



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
 General Manager’s Monthly Activity Report for February 2020

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.

FEBRUARY 29, 2020

**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.**

Building on growing media and public attention to this year’s dry conditions statewide and the need for ongoing water conservation, Metropolitan launched its “Wasting Water Is...” digital media campaign on YouTube and Connected TV. The project generated strong media interest and high performance results to engage with viewers with water-saving tips and rebate information on [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com).

What’s scarier than a malevolent clown under your bed? More tragic than the story of Romeo and Juliet? More offensive than a comedian with terrible jokes? Wasting water. That is the message of the Metropolitan’s new digital and social media campaign “Wasting Water Is...”



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## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### CORE BUSINESS: Business Processes

Use technology and best practices to implement innovative solutions in business processes to improve the customer's and end-user's experience.

Administrative Services staff attended the 2020 California Association of Public Procurement Officials, Inc. conference, a nonprofit organization dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of professional public procurement. Additionally, Metropolitan was recognized for receiving an Achievement of Excellence in Procurement award during the ceremony segment of the event. Metropolitan has received this award for the 13th consecutive year.

Administrative Services provides a variety of support services. The table below represents a sample of the Section's efforts midway through the fiscal year.

Administrative Services Section July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 Metrics		
Department Area	Transaction Type	# of Transactions Processed
Mailroom	Mail and Packages	18,652
Business Resource Center	Facility Related Requests: (received) e.g., furniture, moves, lighting	787
Rideshare	Transit Reimbursements (278 participants/48 vans)	2,152
ECM	Network Files Migrated Conversion - Paper Document to Digital File	3,763,415 1,800 Boxes
Reprographics	Print Jobs	751
Contracting	Quotes/Solicitations/Agreements/Purchase Orders	138
Warehouse	Inventory Issues and Receipts	39,040

## BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES

### 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: Collaborate with the state and other state and federal water agencies in pursuing a new environmental review and planning process for the new Delta Conveyance Project.

#### Joint Powers Authorities

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) held a special meeting on February 6, at which time the board passed a resolution to appoint an additional DCA Stakeholder Engagement Committee member. The DCA also held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on February 20, at which time the board discussed the informational updates on the DCA Stakeholder Engagement Committee activities, the findings of the Independent Technical Review Committee report, and intake and launch shaft fundamental updates. The next Stakeholder Engagement Committee meeting is scheduled for February 26. The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority Board of Directors also met on February 20, where the board considered a report from the DCA Executive Director.

## BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Ensure Imported Supply Reliability

Objective: Collaborate with the state and other state and federal water agencies in pursuing a new environmental review and planning process for the new Delta Conveyance Project. continued...

#### Delta Conveyance

With the January 15 release of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the proposed Delta Conveyance project, the California Department of Water Resources initiated the California Environmental Quality Act scoping period, which started with the release of the NOP and continues until March 20, 2020. During the scoping period, DWR is seeking input on the scope of the Environmental Impact Report, including the range of alternatives, the types of impacts, impact methodology, and potential mitigation measures. Eight public scoping meetings were held throughout the state from February 3 to March 2, 2020. After the initial release of the NOP, DWR scheduled an additional scoping meeting in Redding on March 2. Written comments on the NOP are due March 20, 2020, and staff will be submitting Metropolitan comments.

Objective: Provide leadership on scientific studies that further opportunities to sustain and support native species and habitat.

Staff assisted with planning and conducting a science symposium addressing at the University of California, Davis “How to achieve a true consensus for best environmental DNA practices.” The symposium consisted of international speakers and was livestreamed internationally. The symposium focused on the techniques used to detect environmental DNA (eDNA), a method of non-lethal sampling in aquatic environments that is rapidly becoming a standard tool for fish surveys.

### 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: 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.

#### Science Development

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). The February 5 CSAMP Policy Group meeting included project updates on the Delta smelt structured decision making and Coordinated Salmon Science Plan projects; a review of Delta smelt Resiliency Strategy actions planned this year and a science presentation on the evaluation of hatchery salmon release practices that can impact straying rates for returning salmon. The February 18 CAMT meeting focused on Delta smelt science efforts, including the efforts of state agencies to organize and implement monitoring and studies to evaluate effects of Delta smelt management actions.

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

#### Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

DWR staff is planning an exercise to be conducted in 2021 that will address operational practices of the Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan (DFEMP) under potential extensive multiple island levee failures and island flooding. Specific response measures would include water delivery pathway development and reservoir release measures to support its operation.

## 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: NEAR-TERM DELTA ACTIONS—  
Regulatory, Planning, and Legislative Support

On February 4, 2020, the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency shared a framework for potential voluntary agreements to improve habitat and flow in the Delta and tributary watersheds. The framework seeks to implement the State Water Resources Control Board Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan through an integrated 15-year program that would include the creation of new flows for the environment to help recover fish populations, the development of 60,000 acres of new and restored habitat, and the generation of more than \$5 billion in new funding for environmental improvements and a collaborative science program.

On February 18, 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Modified Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. This action formally adopts a new operations plan for the water projects and the accompanying biological opinions from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. On February 20, the State of California filed a lawsuit challenging the biological opinions, citing that they significantly reduce protections for listed species and their designated habitat. The state agencies are continuing to work on the California Endangered Species Act permit for operation of the water projects.

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

### **CORE PRIORITY: Business Continuity**

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

- Collaborated with Emergency Management and other key stakeholders to review and update Metropolitan's Pandemic Plan in response to the coronavirus infectious disease outbreak.
- Continued to participate in meetings and deliverables in support of the America's Water Infrastructure Act certification effort.
- Met with the Safety Team to discuss using MetAlert to send employee-wide wildfire alerts in accordance with new Cal-OSHA regulatory requirements.
- Met with Treasury staff to review hardware and software requirements to install a backup check printing station at Eagle Rock in a secure location.
- Continued to participate in Cybersecurity Incident Response planning in conjunction with IT and other key stakeholders.
- Worked with Purchasing to renew the Fusion planning software contract for an additional year. A Request for Proposal will be conducted to evaluate Fusion and other similar vendors before renewing or signing a new multi-year contract.

### **CEO STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Maintain Strong Financial Position**

Manage Metropolitan's finances in an ethical and transparent manner and provide consistent, clear, and timely financial reporting.

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

The Risk Management Unit completed 54 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 55 risk assessments on contracts, including professional service agreements, construction contracts, entry permits, special events, and film permits.

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

### **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 January 2020 totaled 91.8 thousand acre-feet. This translates to \$80.3 million in revenues.
- In January 2020, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,800 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$8,900 in discounts.

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

- As of January 31, 2020, the balance in Metropolitan's investment portfolio was \$968.7 million; for the month of January 2020, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 22 trades.
- During the month of January 2020, Treasury staff processed 1,768 disbursements by check, 18 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 73 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 83 receipts by check, 34 receipts by ACH, and 54 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

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.

On February 11, 2020, Metropolitan sold \$207,355,000 of Water Revenue Bonds, 2020 Series A. The bond sale was very successful, with a low true interest cost of 3.05 percent, while receiving over \$1.0 billion in orders from investors. Of the 13 bond maturities offered, 11 of them priced at the lowest spreads in California, to the AAA MMD index, since 2002. Bond proceeds will be used to fund a portion of Metropolitan's Capital Investment Plan.

### **CORE BUSINESS: Manage Finances for Long-Term Stability and Sustainability**

Maintain moderate water rate increases, manage costs within the adopted budget, and attain or maintain Board policies for all key financial ratios. To meet these objectives, Metropolitan will continue to focus on achieving cost reductions and efficiencies in all areas of its business with primary focus on staffing levels and capital program costs to ensure that these areas are sustainable and sufficient to meet long-term service area demand forecasts.

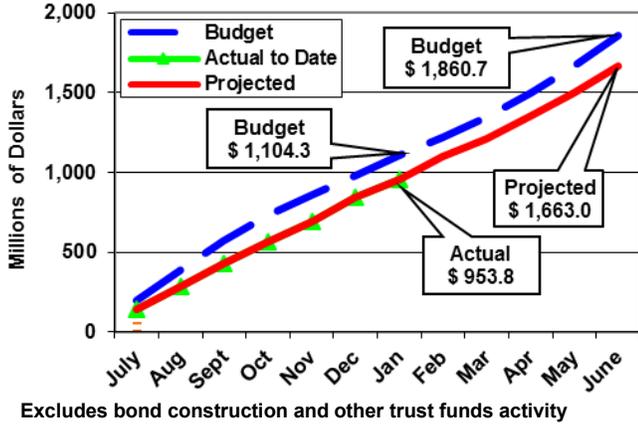
Objective: Effectively manage costs and communicate the results of Metropolitan's budget to meet Board policies and objectives.

