iron Mountain, was completed and the three houses transferred from Engineering to Real Property. Real Property is currently assigning residents to the newly completed homes.

Staff completed replacement of a leaking sewage ejection system at Headquarters Building. This system is one of six in the building on parking level 2. Each system has a pit, two pump motors, a main tank, and an overflow tank. The sewage ejection system is designed to collect any wastewater finding its way to the lowest level of the building and pumping it up to the building sewage lines where it will flow out of the building. The Facility Management Team is in the process of developing a replacement plan for the remaining sewage ejection systems, as all systems were original to the building.

## SECURITY MANAGEMENT UNIT

Objective: Strengthen Internal and External Partnerships

The Infrastructure Security and Resilience Forum was the first hosted by the CISA in Southern California and created new opportunities for utilities' key personnel to convene and seek shared solutions to common security issues. The key outcome of the forum was initiation of a joint exercise for interested utilities across Southern California, which will take place under the directive of CISA and the California Office of Emergency Services.

Objective: Improve Security and Emergency Response

- As part of the Personal Security Awareness mandatory training course for all employees, a presentation on this topic was given to the Board of Directors as a special agenda item.
- Security acquired additional Bleeding Control Kits, which will be installed at all facilities.
- Metropolitan's Security Manager participated in a panel discussion hosted by The Department of Homeland Security's newly formed Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), which is dedicated solely to infrastructure protection. Management shared their experience and vision regarding deterrence, detection, and progressive layers of security operations as part of a panel on *An Interconnected World: Building For and Achieving Resilience*.

Security Manager Tomer Benito (holding microphone) participating in the CISA panel discussion.



## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Prepare for More Extreme Hydrology**

Staff will work closely with the Board to assess Metropolitan's storage capabilities, current strategies and review future needs to identify whether new strategies and/or new investments are needed. Metropolitan will examine new opportunities to leverage technology and innovation to promote conservation, efficient water use and water stewardship through a comprehensive demand management program that includes investments in research, innovation, and public education along with targeted incentives for the residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors.

Objective: Prepare analyses, studies and reports on Integrated Resources Plan implementation to ensure water supply reliability under various and more extreme hydrology.

Cyclic Cost-Offset Program—Metropolitan staff identified a need to initiate the Cyclic Cost-Offset Program beginning August 1, 2019. Higher than anticipated flows in the San Joaquin River allowed DWR to increase Delta exports above what was originally forecasted. The additional supply supported an increase to the State Water Project allocation from 70 to 75 percent. The increased SWP allocation, in combination with lower forecasted demands, uncertainties with Article 21 in the fall, and potential increased Colorado River supplies due to agricultural adjustments, results in about 100,000 acre-feet of available supplies at risk of loss to the region.

Objective: Implement Conservation Program.

Industrial Environmental Association of Southern California – Staff presented on Metropolitan's water efficiency programs to the Industrial Environmental Association of Southern California (IEA) in San Diego. IEA is a non-profit organization providing manufacturers with a voice in the growing number of environmental regulations arising in California.

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Ensure Imported Supply Reliability**

Southern California's foundational water supply remains the Colorado River and the State Water Project and their ongoing reliability is critical for the region. The emphasis for the State Water Project will be on working with the Newsom Administration to make the necessary revisions to the process to accommodate a single-tunnel approach with minimal loss of time. On the Colorado River, the emphasis over the next year will be on implementing the completed Drought Contingency Plan providing stability on the Colorado River while protecting Metropolitan's supplies and access to storage in Lake Mead.

Objective: Ensure a cost-effective and reliable State Water Project.

DWR Wholesale Water Loss Audit Webinar - On July 25, 2019, staff participated in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Wholesale Water Loss Audit webinar. This webinar is the first of a series of stakeholder meetings in order to assist DWR in preparing a report by January 1, 2020. This report aims to make legislative recommendations on the feasibility of developing and enacting water loss reporting requirements for urban wholesale water suppliers.

Objective: Ensure access to sufficient water supplies to operate a full Colorado River Aqueduct in times of drought.

Weather Modification Activities—Staff met with the Upper and Lower Basin partners to discuss which weather modification activities to fund in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming for winter 2020. These activities include extending operations, program upgrades, and research and studies to improve operations. Final decisions will be made in August. The attached map shows the location of existing cloud seeding generators. The weather modification program includes approximately 20 cloud-seeding projects. Program funding contributions from the CRB/Six Agency Committee are about \$500,000. Studies to date indicate the program is estimated to increase runoff by 5-15 percent in areas where seeding occurs. ([see chart on page 40](#))

## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Ensure Imported Supply Reliability continued...

