



The GENERAL MANAGER Monthly Report

**Activities for the Month of
December 2020**

This report identifies the actions and activities taking place during the month that support the objectives of the General Manager's Fiscal Year 2020/21 Strategic Priorities and the Core Business of the GM's work groups.

JANUARY 12, 2021



ALHU Flower Native Plant Garden Tour

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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION/CAO

CORE BUSINESS:

Business Processes Advance value-added business process improvements to increase effectiveness and efficiency while striving for innovation, flexibility, and integration with technology.

Objective #3 - INNOVATION - Use technology and best practices to implement innovative solutions in business processes to improve the customer and end user's experience.

The Rideshare staff collaborated with E-Forms Management and the consultant to finalize the new transit E-Form. The next steps include user testing and then uploading the document to the mobile app for participant use. This new Nintex E-Form will allow transit riders to access the form through SharePoint without using VPN from their desktops, laptops, and other mobile devices. Participants will take a picture of their transit pass or proof of purchase and upload it into the form, eliminating the need for a scanner.

Accomplishments

1. The second quarter Water Talk newsletter, "Follow Me Print," was distributed to district employees.
2. The Professional Services Contracting Team completed a solicitation for the Engineering Services Group, Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1241—Architectural and Engineering Services for Preliminary and Final Design of Metropolitan's La Verne Warehouse Facilities.
3. Professional Services Contracting Team Manager Olivia Freeman and Procurement Team Manager John Poli were invited to speak on "How to do Business with Metropolitan" for a government contracting series hosted by the Southwestern College of Higher Education Center, Center for Business Advancement.



Procurement Team speaking at a virtual contracting presentation

BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective # 1 Pursue the development of adaptive management decision processes, governance, and funding mechanisms that would provide effective and stable means of meeting State Water Project (SWP) regulatory requirements.

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative groups called for in the 2019 Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the State Water Project (SWP), Central Valley Project, and the 2020 Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for Long-term Operation of the SWP, to address science needs to inform management and operation of the water projects. As part of these collaborative efforts, staff is providing input to the BiOp/ITP-mandated Summer/Fall Action plan and associated Monitoring and Science Plan, as well as the Juvenile Production Estimate monitoring plan for spring-run Chinook salmon. Also, as part of these efforts, staff is planning a workshop focused on monitoring steelhead in the San Joaquin Basin and the ITP-mandated Longfin smelt Science Plan.

In December, the Longfin Smelt Science Plan was approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as part of the requirement in ITP for DWR to submit a draft plan by December 1. The Longfin Smelt Science Plan outlines priorities for management relevant science during the 10-year duration of the new ITP.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective # 1 Pursue completion of the planning and permitting process for the single tunnel Delta Conveyance Project (DCP).

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing to develop an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Cone penetration tests, soil borings, and geophysical surveys were completed under the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Soil Investigations in the Delta that was adopted on July 9, 2020. The final soil boring of this year is scheduled to be complete by December 17 and no additional work is scheduled until spring 2021. Additionally, work to obtain temporary entry on private lands is ongoing.

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) engineering team completed the first draft of template, drawings, and GIS map book deliverables for the Bethany Alternative and submitted them to DWR for review and comment. The team also received the first round of comments on the Draft Engineering Project Report for the Central and Eastern Corridor alternatives from DWR and worked on the responses and updated the documents for resubmission.

Eighteen State Water Project contractors have taken action in November and December 2020 and approved their participation in the planning and pre-construction costs and authorized the execution of a funding agreement with DWR for such purpose.

Joint Powers Authorities

The DCA board heard an informational presentation on the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 audit report at the December 17 regularly scheduled meeting.

The December regular meeting of the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority Board of Directors was cancelled.

BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES *continued*

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

Objective # 1 Provide leadership through advancing scientific knowledge that promotes opportunities for the improvement of SWP supply reliability through the improvement and protection of estuarine processes, native species, and Delta ecosystem health.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). The December 10 CSAMP Policy Group meeting included approval of CSAMP priorities in 2021 and 2022, which primarily focus on continuation of current Delta smelt and salmon activities.

Objective # 2 Provide leadership in identifying and advancing new technological methods to reduce Delta levee failure risks.

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) is conducting a climate change study for the Delta and Suisun Marsh. *Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future* will help the Council assess specific climate risks and vulnerabilities in the Delta and, in coordination with stakeholders, develop adaptation strategies to address those vulnerabilities.

The Council is scheduled to release the draft vulnerability assessment in January 2021 for public comment. Staff will work with the State Water Contractors to review and provide comments on the public draft.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

CFO STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Maintain Strong Financial Position.

Provide timely and discerning financial analyses, planning, and management to ensure that forecasted revenues are sufficient to meet planned expenses and provide a prudent level of reserves consistent with Board policy.

Objective #2 Manage risk to protect Metropolitan's assets against exposure to loss.

The Risk Management Unit completed 41 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 39 risk assessments on contracts, including professional service agreements, construction contracts, entry permits, special events, and film permits.

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 #1 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 November 2020 totaled 122.1 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which were 16.0 TAF lower than the budget of 138.1 TAF. This translates to \$103.8 million in revenues for November 2020, which were \$15.3 million lower than budget.
- Year-to-date (YTD) water transactions through November 2020 totaled 685.1 TAF, which were 52.4 TAF lower than the budget. YTD water revenues through November 2020 were \$608.2 million, which were \$49.1 million lower than the budget of \$657.3 million.
- In November 2020, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,100 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$10,400 in discounts.