The board letter setting out the proposed biennial budget, which includes the Capital Investment Plan and revenue requirements for fiscal years 2020/21 and 2021/22, proposed water rates and charges for calendar years 2021 and 2022 to meet revenue requirements for fiscal years 2020/21 and 2021/22; the ten-year forecast and the Cost of Service Report was presented to the Finance and Insurance Committee on February 10, 2020. Budget Workshop No. 1, held during the Finance and Insurance Committee meeting, reviewed the proposed biennial budget, proposed water rates and charges, and the ten-year financial forecast. Budget Workshop No. 2 was held on February 25, 2020.

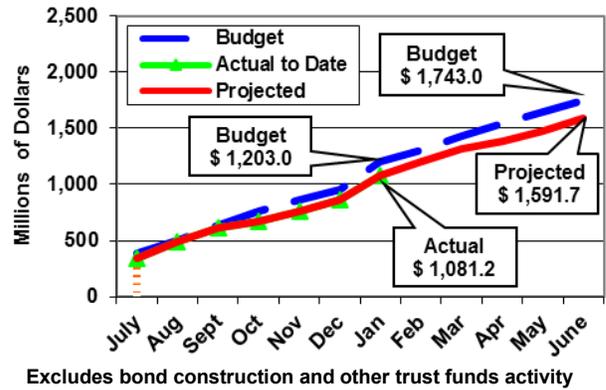
The Board also set a public hearing to consider the applicability of the tax rate limit pursuant to Section 124.5 of the MWD act, and set a public hearing on proposed water rates and charges for calendar years 2021 and 2022 to meet revenue requirements. The public hearings will be held on March 10, 2020.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF JANUARY 31, 2019

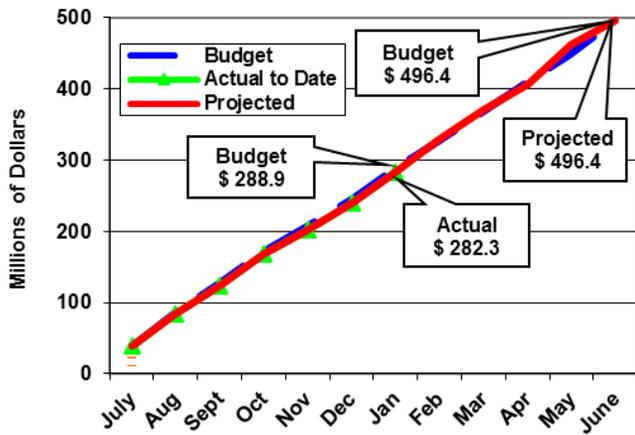
Revenues are expected to be \$197.7M under budget at year end primarily due to 198.4 TAF of lower water transactions.



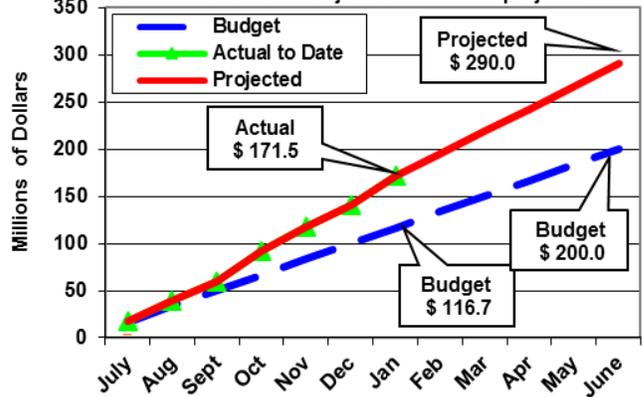
Expenses are expected to be \$151.3M under budget primarily due to \$90M lower Pay-Go capital financing, \$41.3M lower debt service costs, \$25.9M lower demand management costs, and \$21.4M lower CRA power costs, offset by \$13.7M higher supply program costs and \$13.6M higher State Water Contract costs.



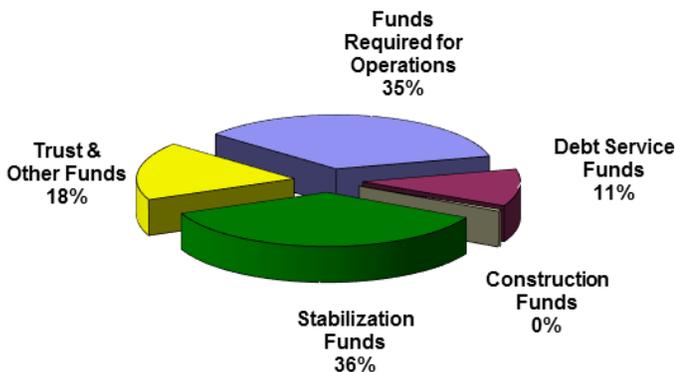
O&M expenses are expected to be on budget at year end.



Capital Program expenses are expected to be \$90M over budget at year end due to better than anticipated progress to complete design and award construction contracts for several major refurbishment projects.



### Cash and Investments at Fair Value \$ 968.7 million



### Summary Financial Statistics

	Target	Year-End Projected
Fixed Charge Coverage	≥ 1.20 x	1.37 x
Revenue Bond Coverage	> 2.00 x	1.45 x
Revenue Bond Debt / Equity Ratio	< 100.0%	54.4%

### Senior Lien Revenue Bond Credit Ratings

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

## 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:

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 structure. The control system upgrades for Turbine/Pump Units 6, 7, and 8 are complete. Overall, the project is 92 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2020.

West Valley Feeder De Soto Valve Replacement—This project replaces the existing 42-inch butterfly valve with a new 42-inch high performance butterfly valve and a 42-inch multiple orifice valve. Both of these valves are currently being fabricated. A construction contract was recently awarded.

Palos Verdes Reservoir Sewer Connection—This project constructs a new sewer line that connects to nearby municipal sewer line. Final design is complete. Construction of the first phase of work was completed in February 2020.

Yorba Linda Hydroelectric Power Plant Completion Project—This project fabricates and installs an enclosure for rain protection for the plant generator. Construction of the enclosure is 60 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2020. This project also upgrades various facility subsystems and procures spare parts for the power plant.

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 Reaches 1 and 2 is complete. Final design for the remaining two reaches is 92 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2020.

Service Connection A-06 Meter Replacement—This project rehabilitates a service connection on the East Orange County Feeder No. 2. Construction is 75 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2020.

La Verne Shops—This project consists of adding a new unit power station, ductbanks, power cable, fiber optic cable; furnishing and installing maintenance shop equipment, installing Metropolitan-furnished equipment; rehabilitation of a blast booth; and refurbishment of a vertical turning lathe. Final design will be complete in April 2020.

#### **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 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 8.4 miles of PCCP on the Second Lower Feeder have been relined. Currently construction of the 4.5-mile-long Reach 2 is 65 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by November 2020. Final design of Reach 3 is 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by November 2020. Final design of Reach 8 is 45 percent complete and is expected to be complete by July 2020.
- 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. Pipe fabrication is complete and delivery of pipe for Reach 2 is scheduled to be complete by March 2020.
- 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 50 percent complete and the valves are scheduled to be delivered by December 2020.