Objective: Support implementation of Delta Conveyance Project.

Delta Conveyance Project—Metropolitan staff attended the first public negotiating session for the State Water Project contract amendment for Delta Conveyance, held July 24 in Sacramento. A series of meetings is scheduled to take place on a weekly basis, with the objective of developing an Agreement in Principal for a new Delta Conveyance Project based on the Governor's direction of a single-tunnel configuration.

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Maximize Local Resources

Staff will begin work with the Board and member agencies on a review of issues associated with the Regional Recycled Water Program.

Objective: Support development of Regional Recycled Water Program

Metropolitan will help host and sponsor the WateReuse Association's 34th Annual Water Reuse Symposium in San Diego, September 8 – 11, 2019. The sponsorship will help increase national awareness of Metropolitan's recycled water initiatives in Southern California, including development of innovative membrane bioreactor technology as part of the Regional Recycled Water Program.

Objective: Collaborate with member agencies, water agencies and associations, and provide leadership for policy development, advocacy, outreach and education.

California WateReuse Action Plan—Staff coordinated with the WateReuse California leadership and stakeholders to develop the California WateReuse Action Plan. The plan was prepared at the request of the Secretary of Resources to help inform and develop the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio. The plan identifies four broad strategies and includes 20 specific actions to help prepare the state for changing climate and the associated water supply challenges.

Local Support for Member Agency Disadvantaged Communities Program—Staff met with representatives from the City of Santa Ana to discuss implementing a local direct install program to replace older plumbing fixtures with new high-efficiency devices. Water Efficiency Team staff also met with representatives from the City of Glendale to discuss options for implementing a local project to benefit their disadvantaged communities.

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Foster Leadership and Strengthen Workforce Capabilities

More than half of Metropolitan's workforce has reached retirement age, including many members of Metropolitan's executive management team. This is a challenge to Metropolitan's capacity to adequately train and prepare its workforce but is also an opportunity to build a workforce geared for the challenges of the future.

Objective: Promote learning and increased technical capacity of staff.

Resource Implementation Section Meeting—On June 26, the Resource Implementation Section of Water Resource Management held a team building meeting at the Los Angeles State Historic Park. The meeting was followed by a tour of the Pico House, Avila Adobe, and the Hammel Building, which are all part of the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument.

*(see photo right)*



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency**

Metropolitan's vast network of aqueducts, pipelines, pumps and treatment facilities are the backbone of Southern California's regional water system. However, this vital infrastructure is aging and heightened reinvestment in this system is essential to ensure Metropolitan can continue to deliver on its promise of reliability in the coming decades.

Objective: Provide Reliable Water Deliveries.

Metropolitan delivered approximately 156,000 acre-feet of water to member agencies in July. July deliveries averaged approximately 5,000 AF per day, an increase of 1,000 AF per day from June deliveries. Treated water deliveries for July totaled 76,000 AF, or 49 percent of total deliveries for the month. This was an increase of about 2,000 AF from June treated water deliveries. The Colorado River Aqueduct operated at 4-pump flow, or 1,820 AF per day. A total of 56,000 AF of Colorado River water was pumped in July. State Water Project imports averaged 3,600 AF per day, totaling 112,000 AF for the month. The target SWP blend was 75 percent at the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants during the month of July.

Objective: 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 June 2019.

On July 16, staff participated in a webinar on the USEPA's proposed fifth round of monitoring under the Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) for the monitoring period of 2023 – 2025. Contaminants being considered for monitoring include a variety of pesticides and pharmaceutical compounds, haloacetonitriles, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and the bacteria *Legionella* and *Mycobacterium avium*.

On July 17, staff hosted its regular quarterly meeting with the SWRCB's Division of Drinking Water at the Water Quality Laboratory. Key discussion topics included updates on a variety of regulatory topics including disinfection byproducts and PFAS, the Regional Recycled Water Program (RRWP), alkalinity changes in the State Water Project, Skinner Plant 2 decommissioning permit status, and prescribed burns and herbicide applications near source waters.

Staff developed and provided training on a new Safety Talk that provides guidance to employees on how to protect themselves from poisonous plants and wildlife when working in the field and/or remote locations.

In a partnership with the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, Metropolitan installed PurpleAir sensors to contribute to a network of devices measuring air quality throughout the region ([www.purpleair.com](http://www.purpleair.com)). The devices are non-regulatory and allow the public to access location-specific data about levels of particulate matter in the air, including dust, smoke, and other organic and inorganic particles (e.g., smog).

Objective: Optimize Maintenance.