Objective #4 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 November 20, 2020, Metropolitan extended to June 21, 2021, the credit facility securing its \$175,000,000 Subordinate Water Revenue Bonds, 2016 Authorization, Series A, with Bank of America, N.A (BANA). Metropolitan worked with BANA staff and outside bond counsel with the drafting and negotiation of several contracts and closing certificates.

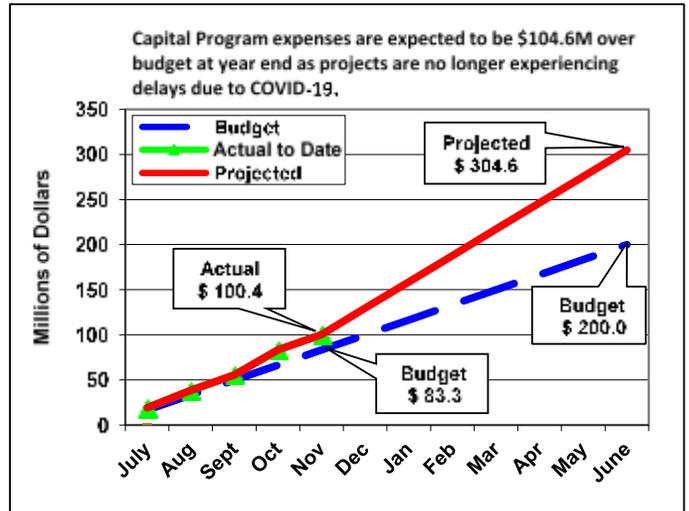
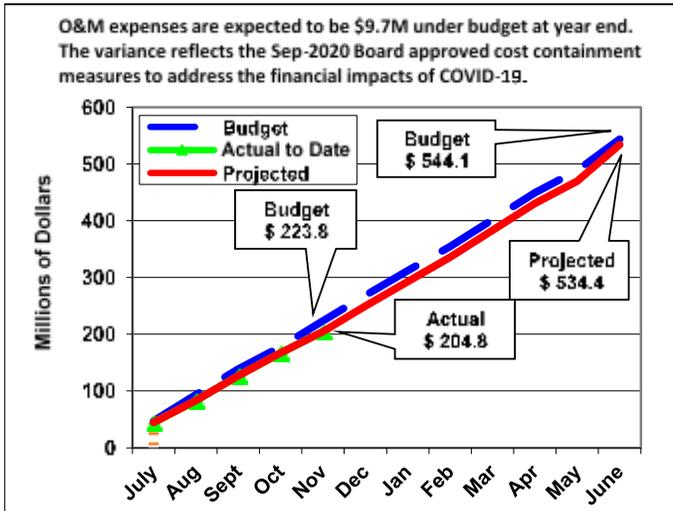
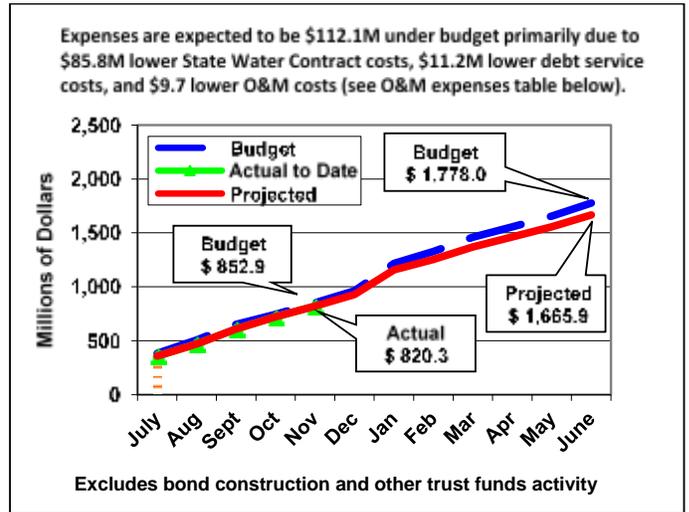
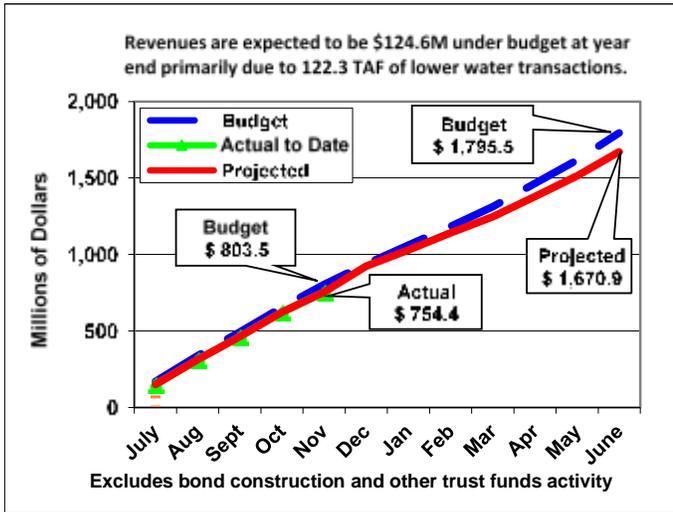
Objective #5 Prudently manage the investment of Metropolitan's funds in accordance with policy guidelines and liquidity considerations.