## ENGINEERING SERVICES

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

#### Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

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

- CRA Discharge Isolation Couplings—This project consists of fabricating and installing 44 isolation sleeve couplings assemblies at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. Construction is 20 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2021. [\[see photo, page 9\]](#)
- 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 99 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2020.
- CRA Motor Cable Replacement—This project replaces the electrical cables that provide power to the main pump motors. Simultaneous work is currently underway at all five CRA pump plants. Work will be completed in two phases, Fall 2019, and Spring 2020. Construction is 55 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by July 2020.
- CRA Radial Gate Replacement—This project replaces eight deteriorated radial gates along the aqueduct in two stages. Construction of Stage 1 to replace a radial gate at Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant is complete. In August 2019, Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract for the Stage 2 work, which includes replacement of seven radial gates at seven facilities along the CRA. Construction of Stage 2 is nine percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2021.
- CRA Utility Systems Replacement—This project replaces the existing domestic water distribution systems, wastewater systems and village asphalt pavements at all five of Metropolitan's Pumping Plants. The project will be designed and constructed in multiple construction packages. The Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant is the first package to be released for advertisement for construction bids in March 2020. The design for the other pumping plans are still in progress.
- CRA Domestic Water Treatment System—This project replaces the membrane filtration system and associated water treatment equipment at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. Procurement of water treatment equipment will be advertised for bids in February 2020. Design of the installation contract package is 40 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2020.
- 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. Construction of Stage 1 is 2 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by July 2021. Final design for Stage 2 is 32 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 2021.

#### 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 Domestic Water Upgrade—This project upgrades the aging domestic and firewater loop at the Weymouth plant. Construction is 85 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 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 60 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2020.

Weymouth Water Quality Instrumentation Improvements—This project will improve monitoring and rapid response to changing water quality conditions at the Weymouth plant, by adding required sample piping, pumps and housing for water quality analyzers. Construction is 5 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2021.

## 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:

##### Jensen Plant

Jensen Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2—This 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 2 improvements will upgrade UPC-7, UPC-9, and their associated motor control centers to support critical process equipment. Construction is 11 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2022 [\[see photo below\]](#)

Jensen Module 2 and 3 Flocculator Rehabilitation—This project rehabilitates the Modules 2 and 3 flocculators at the Joseph plant. Construction is 13 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in February 2021.

##### 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 57 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by January 2021.

Jensen Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2 – Excavation for foundation of Unit Substation No. 9



CRA Discharge Isolation Couplings – Installation of Discharge Couplings at Hinds Pumping Plant (story page 8)

## 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

- Finalizing Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Western San Bernardino Right of Way and Infrastructure Protection Program.
- Supported the Pre-stressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Reliability Program
  - Second Lower Feeder Reach 2: Continued construction monitoring and reviewed noise monitoring logs and equipment logs for compliance.
  - Second Lower Feeder Reach 4: Continued preparation of Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program documentation.
  - Sepulveda Feeder: Reviewed enhanced Preliminary Design Report and technical memo.

#### Regulatory Permitting Support and Compliance

- Submitted Draft Stickleback Management Plan to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as a requirement of Metropolitan's Incidental Take Permit for the Foothill Feeder Shutdown.
- Initiated mitigation project with Project Grow (Tides Center) for off-site mitigation required by the regulatory permits for the Orange County Feeder Blow-Off Structure Rehabilitation Project.
- Submitted CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) Notification and received the CDFW SAA for the Lake Skinner Bypass No. 2 shutdown.
- Submitted CDFW SAA Notification for San Diego Pipeline No. 4 shutdown.
- Obtained CDFW SAAs for the Lake Skinner Outlet Conduit and San Diego Pipeline 3 shutdowns.

### **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 Multi-Species Reserve

Reserve Management (Riverside County Regional Parks and Open Space District) activities:

- Coordinated with Cal-Fire to prepare for upcoming prescribed burns.
- Seeded three acres of land in the Reserve's Rawson unit, which will enhance the habitat and provide a food source for Stephens' kangaroo rat.

#### Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

Reserve Management (Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency) activities:

- Removed stinknet, a highly invasive plant, from areas surrounding the lake and near the Reserve office on Cajalco Road.
- Deployed sheep to graze on Metropolitan Reserve lands south of Cajalco Road for habitat improvement and fire fuel reduction. [\[see photo right\]](#)
- Established meso-carnivore (e.g., coyote and fox) survey transects using game cameras and baited scent stations to detect mid-level predator activity on Reserve lands.

Sheep are utilized to graze to reduce potential for wildfires.



## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION

### **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 12 WSO projects, 1 Real Property actions and 10 board letters.

#### Engineering Services Support

- Participated in Energy Sustainability Plan Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis Workshop No. 4.
- Completed design and specification review for the Eagle Mountain Water Distribution System Replacement Project.
- Provided environmental support for the Copper Basin Access Road Improvement Project.
- Review of 100 percent drawings for Service Connection WB-13 AMR Cabinet Relocation.
- Coordinated with Engineering Services staff to ensure drawings and specifications are consistent with CEQA documents for the following Weymouth Plant projects: Administration Building Seismic Rehabilitation, Basins 5-8 Rehabilitation, Filter Building 2 Valve Actuator Upgrades, and Water Quality Seismic Upgrades.
- Conducted site visits in support of CEQA and regulatory permitting clearances for maintenance work at Department of Safety of Dams-regulated facilities.

#### Water System Operations Support

- Prepared environmental specifications for the installation of propane tanks and stand-by generator pads and duct banks at the east and west remote microwave communication sites at Iron Mountain.
- Provided environmental clearance for Metropolitan dewatering activities that enabled DWR to conduct repairs to its Santa Ana Valley Pipeline.
- Conducted biological surveys and provided reporting in support of San Diego Pipeline No. 3 shutdown.
- Completed environmental clearances for the following shutdowns: San Diego Canal/Lake Skinner Bypass No. 2, Lake Skinner Outlet Conduit, San Diego Pipeline No. 3, Etiwanda Pipeline, and San Jacinto Pipeline.
- Staff surveyed the CRA alignment and desert facilities for sensitive species and environmental resources to provide environmental clearance in support of shutdown maintenance activities (see photo).
- Monitored tree removal at Palos Verdes Reservoir in support of dam safety and hazard reduction.

#### Real Property Support

Provided CEQA review and prepared environmental specifications for the Replacement of HVAC Units at Desert Homes, CRA Housing Hinds and Eagle Fencing Installation at Ten Houses, and the Hinds and Flooring Repair Projects.

#### Construction Monitoring

- Attended pre-construction meeting for Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Valve Replacement project.
- Conducted site inspection with California Department of Fish and Wildlife, continued construction monitoring and attended bi-weekly construction meetings, reviewed contractor submittals and requests for information, and coordinated seed delivery for contractor for the Whitewater Erosion Protection Structure Rehabilitation project.
- Continued construction monitoring for the following projects: Weymouth Domestic Water System Improvements, Chlorine System Upgrades, and Water Quality Instrumentation; and Orange County Conveyance and Distribution Team Maintenance Building.

## 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.

Chairwoman Gray, Directors Kurtz and Record, General Manager Kightlinger and Executive Legislative Representative Viatella met with Governor Newsom and Secretary for Natural Resources Crowfoot to convey Metropolitan's strong support for the administration's Water Resilience Portfolio, Delta Conveyance, Voluntary Agreements, and efforts to help ensure the reliable delivery of high-quality water supplies to all Californians. The Governor commended Metropolitan for its successes and work to resolve some of California's toughest water challenges.

Metropolitan hosted a high-level government delegation from Jordan to share information on Metropolitan's history and operations, and discuss issues related to infrastructure and water governance in California. (February 10-11)

CalEPA Secretary Blumenfeld joined General Manager Kightlinger and representatives from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and LA County Sanitation Districts for a tour and project briefing at the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center. (February 13)

Metropolitan staff attended and participated in the groundbreaking ceremonies for Pure Water Oceanside, the first advanced water purification project in the San Diego region. This Local Resources Project was approved by Metropolitan's Board in November 2019 and will begin delivering advanced recycled water by 2023.

### **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 staff attended the second Colorado River Basin Tribal workshop in Arizona. More than 100 attendees representing the Colorado River basin, the 10 Colorado River Tribes and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation met to gather input about how tribes will engage in the development of 2026 Guidelines for Lower Basin Storage and Coordinated Operations. (February 12-13)
- Director Ackerman, Chief External Affairs Officer Zinke, and staff attended the Association of California Water Agencies DC2020 Conference in Washington, DC. Speakers included officials from the White House, Congress, the Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. (February 25-28)

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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

Objective: LEGISLATIVE SERVICES continued...