One component of Metropolitan's Quagga Mussel Control Program is chlorination of Colorado River Aqueduct water as it leaves Copper Basin. A monitoring station located along the CRA, approximately 12 miles downstream of Copper Basin, is used to measure chlorine residual to ensure proper dosage. This month, staff assisted a contractor in the placement and installation of a new precast concrete building that houses and protects the monitoring equipment. Due to the location of the new building, a long-reach, 550-ton mobile crane was used. The weight of the equipment also required installation of a reinforced concrete slab at the CRA crossing to protect it from damage.

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency continued...

Objective: Optimize Maintenance. Continued....

A comprehensive pump rehabilitation project is underway throughout the Desert region. The components and systems of each pump will be evaluated at each of the five pumping plants. Pending completion of the project, staff continues to monitor, maintain, and repair the aging units as needed. This month, staff repaired failed wiring in one of the pump motors at the Hinds pumping plant that was originally placed into service in 1959.

*(see photo right)*

Staff inspecting wiring on an out of service pump unit at Hinds pumping plant



Staff installed new overhead distribution wiring on a power pole that was recently replaced at Gene village. *(see photo left)*

Staff is responding to another wet year by maximizing use of State Water Project. Currently, SWP water flows through the Etiwanda Pipeline and ultimately to the Weymouth and Diemer plants. Due to increased algae blooms in the Etiwanda Reservoir, operational adjustments were necessary. Staff installed 15 large drop gates, each weighing over 1,300 pounds, at the reservoir inlet to redirect flow to a bypass channel that ensured reliable deliveries to the treatment plants and Central Pool distribution system. *(see photo right) - staff lowering a drop gate at the inlet at Etiwanda Reservoir)*



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

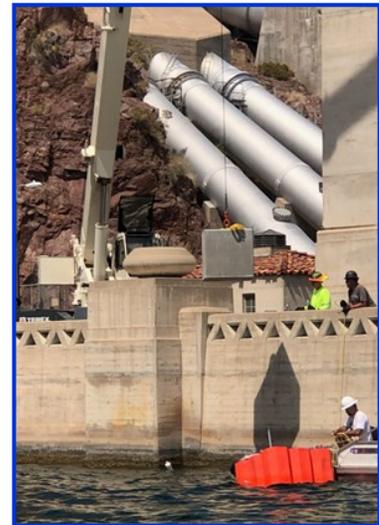
### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency continued...

Objective: Optimize Maintenance. Continued....

Staff replaced a floating demarcation water barrier on Lake Havasu for the Whitsett Intake pumping plant with a more durable, higher visibility floating barrier with new anchor points. *(see photos below)*



New demarcation floating barrier at Whitsett Intake pumping plant on Lake Havasu



Staff placing concrete anchor for a new demarcation floating barrier on Lake Havasu

Staff continues preventative coating work on structures within the distribution system. This month, staff focused much of the work on pressure control structures and facilities, along with pipelines. Key project locations included the Red Lion Pressure Relief Structure along the Orange County Feeder and Wadsworth pumping plant at Diamond Valley Lake.

Staff continued replacement of lighting fixtures at the Mills plant. The project enhances outdoor lighting at the plant by utilizing new LED fixtures to reduce power consumption and optimize worker safety. This month, new light fixtures were installed near the filters. The overall project is expected to be complete by the end of 2019.

Staff began disassembly of the Red Mountain Hydroelectric Plant as part of a planned mid-life refurbishment project to restore efficiency and reduce unplanned outages. The work consisted of fully dismantling the turbine generator and refurbishing bearings, turbine rotor, and generator rotor to restore the unit to like-new condition. Staff also completed protective coating of the equipment. This project is expected to be completed by December 2019. *(see photo right)*

Staff removing equipment for refurbishment at Red Mountain Hydroelectric Plant



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency continued...

Objective: Optimize Maintenance. Continued....

Staff installed structural framing for a new canopy over electrical control panels within a chemical tank farm at the Weymouth plant. The new roof canopy will provide protection and reduce maintenance costs for the electrical controls. [\(see photos below\)](#)



Staff utilizing a mobile crane to install a structural canopy at the Weymouth plant



Staff welding structural steel components for a control panel canopy at the Weymouth plant

A series of heavy rainstorm events earlier this year caused erosion damage to a Colorado River Aqueduct patrol road and exposed a section of the conduit. The patrol roads provide access for equipment and staff to perform maintenance on the distribution system. Staff restored backfill over the CRA and repaired erosion damage along the patrol road. These repairs required nearly 100 cubic yards of backfill slurry over the CRA, 250 tons of roadway base material, and 100 tons of 24-inch rip rap for erosion control. Staff also performed repairs along Upper Feeder patrol roads as a result of these rain events.