- As of November 30, 2020, the balance in Metropolitan's investment portfolio was \$1,020.3 million; for the month of November 2020, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 39 trades.
- During the month of November 2020, Treasury staff processed 1,026 disbursements by check, 20 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 70 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 51 receipts by check, 23 receipts by ACH, and 48 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER *continued*

Financial Summary—Charts & Graphics	
Receipts	Expenditures
O&M Expenditures	Construction Costs
Cash and Investments	Summary of Financial Statistics

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER *continued*



Summary Financial Statistics

	Target	Year-End Projected
Fixed Charge Coverage	≥ 1.20 x	1.44
Revenue Bond Coverage	> 2.00 x	1.43
Revenue Bond Debt / Equity Ratio	< 100.0%	54.2%

Senior Lien Revenue Bond Credit Ratings

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

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1: 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:

- **Lake Perris Bypass Pipeline Relining**—This project will reline approximately 1,500 feet of the Lake Perris Bypass Pipeline. Construction is five percent complete, with the contractor currently working on preparation of contract submittals and fabrication of the steel liners. Construction is scheduled to be complete by April 2021.
- **Lakeview Pipeline Improvements**—This project will reline approximately 450 feet of the Lakeview Pipeline and replace a 60-inch tee at the Lake Perris Control Facility. Construction is 5 percent complete, with the contractor working on preparation of contract submittals, and is scheduled to be complete by June 2021.
- **Lake Mathews Disaster Recovery Facility Improvements**—This project improves site drainage, stabilizes the adjacent slope, strengthens the building including the roof connections, and upgrades the fire suppression system at the Lake Mathews Disaster Recovery Facility. Final design is complete, and a request for award of a construction contract is planned for the Board meeting in January 2021.
- **Service Connection LA-17 Rehabilitation**—This project replaces the existing deteriorated 48-inch venturi flowmeter and associated piping on the service connection structure, located at the terminus of the Eagle Rock Lateral pipeline. Final design and flowmeter procurement are complete. Construction is planned to be completed by Metropolitan staff during a shutdown scheduled for January 2021.
- **Black Metal Mountain 2.4 kV Electrical Power Upgrade**—This project will design and construct the replacement of the existing 2.4 kV power line that serves Metropolitan's Black Metal Mountain communications sites. The work will include installation of new power poles, larger conductors to increase the available power to the sites, and service roads where feasible, to allow access for maintenance. A study is 10 percent complete and is planned to be complete by June 2021.

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program

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

- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation**—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. Approximately 10

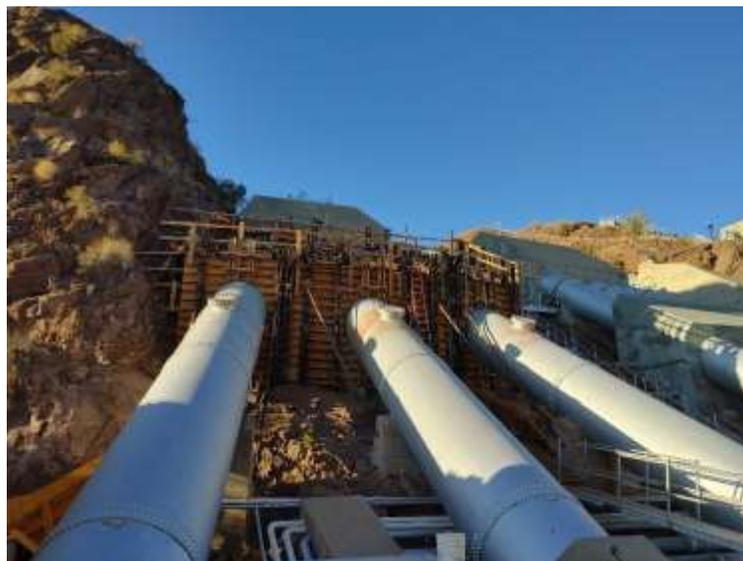
ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

- miles of PCCP on the Second Lower Feeder has been relined. Contractor commenced coordination on construction of a manhole modification on Reach 2. Final design of Reach 3 is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2021. Preliminary design continues on Reach 9, which includes a section of pipeline that will be tunneled under the Los Angeles River.
- **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 inches 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 85 percent complete, and the valves are scheduled to be delivered by February 2021. Successful final inspection of two of the 48-inch conical plug valves was completed in November 2020, and the third 48-inch valve is undergoing shop testing.

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

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

- **CRA Gene Wash and Copper Basin Discharge Valve Rehabilitation**—This project replaces the existing deteriorated cone valves at Copper Basin and Gene Wash Reservoirs on the Colorado River Aqueduct. The project will be completed in two stages. Stage 1 will replace the valve at Gene Wash Reservoir, while Stage 2 will replace the valve at Copper Basin Reservoir. Construction of Stage 1 is 20 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by July 2021. The contractor has completed rock-scaling work on the downstream side of the dam and started fabrication of the isolation device. Final design for Stage 2 is 38 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2022.
- **CRA Discharge Isolation Couplings**—This project fabricates and installs 44 isolation coupling assemblies at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. Approximately one half of the couplings have been installed. Construction is 60 percent complete with much of the remaining work to be completed during the upcoming CRA shutdown in early 2021. The project is scheduled to be complete by June 2021.
- **CRA Overhead Cranes**—This project consists of replacing five overhead bridge cranes and retrofitting the support structures within the pump bays located at all five of Metropolitan’s Colorado River Aqueduct Pumping Plants. The Notice to Proceed was issued to the contractor in October. The contractor is working on preparation of contract submittals. Construction is scheduled to be complete by October 2022.



CRA Discharge Isolation Couplings—Intake Plant: Delivery Line No. 1 anchor block concrete formwork

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 Chlorination System Upgrades**—This project expands the existing chlorine building to house additional chlorination feed equipment and instrumentation at the Weymouth plant. Construction is 91 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2021. The contractor is currently working on piping, instrumentation and electrical equipment installation, wire terminations, and control system programming. Construction is 89 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2021.
- **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. The contractor is currently installing doors, drywall, and cable tray, and pulling wire for exterior lighting. Construction is 68 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2021.