- Concurrent with the ACWA DC conference, Metropolitan co-sponsored and staff attended a Congressional briefing on Water Reliability Investments, with Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, the Municipal Water a District of Orange County, and the Western Municipal Water District. (February 26)
- Metropolitan staff attended the Multi-State Salinity Coalition Annual Salinity Summit in Las Vegas and presented on a legislative panel that discussed the federal direction in desalination policy development, legislation, research, and project funding. (February 28)

#### State

Two Metropolitan-sponsored bills were introduced in the Legislature. SB 996 (Portantino, D-La Cañada-Flintridge), co-sponsored with the California Municipal Utilities Association, would establish a science-based approach for assessing Constituents of Emerging Concern in drinking water. AB 2246 (Mayes, I-Yucca Valley) would grant Metropolitan special status under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act for routine maintenance and emergency repairs of water infrastructure.

#### Local

- Metropolitan provided public testimony, developed outreach materials, and worked with member agencies and Southern California business, labor, and community interests to provide input and attend the Southern California public scoping meeting for the state's proposed Delta Conveyance project. (February 5)
- Directors De Jesus, Kurtz, and Morris attended the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership luncheon featuring Senator Portantino (D-La Cañada-Flintridge) with several hundred community leaders and local officials. (February 7)
- Chairwoman Gray and Directors Ackerman, Barbre, Dick, Lefevre, McKenney, Repenning, and Solorio and staff attended the Municipal Water District of Orange County Public Policy Dinner. General Manager Kightlinger was the keynote speaker and provided an update on Metropolitan's Integrated Water Resources Plan, Delta conveyance, and regional water supply conditions. (February 12) [\[see photo below\]](#)
- Director Camacho and staff attended the opening of Inland Empire Utilities Agency's Water Quality Laboratory and presented a commendation to IEUA board members. (February 13)
- Chairwoman Gray was one of four leaders honored by the Pasadena League of Women Voters at its Centennial event. Representative Chu (D-Pasadena) and Assemblyman Holden (D-Pasadena) were among the more than 250 attendees. (February 15)
- Chairwoman Gray, Directors Cordero, Dick, Lefevre, and Williams; and staff attended the Urban Water Institute Spring Conference with more than 200 water and government leaders. Chief Operating Officer Upadhyay participated in a panel on unleashing innovation in our water utilities and Water Resource Management Group Manager Coffey discussed regional reliability through collaboration and partnerships. (February 19-21)
- Staff attended a Ventura County water symposium to begin development of an integrated regional water resilience portfolio for the county as supported under the Governor's Water Resiliency Portfolio. (February 20)
- Metropolitan sponsored and staff attended the Annual State of the Region event with Representatives Waters (D-Los Angeles) and Lieu (D-Santa Monica) sponsored by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce. (February 20)
- Staff attended the Annual State of the City Breakfast sponsored by the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce. (February 26)

GM Kightlinger talks with Director Dick about regional water issues at the MWDOC water policy dinner.



## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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

#### Local

- At the request of the district office of Senator Leyva (D-Chino), Metropolitan staff provided curriculum and other informational materials and attended a middle and high school career day in Rialto. (February 28)
- Chairwoman Gray, Directors Lefevre and Williams, General Manager Kightlinger, and staff joined Senator Ben Allen (D-San Monica) for a Metropolitan-sponsored community leaders briefing in Torrance. (February 28)

Staff provided an update on the Governor's proposed FY 2020-21 Budget and draft Water Resiliency Portfolio, Delta Conveyance, and water supply conditions to the following organizations:

- Valley and Industry Association of the San Fernando Valley Energy, Manufacturing and Utility Committee (February 13)
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (February 18)
- Ventura County Labor, Agriculture and Business Committee (February 19)

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

- Coordinated interview between General Manager Kightlinger and freelance reporter John Lamb for Voice of San Diego article on Metropolitan's offer to the San Diego County Water Authority and their counter proposal.
- Coordinated in-person interview between Jim Carlton of The Wall Street Journal and General Manager Kightlinger about Metropolitan's role in helping boost levels at Lake Mead.
- Coordinated phone interview between KQED reporter Nina Sparling and General Manager Kightlinger regarding Voluntary Agreements that aired on the California Report.
- Coordinated Skype interview with CBS/KCAL9 and Water Resource Manager Goshi about National Weather Service's predictions for a dry February and Southern California's water supply. Coordinated on-camera interview between ABC7 and Water Resource Planning Team Manager Polyzos on the same topic.
- Coordinated interview with Ken Wysocky of Municipal Sewer and Water magazine and Human Resources Manager Pitman to highlight efforts to recruit more women engineers for a story on succession planning.
- Provided a written response to freelance reporter Mark Friedman for the San Pedro-based publication Random Lengths regarding changes to the WOTUS (Waters of the U.S.) rule and its impact on California.
- Distributed press release for Senator Portantino (D-La Canada-Flintridge) on SB 996, a Metropolitan-sponsored bill to address issues related to Constituents of Emerging Concern.

#### Press Releases/Statements

- Metropolitan Begins Process to Update Broad Plan to Meet Southern California's Future Water Needs
- Metropolitan Statement on Framework for Voluntary Agreements for Sacramento-San Joaquin River Watersheds, Delta
- Metropolitan Launches Campaign to Quash Water Wasting

#### Social Media

- Created and posted a series of four social media stories to honor Metropolitan employees and Board leadership, past and present, for Black History Month.
- Posted original content and messaging on Facebook, focused on California native plants. Ran new "emoji" and Valentine's Day-themed ads that reached nearly 200,000 and resulted in nearly 3,000 clicks to bewaterwise.com.
- For Super Bowl Sunday, posted a 'Rip Out Your Turf' football ad customized to honor the two teams and promote lawn replacement rebates. The ad reached more than 22,000 unique viewers.
- In addition to the digital marketing campaign, the "Wasting Water Is..." ads were placed on Facebook, generating views far above projected benchmark rates.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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

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.

#### **Construction Project Updates**

- Distributed 250 notices to residents and businesses for the West Orange County Feeder Shutdown (February 4)
- Met with City of Placentia engineering staff to provide a project update for Second Lower Feeder Reach 8. (February 13)

#### **Public Outreach for Metropolitan Projects**

- Metropolitan staff provided tours of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center for member agency education coordinators (February 6), Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Society of Women Engineers (February 26), Glendale Chamber of Commerce (February 27) and the South Bay Council of Governments (February 27). In addition, a public tour was held on February 22.
- Metropolitan provided a tour of the Weymouth water treatment plant, the Water Quality Lab and the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center for a delegation from the Tokyo Waterworks Department. (February 4)
- Metropolitan provided a water supply update at the Upper District/Central Basin Joint Water Caucus. (February 5)
- Staff participated in a panel on public outreach and engagement at the AWWA International Symposium on Potable Reuse. (February 11)
- Metropolitan provided a tour of the Mills treatment plant for California State Parks educational, maintenance and administrative staff. (February 20)
- Staff gave a presentation on the Regional Recycled Water Program to the Glendora Rotary Club. (February 25)
- Metropolitan provided two inspection trips for directors to the Colorado River and Diamond Valley Lake.

#### **Member Agency Support**

Metropolitan met with the member agency managers to discuss Metropolitan operations and water supply updates; plans for an HR Managers Forum; the proposed FY 2020/21-2021/22 budget, proposed water rates and charges, 10-year forecast and Cost of Service report; the 2020 Integrated Water Resource Plan; and the 2020 Annual Operating Plan. (February 14)

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 provided field trips and participated in events for the Ventura County Workforce Development Board, United Abacus Arithmetic Association (World Global Cup Championship), H2O Show at Rosa Parks Elementary School, IEUA Academic Partner Tour and Water Education Alliance Roundtable, Mountain View elementary school, and California State University, Bakersfield, and interacted with 2,754 students, teachers, and community members.