[\(see photos below of the repairs\)](#)



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency continued...

Objective: Optimize Maintenance. Continued....

The La Verne Shops refurbished one 42-inch conical plug valve for the Second Lower Feeder as part of Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program. Valve components were repaired and new components were fabricated as needed. Components were then blasted, coated, and fit tested to ensure proper assembly. Staff also repaired valve seats to ensure proper sealing. The refurbished plug valve will be installed as part of the current construction contract for the Second Lower Feeder PPCP rehabilitation. (see photos below)



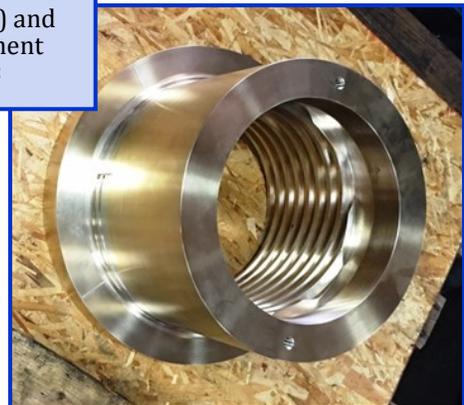
(left) 42-inch conical plug valve prior to disassembly



(right) Refurbished conical plug valve ready for shipment



Failed valve component (left) and newly manufactured component (right) at the La Verne Shops



Staff treated the raw water in the San Diego Canal for algae control. Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) application is the preferred method to manage algae growth in the canal. This routine maintenance practice minimizes impacts from algae on canal capacity and operations.

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency continued...

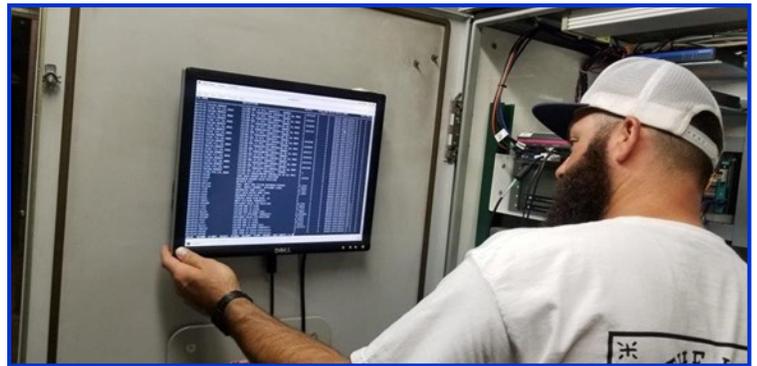
Objective: Optimize Maintenance. Continued....

Staff performed maintenance on several remote terminal units (RTUs) at the Weymouth plant. RTUs transmit sensor data from control system equipment at the treatment plant to the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system for monitoring and control of plant operations. A component within each of the RTUs was replaced to correct signal errors and enhance reliability of the plant's SCADA system, thereby ensuring that treatment processes are not compromised.

*(see photos below)*



Staff performing RTU maintenance



Staff inspecting the condition of an RTU

Objective: Manage the Power System

Pursuant to Metropolitan's Planning Coordinator agreement with the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), several transmission planning and coordination functions must be met. One of the responsibilities is to perform annual transmission planning studies across a ten-year study horizon, to meet North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirements. This month, staff worked with CAISO to establish a detailed set of assumptions that governs how transmission and load forecasts are used to perform technical studies of Metropolitan's system.

Metropolitan deployed the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) cybersecurity awareness training to employees to enhance protection of Metropolitan's bulk electric system. Staff at work locations and/or engaged in work activities that involve Metropolitan's CRA 230kV transmission system received this training. Completion of the training was required by the end of July.

On July 17, Metropolitan participated in the Parker-Davis Project Funding Meeting held by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to review the final federal FY 2020 operating budget for Parker Dam. Metropolitan's 50-percent share of the FY 2020 expenditures is \$4,240,500. As a credit of \$541,573 was carried over from FY 2018 due to shifting project needs, Metropolitan's projected net expenditures will be \$3,698,927. This is a decrease of approximately \$188,000 from the current FY 2019 budget.

Objective: Improve Security and Emergency Response.

On July 11, staff attended web-based training on USEPA's Analytical Preparedness Full-Scale Exercise Toolkit. Also this month, Water Quality Incident Command Post staff received training on WebEOC. These activities ensure that staff are well prepared during an emergency to ensure worker safety and continued reliable operations.

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency continued...

Objective: Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution.