Diemer Plant

- **West Basin and Filter Building Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates 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 was suspended for six weeks because of COVID-19 and resumed in May. The contractor is currently removing and replacing basin and filter equipment, installing new electrical conduits and panels, and performing hazardous abatement activities. Construction is 89 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2021.
- **Diemer Water Sampling System Improvements**—This project upgrades the existing Diemer water sampling system, comprising 13 sample locations. At each location, the sample pump, piping, and field analyzers will be upgraded by Metropolitan staff working in micro-teams because of the COVID 19 pandemic. All materials and equipment have been procured for this project and Metropolitan staff is currently installing and commissioning water quality field analyzers. Construction is 74 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by July 2021.

Jensen Plant

- **Jensen Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2**—This three-stage project upgrades the electrical system with dual power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practice. Stage 1 work is complete. Stage 2 improvements will upgrade UPC-7, UPC-9, and their associated motor control centers to support critical process equipment. The contractor is currently pulling medium voltage cables, installing unit substations, and setting new MCC enclosures throughout the site. Because of the COVID-19 work suspension earlier this year, the Spring 2021 plant shutdown for this project has been rescheduled for Spring 2022. Construction is 49 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed by August 2022.
- **Jensen Module 2 and 3 Flocculator Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates Modules 2 and 3 flocculators at the Jensen plant. The contractor is currently demolishing existing equipment in Basins 9 and 10. Construction is 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2021.



Diemer West Basin and Filter Building Rehabilitation—Installing new launderer trough at Basin 7

System Reliability Program

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

- **Headquarters Building Improvements**—This project provides seismic upgrades and other needed improvements to Metropolitan’s Union Station Headquarters Building. Construction related to the original contract scope is 80 percent complete, and the contractor is currently working on Floors 7–9 and beginning electrical work for the power door-assist devices. Staff is working with the contractor to advance additional work while the building remains lightly occupied. Construction is anticipated to be complete by December 2021.
- **Board and Committee Room Upgrade**—This project upgrades audio/visual (A/V) systems in the Board and Committee rooms at Metropolitan’s Headquarters Building. Engineering Services, IT, and Facilities Management are working collaboratively on this technology replacement project. The installation of the A/V equipment is being conducted as a board-approved change order to the original Headquarters Building Improvement contract, which is described in the previous paragraph. The contractor is currently working on demolition of existing electrical, lights, and walls, and will begin installation of new conduits, wiring, lights, and HVAC in the Boardroom and Committee Room 1-102. Construction is 30 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2021.
- **Headquarter Physical Security Upgrades**—The comprehensive security upgrades for Metropolitan’s Union Station Headquarters have been prioritized and staged to minimize rework and affects day-to-day operations within the building. The Stage 1 work enhances security related to perimeter windows and doors. Stage 2 improvements will provide security system upgrades inside the building with a focus on the main entry rotunda area, board room, executive dining lounge, and security control room. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. Construction of Stage 1 is 98 percent complete

ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

and is scheduled to be complete by August 2021. Construction of Stage 2 improvements is 8 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2022. The contractor is preparing contract submittals and procuring workstations and directory servers. Stage 3 improvements are currently in the design phase.

- **Headquarter Building Fire Alarm and Smoke Control System Upgrades**—This project upgrades Metropolitan’s Union Station Headquarters fire life safety systems, which includes replacement of the fire detection and alarm system and HVAC system improvements for smoke control. Construction is 8 percent complete, with the contractor preparing contract submittals and pulling permits. The project is scheduled to be complete by April 2022.



Board and Committee Room Upgrade—Installation of new lighting fixtures in the Boardroom

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION/CAO

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Provide planning, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and regulatory permitting support for programs and projects that focus on infrastructure reliability and redundancy.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Conduit Structural Protection Program

- Completed public review of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). Prepared response to comments, mitigation monitoring, reporting program, and Board letter and presentation for the January Board meeting.
- Coordinated with the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians and finalized Tribal Cultural Resource Management Plan mitigation measure.

Perris Valley Pipeline

- Finalizing technical, environmental studies, and addendum to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Regulatory Permitting

Foothill Feeder

- Continued coordination on draft Santa Clara River Watershed Management Plan in compliance with Metropolitan's California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit and addressed California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) comments on the draft plan.

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Projects

- Submitted CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) notification for the CRA Structural Protection Project.

Objective #2 Emphasize employee development and recruitment, knowledge capture, cross-training, management/leadership training, and succession planning.

- Staff attended the following training/events:
 - Water Quality and Regulatory Permitting training hosted by University of California, Davis
 - Wildfire, Smoke, and Worker Protection training provided by Metropolitan
 - 2020 Women In Negotiation (WIN) Summit hosted by the Society for Women Engineers
 - Orange County Water District Groundwater Replenishment System virtual tour

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #3 Continue to actively manage Metropolitan's more than 30,000 acres of conservation lands through cooperative relationships with public agencies and non-governmental conservation organizations to promote sustainability of reserve resources.

Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Completed coordination of a year-long bird survey similar to a survey conducted 55 years ago. A total of 98 species were observed, with substantially more species identified in the 2019–2020 survey.
- Mowed a 50-acre Stephens' kangaroo rat habitat restoration site in preparation for native vegetation seeding.
- With funding from a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant, a California Conservation Corps crew began removing invasive tobacco trees from reserve areas south of El Sobrante Road.
- Installed boundary signs and fence repairs along Cajalco Road and other roads adjacent to the reserve.
- Conducted a site visit with CalFire to refine the lands included in the Vegetation Management Plan.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Conducted Engelmann oak surveys for health pest damage; acorns were collected to be grown at the reserve nursery for future planting.
- Gained approval from the Riverside/San Bernardino chapter of the National Audubon Society to include the Society's 2020 Christmas Bird Counts reserve. The event helps establish data about birds in the reserve.
- Met with CALFIRE staff to finalize the prescribed burn units in the Reserve's Vegetation Management Plan.
- Conducted regular maintenance of roads in the reserve and the Lake Skinner equestrian trail, including removal of downed limbs and cleaned/re-filled the horse trough at Horse Camp staging area and Pig Farm.
- Continued to monitor and maintain the wildlife cameras in the reserve and document observations of species (see photos below).
- Constructed new fencing and repaired existing fencing in response to OHV and equestrian trespass.



Mule deer caught on wildlife camera in Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION/CAO *continued*



Golden eagle caught on wildlife camera in Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3 Innovation

Objective #2 Develop and improve internal processes, procedures, systems, and databases to streamline and standardize environmental analysis and project clearance in support of customers.

- Developing a mapped digital database and in field data collection process for environmental resources within Metropolitan's service area.
- Reviewed the following Technical Manuals in coordination with Technical Control Team: Architectural Design, Draft Civil Design, Corrosion Engineering, Geotechnical Manual of Practice, Mechanical Design, and M-Spec Criteria and Procedures.
- Coordinated with Technical Writing Team on new PDF format for Notices of Exemption and Notices of Determination templates to streamline preparation of these documents.

Objective #4 Incorporate innovative measures and solutions into project planning, design, construction, and operation to minimize impacts to the environment and streamline environmental approvals, while meeting the goals and objectives of the project.

- Continued coordination with External Affairs to develop updated Desert Tortoise training video for Metropolitan staff and contractors working in the desert.
- Presented a pilot project for nesting bird exclusion at the Jensen Treatment Plant 100 Percent Compliance meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION/CAO *continued*

CORE BUSINESS: Regulatory Compliance

Objective #1 Provide timely and professional environmental planning services and CEQA and regulatory permitting support to ESG, WSO, WRM, External Affairs, and Real Property groups.

Water System Operations

- Provided CEQA analysis and environmental planning clearances for ten projects, including periodic maintenance of the Foothill Feeder, West Valley Feeder potholing, Placerita Canyon tree maintenance, Eagle Rock culvert cleaning, Lower Feeder road grading, Desert Region O&M work, and Lake Skinner Finished Water Reservoir vegetation and road maintenance.
- Conducted biological surveys and monitoring to support the San Diego Pipeline Nos. 1 and 2 erosion repairs.

External Reviews

- Reviewed 18 CEQA notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities or operations or both.
- Reviewed and provided comment on the Chino Hills State Park Roads and Trails Management Plan.

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 #1 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, and informing 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.

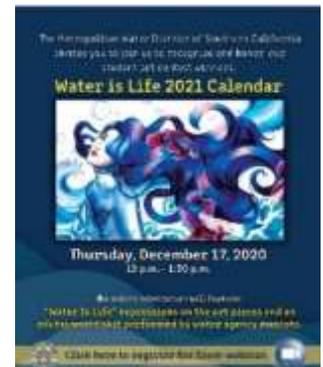
Chairwoman Gray participated in a panel focused on the need to address diversity, equity, and inclusion in the water sector, and other Metropolitan staff participated in and attended online sessions at the Association of California Water Agencies virtual fall conference. (December 2-3)

A public hearing was held on the Annual Progress Report on Achievements in Conservation, Recycling, and Groundwater Recharge. Several recognized leaders in the fields of water conservation, sustainability, native plants, and higher education spoke to Metropolitan's leadership. (December 7)

With strong public interest and social media engagement in the Delta Conveyance project, Metropolitan responded to the requests for information and interviews, culminating in the board's December 8 vote to provide financing for its share of the environmental planning and pre-construction costs for the project. Metropolitan staff worked with many of the region's businesses, labor leaders, community organizations, and local officials to communicate their support of the project to the Board through letters and public comments at the meeting.

Chairwoman Gray was the featured speaker at the Metropolitan Water District of Orange County's Women in Water meeting, where she addressed the importance of diversity in the water industry and her experiences as a woman of color in leadership roles. (December 11)

Chairwoman Gray and GM Kightlinger participated in the annual "Water is Life" Student Art Calendar reception honoring 37 young artists from 19 member and retail water agencies whose works support conservation, water efficiency, and stewardship themes. (December 19). (see image to the right)



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.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Objective #1 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

Lawmakers reached a bipartisan bicameral deal on the Water Resources and Development Act of 2020, which passed the House on December 8. The bill authorizes \$10 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out locally driven water resources development projects and studies. Metropolitan supports this bill and sent a letter urging its passage before the 116th Congress ends.

State

With 2020 election results now final, Senate Democrats picked up two seats in Orange County, and Assembly Democrats lost one. Metropolitan's delegation now has two new Senators and six new Assembly Members. There will be a special election to fill Senate District 30, vacated by Senator Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles), who was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Speaker Rendon appointed Assembly Member Reyes Gomez (D-Grand Torrance) to serve as Assembly Majority Leader, and new committee assignments have been made in both houses. Senator Stern (D-Canoga Park) will chair the Natural Resources and Water committee, and Senator Allen (D-Santa Monica) will chair the Environmental Quality committee. Assembly Member Quirk (D-Hayward) will chair Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, and Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella) will chair the Water, Parks, and Wildlife committee. Legislators will return on January 4 to start the official business of the legislative year.