Hosted Solar Cup technical workshop for all participating high schools at Occidental College. Representatives from Southern California Edison and non-profit Strategic Energy Innovations, which are collaborating with Metropolitan on the competition this year, worked with students and teachers and provided technical input on motor and solar battery systems. (February 1) [\[see photos next page\]](#)

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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

#### Community Partnering and Sponsorship Programs

- Metropolitan sponsored the following events and staff participated in presentations and exhibits to promote water education, conservation, and sustainability initiatives:
- Social Irrigation community event at South Coast Botanic Garden in Rolling Hills Estates (February 7)
- Smithsonian WaterWays exhibit at Lake Havasu City History Museum (February 8-March 22)

#### Diamond Valley Lake Education Program

Education staff hosted 600 visitors at the DVL Visitor Center and guided more than 455 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:

- Hosted the Construction Management Association of America Capital Improvement Program update, the construction industry's premier networking opportunity to engage with Metropolitan's CIP Team to learn about upcoming projects. (February 6)
- Participated in the North San Diego Small Business conference. (February 13)
- Participated in the California Urban Water Agencies Innovation Committee quarterly meeting to discuss best practices/ lessons learned in innovation. (February 12)
- Participated in the US Green Building Council (USGBC) - Los Angeles Thought Leadership Series workshops on Maximizing the Impact of Urban Landscape and the Net Zero Accelerator for Innovation in Water and Energy. (February 19)
- Participated in a technology demonstration by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power covering the use of virtual and augmented reality in safety training programs. (February 19)
- Exhibited and participated in matchmaking at the Accessing L.A. Build/Construction Network Expo with approximately 250 attendees. (February 27)
- Attended pilot project of a nautical drone developed for Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to perform water quality monitoring at open reservoirs, including early detection of harmful cyanobacteria. The pilot is part of LADWP-LACI's "First Look at the Technology" program. (February 28)



Solar Cup Technical Workshop

## 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.

- MET Management University concluded its ninth cohort and graduated 15 recently promoted managers. This closing session centered on situational leadership (adapting your leadership style to fit the development level of the team members you are trying to influence).
- Fifteen managers and senior team members from Water Resource Management attended the first session of Metropolitan's Leading Technical People training. Communication skills (strategic questioning, active listening), team member engagement, and influencing skills were among the day's learning objectives. [\[see photo page 18\]](#)
- Staff facilitated Team Building Training for External Affairs' Legislative Services Team. The content of the day revolved around how to contribute to a trust-based team culture, developing self-awareness, and learning what motivates your fellow team members.

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

Recruitment filled 29 positions for the month of February. HR received 19 new staffing requisitions, resulting in 178 positions currently in recruitment. The positions include 12 Pre-Apprentices (anticipated January 2021 start date) and 10 Student Interns for the desert facilities (mid-June start date).

Metropolitan has participated in several employment outreach events focused on high school juniors and seniors, and community college students, including Cal-SOP Los Angeles College and Career Expo held in Huntington Park and the Parker Arizona Transfer and Career Expo. Information about the upcoming Apprenticeship recruitment was the focus of a WINTER (Winter in Non-Traditional Employment Roles) Job Network event. Lastly, the Pathway to Water Careers website was launched on the Metropolitan website.

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

The move of the entire Human Resources Group went smoothly and HR was open for business one day after the move. The support provided by the facilities and janitorial staff, along with the movers made this an effective and speedy transition to the second floor annex wing of the Headquarters Building.

Approximately 50 employees attended Metropolitan training classes on:

- Contract Administration
- Preventing Workplace Harassment
- Agreement Administration

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### **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.

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.

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

- Submitted 11 new claims to Metropolitan's Workers' Compensation Claim Administrator
- Closed 10 Workers' Compensation Claim Files
- Currently 5 employees remain off work due to industrial injury or illness
- Arranged 14 clinic evaluations (Department of Motor Vehicle exams and medical surveillance exams)
- Coordinated medical surveillance exams at three facilities (Mills, Skinner and Lake Mathews). The exams included, Respirator Exams, Department of Motor Vehicle Exams, and Hearing Tests.
- Addressed 2 Accommodation issues.

### **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.

A new Water Careers website was launched with a goal of a "one-stop shop" for all water industry job opportunities and educational programs. This website will be instrumental moving forward with the outreach events planned for the upcoming Pre-Apprentice recruitment.



WRM staff attending Leading Technical People session. Story page 17

## 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 cybersecurity 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.

- Conducted quarterly briefing to Organization, Personnel, and Technology Committee as part of keeping the Board apprised of activities related to cybersecurity projects and key initiatives.
- Conducted security review on America's Water Infrastructure Act Risk Management and continued monitoring security bulletins to identify information pertinent to Metropolitan. Cybersecurity bulletins are issued at various levels including national (Department of Homeland Security), regional, and organizations specific to the water industry (Water-ISAC, AWWA).
- Continued deployment of WIN10 operating system upgrade at Metropolitan. To date, approximately 75 percent of personal computers at Headquarters have been upgraded. The remaining PCs will be complete by the end of April. The upgrade from WIN7 to WIN10 operating system will mitigate security risks.
- Provided security awareness communications to employees regarding suspicious activities such as fake virus alerts or other forms of phishing designed to get users to unknowingly download virus infected content and on Coronavirus-themed phishing email campaigns.
- Partnered with business units across Metropolitan to address potential vulnerabilities. Cybersecurity staff recently conducted review of business practices (i.e., downloading of data) to identify opportunities to improve and safeguard Metropolitan's computing environment.

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

Financial Planning and Analysis Solution (Budget System Replacement Project)—This project will upgrade Metropolitan's budgeting system to support the capital and operations and maintenance budget processes and board deliverables.

- As part of this Capital Investment Plan 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. Final preparations are underway to seek Board authority to proceed with an award of contract. Board action is scheduled for March.

Board and Committee Room Upgrade—The Board previously authorized staff to proceed with the design phase to upgrade the audio/visual (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 project team has completed the design phase along with the development of a competitive solicitation package. Preparations are underway to initiate a bid to select a qualified vendor to support the construction phase of the project.

Service Manager System (Service Desk Application)—Evaluate technology solutions for a self-service ticketing system to centralize and modernize service management in the Information Technology Group. Solutions that provide full Information Technology Service Management (ITSM) functionality will be assessed through a competitive selection process. The chosen ITSM system will be used by staff to support service tickets generated by business users across the enterprise.

- Staff recently completed the RFP selection process, and preparations are underway to seek Board authority in May for award of contract.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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

Wireless Infrastructure Upgrade at Headquarters and Field Sites—This project will provide the system and local area network (LAN) upgrades needed to replace the existing wireless infrastructure which has reach end-of-life. In addition, the upgrades are needed to address requirements for increasing demand and capacity for laptops and mobile devices.

- Design and planning is underway to deploy a new system to accommodate current and future demands for increased coverage and performance at Metropolitan's Headquarter building and field locations.

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

IT Disaster Recovery Project—This project upgraded the server, storage capacity, and implemented new backup systems at the IT Disaster Recovery (IT-DR) Facility datacenter to provide sufficient capacity to run critical systems in a High Availability architecture mode in the event of a disaster.

- The original scope of this project is substantially completed. To address Business Continuity needs for additional scope, IT continued to evaluate requirements to add additional software applications (i.e. Cognos) to the new enhanced disaster recovery architecture and DR environment.
- IT continued on-going IT Disaster Planning for recovery exercises as part of validating Metropolitan's recovery capabilities in the event of a disaster and for emergency preparedness.

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

With the recent upgrade and installation of new load-balancers, IT is approaching substantial completion with the deployment of network and server infrastructure at Coresite (co-location data center). The completion of the work at Coresite will improve network reliability / capacity to support Metropolitan's migration to cloud processing. Additional benefits include improved resiliency, mitigate risks associated with single point of failure, and avoid operational challenges and impact associated with the yearly power shutdown at the Headquarters Building. [\[see photos below of staff\]](#)



As part of the IT Strategic Roadmap, staff established the Microsoft Azure Cloud services required to support Metropolitan's move to the cloud. Current efforts include moving selected virtual servers and applications to the Azure cloud environment and migrating PeopleSoft to Oracle Cloud.

- To date, staff successfully migrated approximately 10 servers / applications to the Azure cloud environment for testing and optimization. Additional migrations are planned with a total of 22 moves scheduled to complete by the end of fiscal year 2019/20. Once fully deployed, key benefits include easy access to data, operational resiliency, and the ability to scale resources up and down to manage costs based on usage and consumption.
- The migration of PeopleSoft to Oracle Cloud is proceeding according to plan. The project team worked in collaboration with cybersecurity staff completed key elements of the security/network design and will initiate integration testing. Deployment is scheduled for the fourth quarter of this fiscal year.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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

The IT Strategic Roadmap reflects the investments being made to meet the technology needs of Metropolitan and its member agencies.