The State Water Project target blend for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants was 75 percent in July 2019.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from May 2018 through April 2019 were 524, 519, and 525 mg/L for Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

This month, staff relocated water quality instrumentation at the Skinner plant. This instrumentation monitors the quality of the water entering the plant and was originally installed outdoors, which exposed it to the effects of weather and wildlife. Staff identified an indoor location to install the instrumentation. Staff then designed and ordered the necessary components and installation is nearly complete. Relocation of this equipment will extend its service life and will enhance the accuracy and reliability of treatment operations. *(see photo right)*

Staff installing water quality instrumentation in the ozone lab at the Skinner plant



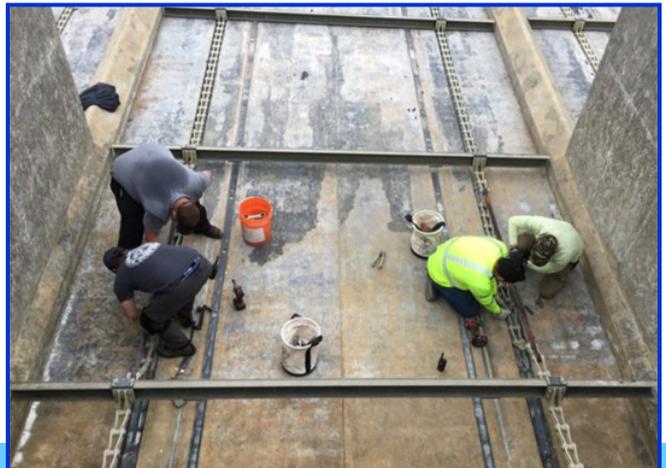
Skinner Plant 2 is being decommissioned to better align the plant capacity with expected treated water demands over the next 25 years. This month, staff removed a temporary drop gate and installed a concrete bulkhead as part of the decommissioning effort. The bulkhead helps to isolate Plant 2 and prevent stagnant water within decommissioned areas, thereby ensuring no adverse water quality or safety concerns. With the decommissioning of Plant 2, the Skinner plant's treated water capacity is reduced from 630 to 350 million gallons per day.

Staff refurbished an open-loop cooling water pump for the ozone system at the Mills plant. The pumps were originally installed during the Mills plant's ozone retrofit in 2003 and are showing signs of deterioration. The cooling water system removes excess heat utilizing a plate heat exchanger. Maintaining the cooling water pumps ensures long-term protection of the ozone generators and reliability of the plant's use of ozone for primary disinfection.

Staff performed high-voltage switching for two 1,500 horsepower pumps at the OC-88 pump station, located along the Allen-McColloch Pipeline in the city of Irvine. The pumps were removed from service to perform annual maintenance and testing to ensure the highest level of reliability and efficiency. Treated water from the Diemer plant is pumped at OC-88 to serve member agencies in south Orange County.

Staff performed its annual cleaning and inspection of a sedimentation basin at the Weymouth plant. After the basin was cleaned, staff inspected the equipment to ensure proper operations. Staff made adjustments to a chain that is used for a scraper that removes solids from the bottom of the basin. *(see photo right)*

Staff making adjustments to chains used to remove sedimentation basin solids at the Weymouth plant



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security and Resiliency continued...

Objective: Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution.

Staff replaced diffusers in the ozone contactors at the Jensen plant. The diffusers spread ozone gas within the contactors through fine bubbles for effective disinfection of the raw water. Over time, the efficiency of ozone transfer to the raw water can be reduced through deposits that plug the porous diffuser stone. This month, staff placed clearances on two of the six ozone contactors, installed isolation gates, dewatered the structures, and entered the contactors to replace over 650 diffuser assemblies. *(see photos below)*



(Left) Diffuser assembly (new) installed into ozone contactors at the Jensen plant, (Middle) Less efficient ozone transfer observed requiring replacement of diffuser assemblies (Right) Efficient ozone transfer into the water column

Objective: Provide Technical Support to Member Agencies.

On July 25, Metropolitan hosted a meeting with Member Agency Water Quality Managers at the Water Quality Laboratory in La Verne. The primary topic was per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, including an update on regulatory activities, monitoring, and a utility perspective. Current regulatory development of PFAS may impact many Southern California water agencies. Over 140 representatives from member agencies, their retail agencies, and non-Metropolitan agencies attended this meeting.

Staff met with representatives from West Basin Municipal Water District to discuss a new project involving the relocation of service connection WB-23 in the city of Los Angeles. West Basin is beginning the study phase of a new service connection (WB-23A) on the Sepulveda Feeder.

Objective: Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation.