Local

Metropolitan staff moderated the 2020 Gateway Chambers Alliance Business Symposium aimed at providing the region's small business community with critically important COVID-19 response assistance information. (December 1)

Staff provided a virtual presentation on the Regional Recycled Water Program to the Inland Empire Economic Partnership Regional Leadership Academy. (December 11)

Metropolitan staff participated in webinars this month with chambers of commerce, business associations, councils of governments, public affairs networks, and local elected officials, providing an update on water supply conditions and other water policy and current issues in the region:

- South Bay Association of Chamber of Commerce—Board of Directors/Government Affairs Committee (December 1)
- Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce—Legislative Affairs Committee (December 1)
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Mid-Year Economic Briefing (December 1)
- Inland Action Environmental Committee (December 1)
- Gateway Chambers Alliance 2020 Business Symposium (December 1)
- California Contract Cities Association—Legislative Committee (December 2)
- Pat Brown Institute virtual conversation with Representative Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) (December 2)
- El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce Board (December 3)
- Glendale Chamber of Commerce Business Advocacy/Legislative Review Committee (December 3)
- Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed) Advocacy Committee (December 3)
- LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce—Public Policy Group (December 3)
- Building Industry Association of Southern California—Board and Committee (December 4)
- Corona Chamber Legislative Action Committee (December 4)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Water Association of the County of Orange (December 4)
- South Bay Cities Council of Governments—Steering Committee (December 7)
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce ACCESS So Cal 2020 featuring Los Angeles City Councilmembers Joe Buscaino and Gil Cedillo (December 7)
- Western Riverside Council of Governments (December 7)
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce—Legislative Affairs Committee (December 8)
- Orange County Business Council Infrastructure Committee (December 8)
- Orange County Forum (December 8)
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce—Community Coffee Connection (December 8)
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership—Merry Zoom Mingle (December 9)
- South Orange County Economic Alliance Legislative Affairs (December 9)
- Orange County Realtor Association Legislative Meeting (December 9)
- Orange County Taxpayers Association General Meeting (December 9)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association's 71st Annual Meeting (December 10)
- North Orange County Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs (December 10)
- Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (December 10)
- South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce—Annual Installation and Awards Luncheon (December 10)
- Greater Ontario Business Council Government Relations Committee (December 11)
- Greater Riverside Chambers Government Affairs Council (December 11)
- El Segundo Chamber of Commerce—Government Affairs Committee (December 14)
- Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Gabriel Valley Government Affairs (December 14)
- Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation virtual forum on The Future of a Green Economy: A Path to Recovery (December 15)
- Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs (December 15)
- Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development (December 15)
- San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network (December 16)
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce—Economic Development Committee (December 17)
- Anaheim Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (December 18)

Objective #2 MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS - Communicate Metropolitan's policy priorities, actions and initiatives through various means to raise public awareness, enhance Metropolitan's visibility and cultivate support for Metropolitan priorities. Update and develop new communications tools, materials and platforms to ensure Metropolitan information reaches diverse audiences throughout its service area in a cost-effective, timely, relevant manner that reflects current communications trends.

Media Interviews

- Arranged interview between New York Times reporter Ben Ryder Howe and GM Kightlinger on private water markets and investing.
- Planned interview with Spectrum News 1 reporter Susan Carpenter and Water Resource Manager Polyzos regarding dry conditions this year and the effect on local water supply.
- Coordinated interview between Pasadena Now's Brian Day and COO/AGM Upadhyay about his speaking engagement with the Pasadena Rotary Club about "Metropolitan Water District—Planning for Resilience."

Press Release/Statements

- Issued a press release on the Metropolitan board vote to finance the environmental planning phase of the Delta Conveyance Project.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Issued a joint press release with Southern Nevada Water Authority regarding the agreement with Metropolitan on Regional Recycled Water Program.

Online

- Developed and launched two IntraMet microsites—one on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council and one to house informational and training resources on COVID-19 and safety protocols for Metropolitan employees.
- Metropolitan's website received nearly 210,000 page views with strong engagement on pages with Delta and local projects informational resources.
- Logged more than 52,000 views on bewaterwise.com, with the gardening page and the turf replacement program being the most popular destinations.

Social Media

- Posted online and social media assets using original posts and sharing art by the California Native Plant Society to encourage residents to plant California Friendly® and native plants.
- Posted assets on social media platforms to increase awareness among and educate the general public about the need to modernize Delta conveyance. **(see images below)**



Objective #3 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.

Metropolitan released a Request for Qualifications for on-call services to plan and execute public outreach activities for the Regional Recycled Water Program during the program's environmental planning phase. (December 2)

Metropolitan staff provided virtual tours of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center to the public and Inland Empire Economic Partnership. (December 3 and 11)

Construction Projects Updates

Provided notices to residents in the cities of Fontana, Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, La Verne, and San Dimas regarding the Rialto Feeder shutdown. (December 1)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Objective #4 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

Metropolitan staff designed and led a customized virtual tour of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center at the Achievement Rewards event for College Scientists (ARCS) Los Angeles Chapter. (December 11)

Working with member agencies and other organizations to address the evolving needs of students, Metropolitan staff conducted online facility tours, scouting programs, and customized class presentations and virtually interacted with nearly 2,600 teachers, students, and parents.

Metropolitan hosted several Girl Scout Water Protector Patch workshops, including virtual tours of the CRA and the State Water Project and learning activities about local water sources, distribution, treatment, and conservation efforts.