- During the period, the Information Technology Group conducted an update of its strategic roadmap reflecting best practices and ensures IT investments align with Metropolitan's strategic priorities.
- Continued monthly Operational Reporting to communicate effectively with executive management about Information Technology operations.
- IT staff and consultant continued to implement the strategy to relocate Metropolitan's datacenter to improve reliability and uptime of data center processing as part of the datacenter relocation strategy. The project team recently refreshed the DC Relocation master plan and the work is proceeding as planned.

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

Wadsworth Pumping Plant (DVL) Control System Upgrade Project—The DVL control system provides critically important support to the operation of the distribution system, including the ability to generate power and revenue. This project is currently in the major installation phase as the team continues the control system and the electrical system protection equipment upgrades (controls and communications systems, protection relay system, vibration monitoring system and parts of the power controls system).

- To date, six of the nine pump units have been made operational.
- During the period, IT continued to work in collaboration with Engineering Services and Water System Operations on upgrades for the three remaining units. Recent accomplishments include successful pre-testing activities as the work is proceeding according to plan. System Acceptance Testing is currently scheduled for the third quarter of this fiscal year.

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.

Staff continued with the pilot testing phase of using various communication technologies. The purpose of testing each potential solution is to evaluate how each technology performs against the design criteria that best meet Metropolitan's requirements.

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

Developed Major Incident Management (MIM) Process to enhance communication within Information Technology in the event of a system outage or service interruption.

- The defined MIM process includes automatic notification to facilitate incident response capabilities, allow for escalations and ensure notifications are sent to the appropriate IT manager(s) to facilitate communication, response, and timely resolution in the event of a system outage.

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

- Conducted UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) drone missions at multiple sites to capture data and aerial videos for the Sepulveda Feeder PCCP Rehab Project for Engineering Services. Information captured will be used for Value Engineering workshops and reduces the number of field survey visits while providing the required information and effective perspectives of the various sites.
- Supported External Affairs by conducting missions to capture video of the CRA shutdown and the cleaning of the canal.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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

PC Replacement Project (PCRP)—This project will replace end-of-life computers for all Metropolitan staff and operations (instrumentation, testing, modeling, etc.) by deploying new workstations and laptops in a phased approach. Replacement of aging PCs and related equipment will provide Metropolitan employees with computers that have greater processing speed and improved reliability as the existing PCs are reaching end-of-life.

- Continued to coordinate with business units on special requirements in preparation for procurement and deployment logistics.
- Rollout is schedule to begin fourth quarter of this fiscal year based on a phased approach (i.e., user priority, hardware availability, and age of the existing PC).

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

Access to Business Information—Communicate IT scheduled maintenance. IT continued to notify users for scheduled maintenance of IT systems and applications. Where possible, patching and system maintenance are scheduled during off hours to minimize interruptions to users and business operations.

In other cases, emergency notifications are issued to address system interruptions for emergency repairs and system maintenance. Prioritization may be based on vendor issued patches or other critical needs. Typically, vendors issue the software patches are issued by vendors, which is a set of changes to a computer program or its supporting data designed to update, fix, improve, or address potential security vulnerabilities.

Project Controls and Reporting System—Supported the Engineering Services Group in deploying a new Project Controls and Reporting System (PCRS) to replace Metropolitan's existing end-of-life project control system. The new system will enable planning, management, and reporting for capital projects to be standardized and consolidated into a single, enterprise-wide application.

- The team recently conducted User-Acceptance Testing for the PCRS system. Training for the users (project administrators) is scheduled for late February.
- Staff is working in collaboration with Engineering Services on deployment planning to the production environment as final preparations are underway for rollout.

## SECURITY

Objective: Strengthen Internal and External Partnerships

Security Management continues to strengthen interagency training with local first responders. On January 29, 2020, a training exercise with the Riverside Police Department's Canine Unit was held at the Mills treatment plant. Canines and their handlers gained valuable knowledge of Metropolitan treatment operations while engaging in a variety of valuable law enforcement response training scenarios.

Security Management was invited to participate in the University of Southern California's Price School of Public Policy's discussion on National Security on January 22, 2020.

Objective: Improve Security and Emergency Response

Stop the Bleed Training continued. This is a national awareness campaign that empowers bystanders to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.

## 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.

Staff acquired three six-month encroachment permits from Caltrans for excavation pits and construction areas in support of the Orange County Feeder Relining Program.

Staff acquired a three-year lease with two one-year options to extend from the Los Angeles Community College District for a 12-acre storage, staging, and laydown area in support of the Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipeline Reliability Program for Reach 3 of the Second Lower Feeder. The large site provides enough space for storing pipe sleeves to be used in future reaches of the Program and the length of the lease provides flexibility to the Program in the event of shifts in Engineering Services' priorities.

### **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: 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.

Improvements of the marina restrooms were completed at Diamond Valley Lake. The improvements included the addition of electric hand dryers in both the women's and men's restrooms as well as new toilet paper dispensers.

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

Staff completed replacement of the 400 amp Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) in the wing portion of the Headquarters building. The ATS is a critical components of the emergency power system. The wing ATS provides emergency power from the generator to the three wing elevators in case of power loss.

## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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

Staff provided a recycled water legislation and regulation update to the WaterReuse Los Angeles Chapter meeting hosted by the Long Beach Water Department and the Port of Long Beach.

### **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: Implement Conservation Program

- Staff presented on Turf Replacement program changes and landscaping best management practices at the Association of Professional Landscape Designers Monthly Meeting at Burbank Water and Power.
- Staff was a guest lecturer for a University of California, Los Angeles graduate student course in sustainability. The Water Use Efficiency team was asked to present on water efficiency in Southern California.
- Staff participated in the University of California, Riverside "Southern California Affordability Symposium." A panel of experts including Director Ortega; Dr. Kurt Schwabe from University of California, Riverside; Joaquin Esquivel, Chair of State Water Resources Control Board; and others, discussed impacts of housing and water on families and communities in Southern California.

Objective: Manage existing and develop new regional water management programs to maintain water supply reliability in the face of increasing water supply volatility.

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) requested Metropolitan staff to assist in the planning of a potential new cloud seeding project for their service area. To kick-off the preparation of a feasibility study for this effort, on January 28 staff made a "Weather Modification 101" presentation for SAWPA's member agencies staff.

### **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 access to sufficient water supplies to operate a full Colorado River Aqueduct in times of drought.

Bard Water District Seasonal Fallowing Program—Following the official launch of Metropolitan's Bard Water District Seasonal Fallowing Program, Metropolitan received offers of participation for the 2020 season with a total acreage of 2,964 acres, out of a maximum allowable 3,000 acres. In the coming months, Metropolitan will enter into agreements and then inspect the fallowed lands. Fallowing in Bard Water District will reduce consumptive water use and augment Metropolitan's Colorado River supplies.

## 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 84,000 acre-feet of water to member agencies in February. February deliveries averaged approximately 2,800 AF per day. Treated water deliveries for January totaled 52,000 AF, or 62 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct was shut down in February for annual maintenance. Pumping will resume with a 5 pump flow in March. State Water Project imports averaged 1,700 AF per day, totaling 50,000 AF for the month. The target SWP blends were 50 percent at the Weymouth plant, and 75 percent at the Diemer and Skinner plants at the beginning of the month. However, due to a low 15 percent SWP allocation and continued dry conditions, the target blends for Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants were transitioned to zero percent SWP at the end of the month.

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 January 2020.
- On February 3-7, staff attended the NELAC Institute's Forum on Environmental Accreditation in Newport Beach where information on sampling, proficiency testing, and implementing the new TNI laboratory accreditation standards was presented. Metropolitan's Water Quality Laboratory is upgrading its quality assurance and quality control program to ensure compliance with these new state-mandated laboratory certification regulations.
- On February 25, Metropolitan hosted the regular quarterly meeting with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water.
- Staff participated in the South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1107 amendments, which regulate the volatile organic compounds in coatings used on metal parts.
- On February 5, Cal/OSHA conducted a pre-job safety conference and inspection at Hinds pumping plant in advance of the Colorado River Aqueduct shutdown. The Cal/OSHA inspectors noted the efficiency of Metropolitan staff preparations for tunnel operations, adding that Metropolitan is used as an example during inspections of other companies. [\[see photos below\]](#)
- Staff updated the water quality sampling lines and instruments building during the recent Mills plant shutdown. The water quality analytical instruments were relocated and mounted to standard ergonomic work height, grouped by associated sample points, with wiring labels and instrument tag names updated.