On July 9, Governor Newsom signed AB 1429 (Chen) related to Hazardous Material Business Plans (HMBPs). Staff worked with the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (the bill's sponsor) to pass AB 1429. The bill allows facilities that generate more than the California thresholds of hazardous materials (i.e., greater than 55 gallons of a liquid, 500 pounds of a solid, 200 cubic feet of compressed gas, or extremely hazardous substances above thresholds planning quantity), but less than federal thresholds, to submit HMBPs every three years instead of annually. AB 1429 will provide some regulatory flexibility for Metropolitan facilities that generate small quantities of hazardous materials, thereby minimizing the workload for staff in preparing HMBPs.

On July 11, Metropolitan sent a letter to Congress regarding the potential regulation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Metropolitan's letter centered on (1) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency setting maximum contaminant levels, not Congress, and only for those compounds with known health effects data; (2) Congress authorizing additional funding to help water systems with PFAS compliance and groundwater cleanup; and (3) USEPA using the Toxic Substances Control Act to reduce PFAS used in commerce. Regulation of PFAS impacts many water and wastewater agencies in Southern California.

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Prepare for More Extreme Hydrology**

Staff will work closely with the Board to assess Metropolitan's storage capabilities, current strategies and review future needs to identify whether new strategies and/or new investments are needed. Metropolitan will examine new opportunities to leverage technology and innovation to promote conservation, efficient water use and water stewardship through a comprehensive demand management program that includes investments in research, innovation, and public education along with targeted incentives for the residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors.

Objective: Manage Water Reserves

State Water Project imports into the service area in July accounted for about 72 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. Storage at Diamond Valley Lake is at 760,000 AF, or 94 percent full. Metropolitan continued deliveries to Antelope Valley-East Kern, Kern Delta, and Semitropic Storage accounts in July. Staff continues to work with the groundwater banking partners to increase scheduled storage at every opportunity. Metropolitan also repositioned storage and completed taking surface water deliveries of about 10 thousand acre-feet from Arvin-Edison Storage in July. Deliveries of Colorado River water to groundwater storage in the Advanced Delivery Account with Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District continued this month at 680 cubic feet per second, for a year-to-date delivery of about 146,000 AF. Deliveries to Cyclic Storage and Conjunctive Use programs also continued in July, totaling about 49,000 AF to date. Staff continues to manage storage in 2019 to meet anticipated demands and end-of-year operational targets.

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Maximize Local Resources**

Staff will begin work with the Board and member agencies on a review of issues associated with the Regional Recycled Water Program.

Objective: Support the Regional Recycled Water Program.

On July 9, Metropolitan staff hosted a meeting with researchers whose work formed the basis for Australia's validation of membrane bioreactors (MBRs) in potable reuse applications. MBR is a key technology in the treatment process proposed for Metropolitan's Regional Recycled Water Program. The Australian validation protocols are being used to guide Metropolitan's demonstration project that will seek regulatory acceptance of the MBR technology for potable reuse in California.

On July 24, staff conducted a safety orientation for those involved with operations, testing, and monitoring activities at the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center in Carson. Staff from Metropolitan, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, and project consultants participated in the full-day training. The first phase of the demonstration project is anticipated to begin in September 2019 for a period of 15 months.

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Promote Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability**

Metropolitan will continue to lead with programs that promote actions that support sustainable practices, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect natural habitat and water quality.

Objective: Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner.

Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of 30 megawatts, or about 21,900 megawatt-hours, in June, with revenues of about \$1.2 million. A total of approximately \$11.8 million in revenue was generated in fiscal year 2018/19. Metropolitan's solar facilities, totaling 5.5 megawatts of capacity, generated about 990 megawatt-hours in June.

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Promote Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability continued...**

Objective: Protect Source Water Quality.

On July 1, staff participated in the Clean Colorado River Sustainability Coalition board meeting. Metropolitan is a member of this coalition, which is comprised of key stakeholders in the Lower Colorado River Basin focused on protecting the river's water quality. Southern Nevada Water Authority updated the coalition on their efforts to stabilize the Las Vegas Wash, as well as monitor water quality in the Wash and downstream Lake Mead.

Staff periodically treats Metropolitan's reservoirs with copper sulfate to control the growth of algae and cyanobacteria and manage potential taste and odor compounds in the water. This month, staff worked with a contracted helicopter service to strategically apply copper sulfate at Lake Skinner. The application was successful in managing the cyanobacterial bloom.

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Foster Leadership and Strengthen Workforce Capabilities**

More than half of Metropolitan's workforce has reached retirement age, including many members of Metropolitan's executive management team. This is a challenge to Metropolitan's capacity to adequately train and prepare its workforce but is also an opportunity to build a workforce geared for the challenges of the future.

Objective: Manage Vacancies.

WSO filled eight vacant positions in June 2019.