Community Partnering and Sponsorship Programs

Metropolitan sponsored, and staff participated in Green Building Council 16th Annual Green Gala virtual event. (December 10)

Objective #5 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 and entrepreneurs throughout the region through its online participation and, in some cases, sponsorship of the following programs, online conferences, webinars, and events:

- American Indian Chamber of Commerce (December 4)
- Women Business Enterprise Council—West Virtual Procurement Conference (December 7-9)
- Valley Economic Alliance Procurement Roundtable (December 9)
- Asian Business Association Los Angeles (December 10)
- Department of General Services' Small Business Advisory Council (December 15)

Business Outreach staff member McGee received the Corporate Diversity Advocate of the Year Award at the Asian Business, Orange County's Awards, and Virtual Gala. (December 3)

Metropolitan participated virtually in WaterStart Channels Connect webinar and made a presentation on the district's current pilot programs. (December 10)

Business Outreach staff member Bermudez-Bracy received the Mujeres Del Año 2020 award from the Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. (December 12)

HUMAN RESOURCES

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Partner with Metropolitan leadership to support learning, development, and adaptive workforce planning initiatives.

The Organizational Development and Training Unit oversaw the selection of 33 employees for the upcoming MWD Leadership Academy, an eight-month training program that helps participants develop self-awareness and core leadership competencies (thinking strategically, generating trust, and developing others).

This month, 321 Metropolitan employees attended other online classes including Situational Awareness, Developing Emotional Intelligence, Personal Security Awareness, Harassment Prevention for Managers, and Advanced Word.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online, e-learning content platform, was accessed for 88 classes including Enhancing Resilience, Essentials of Team Collaboration, Demonstrating Accountability as a Leader, and Icebreakers for Teams, Meetings, and Groups.

Objective #2 Seek diverse, high-quality talent, and establish partnerships to discover additional outreach opportunities that aid in staffing positions.

Recruitment successfully filled seven positions for the month of December. Recruitment continues conducting virtual interviews using Zoom. We have completed Zoom interviews for 104 positions since May.

During the month of December, the Human Resources Group worked to support and facilitate two meetings of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #1 Implement employee retention and engagement programs to ensure Metropolitan's investment in employees is supported.

The Human Resources Group Manager participated in the California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) Engagement Committee focused on partnering with other agencies on issues such as COVID response, outreach, retention, and engagement.

Objective #2 Ensure Metropolitan managers have foundational knowledge, on-going support to effectively manage employees, and the tools to prepare for a changing workforce.

HR has taken the lead in updating Metropolitan's COVID-19 Business Transition Plan, given new directions and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and CalOSHA. The Business Transition Team examined a wide range of legal, safety, health, and logistical issues associated with resuming normal business activities during different phases of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the uptick in COVID-19 cases throughout the Metropolitan service area, the Human Resources Group Manager continues to organize bi-weekly check-in meetings with all Group Managers focused on sharing the latest information on employee illness or potential exposure, issues raised by the bargaining units, and strategies for working through the complexities of the "stay at home" order.

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

HR CORE BUSINESS: 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 #1 Administer all HR services with efficiency and a focus on customer service excellence, consistency, and flexibility.

Staff conducted the fourth quarter meeting of the Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee to review 401(k) and 457(b) plan updates, investment changes, review communication campaigns, and the adopted plan changes for January 2021 in order to add two optional provisions from the SECURE Act that provide additional distribution options for active employees.

HR continues to work with employees regarding their leave rights and options under the new Family First Coronavirus Response Act and have processed 180 leave requests to date under the temporary Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and Extended Family Medical Leave Expansion Act.

HR CORE BUSINESS: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations

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

Objective #1 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.

In December, seven new workers' compensation claims were received and eleven were resolved. Four employees remain off work because of an industrial injury or illness.

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

- Submitted seven new claims to Metropolitan's Workers' Compensation Claim Administrator
- Closed eleven Workers' Compensation Claim Files
- Currently four employees remain off work because of industrial injury or illness
- Covid Task Team addressed twenty-three Covid-related issues.
- Addressed two Accommodation issues.

HR Metrics	June 2020	December 2020	Prior Month November
Headcount			
Regular Employees	1,799	1,810	1,805
Temporary Employees	29	27	24
Interns	9	4	3
Recurrents	21	20	20
Annuitants	17	14	14

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

	December 2020	November 2020
Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	117	121
Number of New Staffing Requisitions	3	17
	December 2020	November 2020
Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress	11	10
Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits	2	1
Number of New Job Audit Requests	3	1

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 19/20 Totals</u>	<u>December 2020</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	127	2	28
Temporary Employees	29	6	15
Interns	18	1	2
Internal Promotions	91	3	38
Management Requested Promotions	109	5	57
Retirements/Separations (regular employees)	124	2	28
Employee Requested Transfers	15	2	12

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

OBJECTIVE #1 Strengthen Metropolitan’s cybersecurity capabilities by deploying new and emerging technologies, and implementing enhanced security countermeasures

Continued to implement Cybersecurity projects and initiatives to improve Metropolitan’s security posture and collaborate with stakeholders to further enhance network security capabilities for Metropolitan’s computing environments.