Staff conducting stokes basket training



Cal/OSHA inspector conducting a pre-job safety conference.



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

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

Objective: Actively Engage in Capital Project Planning and Execution.

This month, staff installed temporary control boxes for the two sleeve valves at the Greg Avenue Pressure Control Structure. Greg Avenue is currently under construction for facility upgrades, including two new pumps. In order to control water flow through the facility during the construction period, staff installed two temporary control boxes powered by a standby generator that would allow a valve to open or close if a flow change is needed. Installing this temporary system increases the flexibility in the distribution system while the capital project is being completed.

As part of the Greg Avenue Pump Station Rehabilitation capital project, staff worked with contractors to temporarily install two Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) systems. The contractor installed magnetic flow meters for the B-05 service connection and the new B-05A service connection during the East Valley Feeder shutdown (February 2-16). The AMR cabinet installation is in a temporary location until the new building construction is finished in July 2020. The two AMR service connections became available for use following completion of the East Valley Feeder shutdown.

As part of the Weymouth Domestic Water System capital project, staff is updating the SCADA remote terminal unit (RTU) that controls and monitors the domestic water pumps. Staff replaced the central processing unit and connected cables between the I/O boards and the RTU cabinet. [\[see photos below\]](#)



Staff terminating cable ends to I/O boards in the RTU cabinet at the Weymouth plant.

Staff field terminating cables at the Weymouth plant.



# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

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

Objective: Optimize Maintenance.

- Divers performed dredging operations in the pump gallery at the Intake pumping plant to clean the area and keep water flowing at maximum velocity.
- Staff completed preventative maintenance activities at the Foothill Hydroelectric Plant. The work included mechanical inspection of the turbine wicket gates, heat exchangers, and mechanical seals. Staff performed high-voltage testing and maintenance on the switchyard circuit breakers, transformer, and generator windings to ensure a reliable electrical system for renewable energy production. [\[see photos below\]](#)
- This month, staff continued rehabilitation work on the Red Mountain Hydroelectric Plant turbine generator. The work included in-place machining of the turbine wear ring and wicket gate bushings in preparation for final assembly. The refurbishment of the 33-year-old turbine generator, located on Metropolitan's San Diego Pipeline No. 5, is scheduled to be complete by the end of March 2020.
- In conjunction with the Colorado River Aqueduct shutdown, staff worked at the San Diego Canal to perform inspection, minor repairs, and removal of debris. Work in the canal, adjacent to the Wadsworth pumping plant forebay at Diamond Valley Lake, required installation of a slide gate to isolate the work zone from water in the forebay.



Staff performing maintenance activities at Foothill HEP



Staff cleaning contacts on high-voltage disconnect switch at Foothill HEP

Staff flushing heat exchangers at Foothill HEP



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

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

Objective: Optimize Maintenance. Continued...

Staff completed a shutdown on the East Valley Feeder to accommodate planned contractor work at the interconnected Greg Avenue pump station. During the outage, staff replaced older valves along the pipeline and performed electromagnetic and visual inspection of 18 miles of the feeder. The visual inspection identified over 150 areas in need of minor mortar lining repairs. Staff completed the inspection and all repairs within the 14-day shutdown period. The contractor's work at the Greg Avenue pump station included the pump discharge header replacement, installation of four bulkheads that were internally welded in place, and relocation of the B-05 service connection line. [\[see photos below\]](#)



Left photo-Staff performing mortar repairs on a joint of the East Valley Feeder  
Above photo-Discharge header replacement at the Greg Avenue pump station

Between February 18 and 22, the Jensen plant was shut down to allow the California Department of Water Resources to install an isolation valve at Castaic Lake. Staff completed several reliability projects during this full plant shutdown. The Jensen Incident Command Post was activated and remained active for the duration of the shutdown to track work progress, control safety measures, and act as a central communication center. The work included upgrading key chemical system components, replacing valves within the solids handling system, modifying sample lines for process and water quality monitoring, and maintaining chemical feed systems and control gates to ensure operational reliability. [\[see photo right and next page\]](#)

Tunnel cleaning machine entering a CRA tunnel



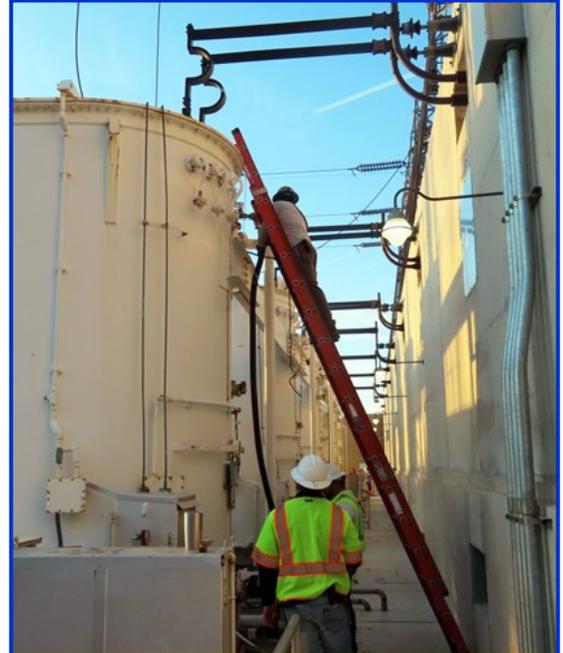
# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

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

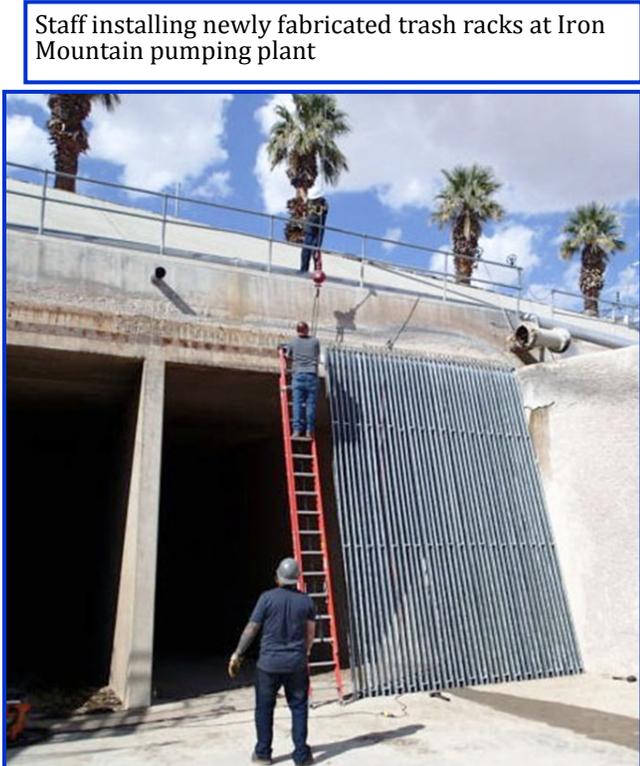
Objective: Optimize Maintenance. Continued....



Sediment removal from inlet channel at Eagle Mountain pumping plant



Staff preparing to condition transformer oil at Hinds pumping plant



Staff installing newly fabricated trash racks at Iron Mountain pumping plant



Staff repairing cavitation damage on a pump unit impeller at Gene pumping plant

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

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

#### Objective: Manage the Power System

- On February 10, Metropolitan participated in the first of a series of meetings with the Western Area Power Administration to discuss the Boulder Canyon Project Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Base Charge (capacity and energy charges). The rates are to be finalized by June 2020.
- On February 12, Metropolitan met with representatives from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to discuss the Parker-Davis Ten-Year Plan for FY 2021. The final budget is scheduled to be adopted this summer and will be used to determine Metropolitan's portion of the Parker Dam costs for FY 2021.
- On February 13, Metropolitan inspected a landfill located near Hoover Dam with the Bureau of Reclamation, certain Boulder Canyon Project Contractors, and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). The parties discussed the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed mitigation plan for the landfill, which is located on Boulder Canyon Project property. Metropolitan submitted written comments to NDEP about the proposed landfill mitigation plan on January 20, 2020.
- Metropolitan completed self-certification of compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation reliability standards for 2019. The self-certification effort was completed by subject matter experts across multiple groups at Metropolitan.