Objective: 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 was part of the first instructional period for the Class of 2023 pre-apprentices. Pre-apprentices are scheduled to complete probation in August 2019 and register as apprentices with the State of California Division of Apprenticeship Standards. *(see photos page 40)*

The seventh session of the WSO Management Academy was held at the Mills plant. This session focused on developing interview and writing skills. The Academy consists of ten, one-day sessions scheduled through October 2019.

Objective: Support Education and Outreach Initiatives.

On July 11, staff provided a tour of the Water Quality Laboratory and Weymouth plant for representatives from Palo Verde Irrigation District and Metropolitan's Environmental Planning Section.

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Maintain Sound Business Practices and Fiscal Integrity**

Metropolitan will continue its longstanding practice of operating in a productive, cost-effective, transparent and efficient manner to ensure sound financial stability.

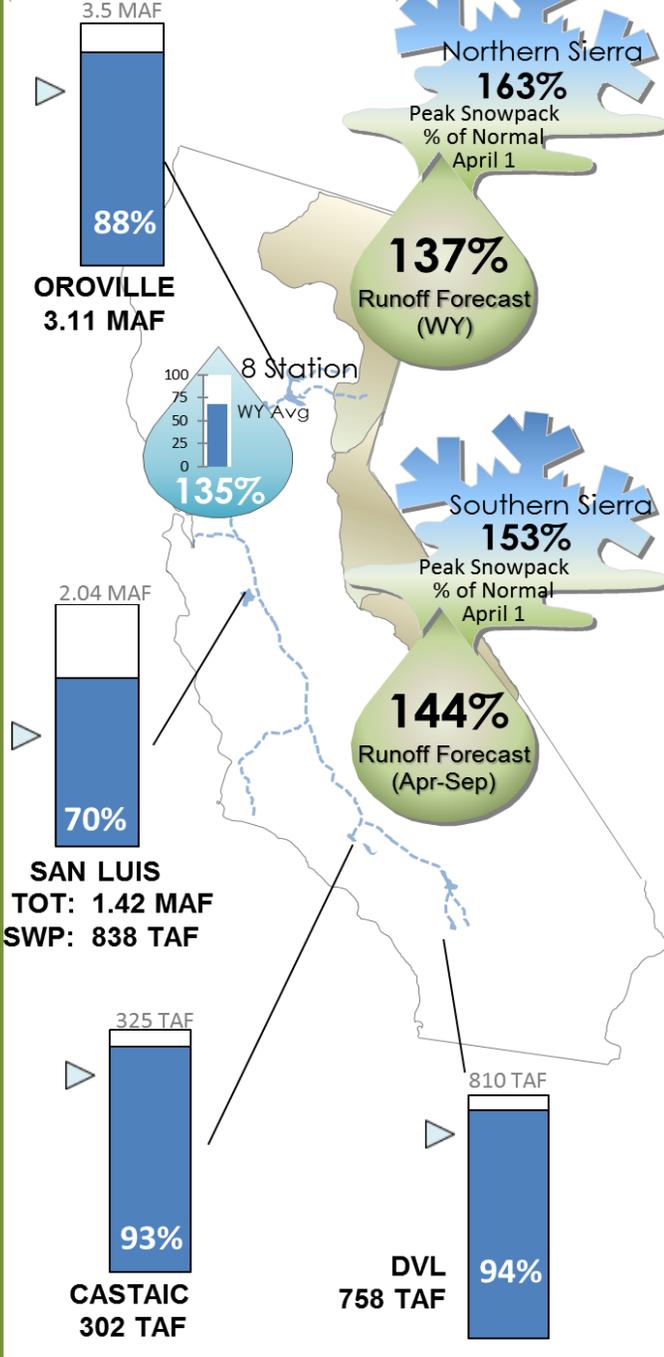
Objective: Ensure Accurate Billing Infrastructure.

Staff continues to work with member agencies on the design of new service connections for Eastern and West Basin Municipal Water Districts. The connections are EM-25 (100 cubic feet per second) in the city of Torrance and WB-41 (25 cfs) in the city of San Jacinto.