#### Objective: Improve Security and Emergency Response.

Staff continued working with multiple agencies to coordinate the effects of Public Safety Power Shut-Offs (PSPS). PSPS events happen when an electrical utility determines that weather conditions, such as high winds and low humidity, and dry vegetation pose a significant wildfire threat. To lessen the chance of accidental ignitions due to a downed power line, electrical utilities de-energize power lines in high-risk fire areas. These deliberate power outages can impact the water agency operations, as well as other utilities.

Metropolitan continued to coordinate with Southern California Edison to receive PSPS warnings as quickly as possible to facilitate appropriate responses. Staff are also working closely with the California Utilities Emergency Association to coordinate with the California Office of Emergency Services during PSPS events. Additionally, staff continue to review and monitor numerous state legislative bills related to PSPS.

#### Objective: Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution.

Two fluoride (fluorosilicic acid) tanks at the Jensen plant have reached the end of their service life and require replacement. These chemical tanks are an essential component of the water treatment system and cannot be shut down completely; therefore, the tanks will be replaced in two phases. This month, staff installed chemical feed and transfer lines, handrails, and the grouting for the pump base of the first tank. Replacement of the second tank is scheduled to begin in April 2020. [\[see photo right\]](#)

Staff installing handrails on a chemical tank at the Jensen plant



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

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

Objective: Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution. Continued...

The State Water Project target blend entering the Weymouth plant was 50 percent in February 2020. The SWP target entering the Diemer plant was increased from 50 to 75 percent on February 6. The SWP target entering Lake Skinner was 75 percent in February 2020. Target blends at all plants began transitioning to zero percent SWP at the end of the month due to the low SWP allocation and dry conditions.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from December 2018 through November 2019 were 357, 359, and 383 mg/L for Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

During a planned inspection of prestressed concrete cylinder pipe of the Lake Skinner Outlet conduit, staff installed new flow meter transducers and cables. With this rare opportunity to access the pipeline, staff also repaired and upgraded the outlet conduit flow meter during the recent Skinner plant shutdown. Eight new transducers and 16 cables were installed over a three-day period. Over the life of the original equipment, water intrusion into the cables and transducers had degraded their ability to accurately measure flow leaving Lake Skinner. Staff expects the new equipment to perform well for the next 15 years or more. [\[see photo right\]](#)

Staff installing new flow meter transducers and cables at the Skinner plant



Objective: Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation.

On February 13, the State Water Resources Control Board released the response to comments on the draft laboratory accreditation regulations proposed in October 2019. The new regulations update the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) requirements to require the NELAC Institute (TNI) laboratory accreditation standards, which are more stringent than existing ELAP standards. All six of Metropolitan's ELAP-certified laboratories are preparing for the new requirements.

On February 6, the SWRCB updated Response Levels (RLs) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) from 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for individual or combined concentrations to 10 ppt for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS. An RL is a non-regulatory, precautionary health-based measure that requires water systems to either remove the impacted drinking water source from operation, or alternatively, to continue supply water above the RL provided that the public is appropriately notified.

Objective: Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation.

On February 5, Metropolitan met with the city of Fullerton to discuss bringing the F-01 service connection back into service. This service connection has not been in use for over 40 years.

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

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

#### **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 February accounted for about 94 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. Storage at Diamond Valley Lake is at 785,000 AF, or 97 percent full. Water reserves continued to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management principles, the Annual Operating Plan, operational objectives, and the current 15 percent 2020 SWP allocation.

Staff published the 2020 Annual Operating Plan and provided copies to the member agency managers at their February meeting. The Plan is consistent with the Water Surplus and Drought Management Plan and a number of key operational goals and principles.

#### **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 23 vacant positions in January 2020.

Objective: Support Education and Outreach Initiatives.

- On February 6, staff provided a tour of Diamond Valley Lake to representatives from Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. Participants toured the West Dam, Inlet/Outlet Tower, and Wadsworth pumping plant, and received a presentation on Metropolitan's operational activities.
- On February 13, staff attended the dedication ceremony for Inland Empire Utilities Agency new water quality laboratory in Chino and presented a commendation certificate on behalf of Metropolitan.
- Staff assisted with one, three-day CRA inspection trip for Central Basin Municipal Water District. Participants visited Gene field headquarters, attended a boat trip on Copper Basin, and toured the Whitsett Intake pumping plant on Lake Havasu.

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. New pre-apprentices are expected to begin work in early 2021.

A guest lecturer facilitated instruction for the Class of 2021 electricians. Topics included motor controls, troubleshooting, and National Electric Code wiring methods. Use of subject matter experts meets the Apprenticeship Program's curriculum requirements and offers apprentices access to a diverse bank of Metropolitan and electrical system knowledge.

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

### **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.

During the month of February, staff installed new conduits and receptacles at the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center demonstration facility to support onsite sampling for microbiological analyses.

Staff installed several new electrical circuits to support operations at the demonstration facility. This work required upsizing existing junction boxes and installing 200 feet of new, corrosive-resistant electrical conduit.

### **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 10.6 megawatts, or about 7,900 megawatt-hours, and \$392,530 in revenue for the month of January 2020. Metropolitan's solar facilities, totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated nearly 600 megawatt-hours in January 2020.

Objective: Protect Source Water Quality.

On February 5, staff participated in a workgroup meeting for the Topock Chromium-6 Groundwater Remediation Project. Construction of the groundwater remediation began in October 2018, and once complete in 2025, will help ensure continued water quality protection of Colorado River supplies.

### **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: Support Imported Supply Reliability.

The La Verne Shops refurbished two siphon breaker assemblies for the Department of Water Resources' Dos Amigos Pumping Plant. This work included repairing eroded metal, refurbishing stems and bushings, and replacing seals, bearings, and other components. Once completed, the siphon breakers were tested for leakage. Siphon breakers are installed on 18-foot-diameter discharge lines at the Dos Amigos Pumping Plant and prevent reverse flow of the water during pump startup and shutdown. The pumping plant has six 40,000-horsepower motors capable of flowing water at 2,600 cubic feet per second.

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

### **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. Metropolitan holds some of the nation's highest credit ratings for government agencies by maintaining strong reserves and limiting its use of debt. Long-term investments will be made through a prudent combination of long-term funding sources as well as annual rate revenues. Capital expenses will continue to be funded at a significant level on a pay as you go (PAYGO) basis per Board policy. Potential investments such as modernizing the State Water Project would be phased in over time and have been prudently built into Metropolitan's rate projections

Objective: Ensure Accurate Billing Infrastructure.

Staff continued construction of the new SKPE-1 service connection for the San Diego County Water Authority. The new connection provides greater operational flexibility to SDCWA by metering water at lower operating ranges. This month, staff completed placement of the upstream precast structure, removal of downstream and upstream shoring, and backfill operations. Staff also began installing electrical duct banks.

Western Municipal Water District requested decommissioning of service connection WR-25 due to the conversion of its subagency's interconnected raw water system to treated water. During a concurrent planned outage on San Diego Pipeline No. 3, staff coordinated with the agencies and removed the service connection valve. The valve was replaced with a flange, which will eliminate the cost of future maintenance.

Staff rehabilitated the F-01 service connection piping and meter in the city of Fullerton. Due to recent regulatory changes affecting groundwater wells, some member agencies are refurbishing connections with Metropolitan that have seen little use in prior years. While Fullerton had a contractor working on its side of the connection, Metropolitan staff removed the meter and associated piping to inspect, refurbish, and verify proper operation. It is anticipated that F-01 deliveries will begin in March 2020.

Storage	As of 2/29/2020	% of Capacity
DVL	779,604 AF	96
Lake Mathews	125,284 AF	69
Lake Skinner	34,412 AF	78

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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### 2020 SWP Allocation

**286,725 AF**

15% of Table A

(Does not include CVWD & DWA Table A)

### 2020 Colorado River

**988,000 AF**

79% of full CRA

(Does not include storage withdrawals)