### 2019 SWP Allocation

**1,433,625 AF**  
75% of Table A

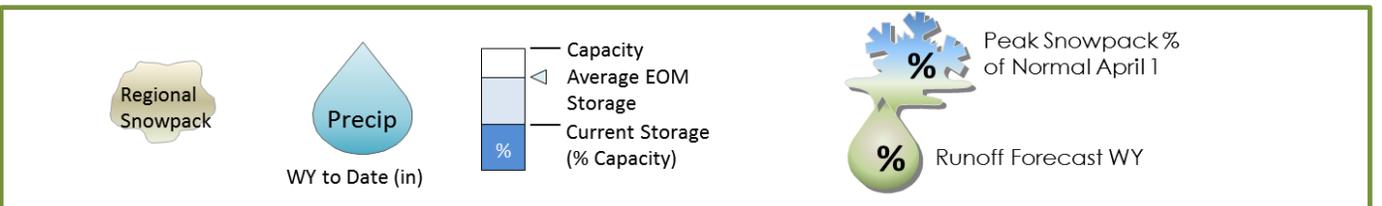
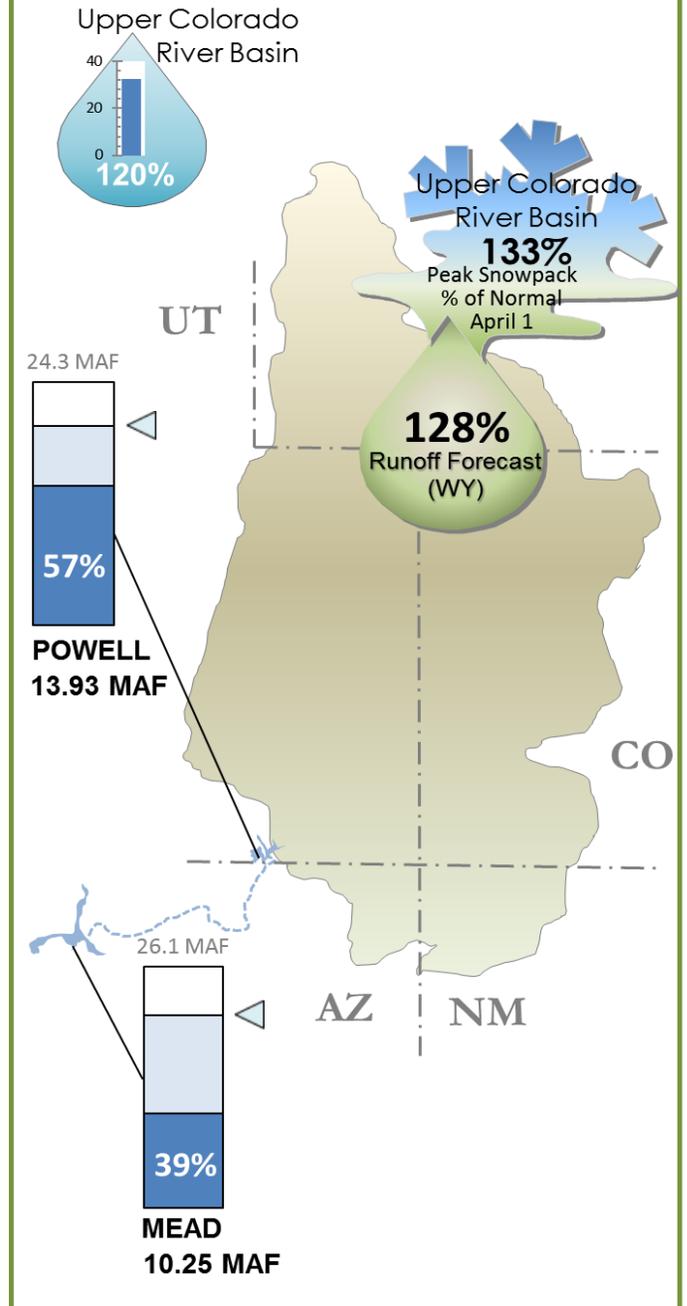
(Does not include CVWD & DWA Table A)



### 2019 Colorado River

**959,745 AF**  
77% of full CRA

(Does not include storage withdrawals)



# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS



Class of 2023 pre-apprentices during classroom instruction

WSO Management Academy participants practice interview skills during a mock panel



### 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.

**PPT**=One part per trillion (1 ppt) is a proportion equivalent to one-twentieth of a drop of water diluted into a two-meter-deep Olympic-size swimming pool.

| Storage      | As of 7/31/18 | % of Capacity |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| DVL          | 757,889 AF    | 94            |
| Lake Mathews | 160,842 AF    | 88            |
| Lake Skinner | 36,175 AF     | 82            |

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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# WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Weather Modification Activities, story on page 26

## UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

### Cloud Seeding Generator Locations and Target Areas

#### Legend

-  Seeding Generator Locations
-  Weather Modification Target Areas
- Rivers & Streams**
- River Type**
-  Major Rivers
-  Secondary Rivers
-  Tertiary Rivers
-  Water Bodies
-  Upper Colorado River Basin
-  Lower Colorado River Basin
-  State Boundaries
-  County Boundaries