- Monitored ongoing federal, state, and local cybersecurity legislation applicable to Metropolitan to drive tactical and strategic decision-making and investments.
- Completed testing of a new network anti-malware software. The IT cybersecurity team began rolling out enterprise-wide the new end-point-protection tool for Metropolitan.
- Continued upgrade to Windows 10 to maintain currency of PC operating system and enhance security capabilities within Metropolitan’s computing environment and mitigate cybersecurity risk and vulnerabilities.
- Partnered with business groups and worked behind the scenes to perform ongoing cyber improvements and software upgrades to mitigate evolving security risks to Metropolitan’s business networks and applications.
- Provided cybersecurity requirements for new capital projects within the Capital Investment Plan to ensure compliance with Metropolitan standards.
- Continued multi-factor authentication testing and deployment planning. Once fully implemented, the multi-factor authentication tool will provide an additional layer of security protection for Metropolitan.
- Provided ongoing cybersecurity monitoring and developed proactive countermeasures to protect IT infrastructure, data, and electronic assets.

OBJECTIVE #2 Manage Information Technology Projects within the Capital Investment Plan to ensure reliability of IT Systems and Infrastructure.

- Water Information System (WINS) Upgrade—The current system is a ten-year-old custom application using older technology which needs to be updated. The WINS team partnered with stakeholders from across the enterprise (CFO, WSO, SCADA, and IT) to collect and review detailed WINS business functionality as part of requirements gathering for the development of an RFP. During the period, requirements were completed, and preparations are underway with the contracting team for the issuance of a competitive RFP.
- Budget System Replacement Project—IT continued work sessions with stakeholders to gather design and integration requirements. The project is in the design phase and is scheduled to complete by June 2021 to support the development of the next biennial budget.
- Continued to evaluate upgrade strategies for older Windows servers to better support Metropolitan’s business and operational applications.
- Maximo Upgrade—The Maximo system is currently in the final preparations for deployment. End user training is underway as IT continues to partner with WSO on deployment planning, currently scheduled for the first quarter of 2021.
- Continued with the design and construction phase as part of the Desert Microwave and Two-Way Radio projects to replace end-of-life equipment and provide sufficient capacity and reliability to Metropolitan’s communications networks. Staff continued to work on requirements and specifications in preparation for posting an RFP to seek competitive bids to assist with upgrading the microwave and two-way radio system.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

OBJECTIVE #3 Modernize Operational Technology and Control System Upgrades as part of the Capital Investment Plan.

- Automated Meter Reading (AMR) Upgrade—The AMR project will address equipment obsolescence as the current communication equipment used in the system is approaching end-of-life. During the period, staff continued with the study phase of the project, as part of evaluating design alternatives and technologies.

OBJECTIVE #4 Improve Metropolitan’s IT Disaster Recovery and Response Capability

- Conducted ongoing IT disaster planning for future recovery exercises as part of validating Metropolitan’s recovery capabilities in the event of a disaster.
- Initiated evaluation of enterprise-wide backup requirements as part of replacing end-of-life and obsoleting technology to support cloud computing and enhancing Metropolitan’s resiliency.

OBJECTIVE #5 Provide leadership, planning, and solutions in support of Metropolitan’s Strategic Priorities.

- As part of the strategic priority to enhance Metropolitan’s resiliency, IT staff continued efforts to relocate Metropolitan’s data centers to improve reliability and performance and enhance operational uptime of data center processing.
 - Based on the Board’s authorization and the completion of negotiation for the secondary site, staff continued detailed planning and updating the project schedule based on equipment lead time to ensure a seamless migration of hardware, software, and systems.
 - During this period, staff continued receiving shipments of equipment for the secondary site. In addition, staff began to prepare the hardware for upcoming deployment to the new facility as well as acquiring communication services needed to establish connectivity among the data centers and Metropolitan facilities.



Metropolitan’s Existing Data Center

- As part of Metropolitan’s data center modernization effort, IT also completed the selection for the primary site as preparations continue for the January Board meeting to seek authority and approval to proceed with the acquisition of hardware for the new primary datacenter.
- IT resources continued to work through internal and external logistical challenges associated with COVID-19 to relocate Metropolitan’s data centers. In addition, significant detailed planning and preparatory work of on-premise systems are being made in advance of the upcoming physical moves.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

OBJECTIVE #6 Deploy solutions to improve operations, promote collaboration, and provide business value.

Continued the Personal Computer Replacement Project (PCRP) by deploying new laptops and workstations in a phased approach. Replacement of aging PCs and related equipment will provide Metropolitan employees with computers that have greater processing speed and disc space and improved reliability as the existing PCs have reached end-of-life.

- Continued deployment of PCs while following COVID-19 safety protocols.
- To date, approximately 1277 units have been deployed.
- With the substantial completion of deployment efforts at Headquarters, the PCRP team has shifted operations to the Weymouth Facility (La Verne) to continue deployment efforts at Weymouth and other field locations.



PCRP at the Weymouth Facility

- In an effort to upgrade to Windows 10 to maintain currency of PC operating systems and enhance security capabilities within Metropolitan's computing environment, IT continued to focus resources to engage with selected business users on this high-priority effort to replace legacy PCs with the Windows 7 operating system, which is at end-of-life.

OBJECTIVE #7 Enhance workforce productivity by simplifying access to business information and deploy technologies to support our customers in making business decisions.

- **Service Desk Application**—The project team continued design workshops as part of phase one of the IT Service Management (ITSM) Project. The goal of this project is to deploy an enterprise ITSM system for use by the IT Service Desk Team to manage service ticket requests, generated by business users across Metropolitan. Once fully implemented, the new service desk software will centralize and modernize service management within the Information Technology Group. The service desk tool will provide a self-service portal for work requests and will improve operational reporting capabilities.
- IT Staff worked with the consultant on final configurations and testing which is proceeding according to plan. The next step will be to complete user-acceptance-testing. Once the system has been tested and approved for production, notifications will be issued in preparation for Phase One deployment in the January 2021 timeframe.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

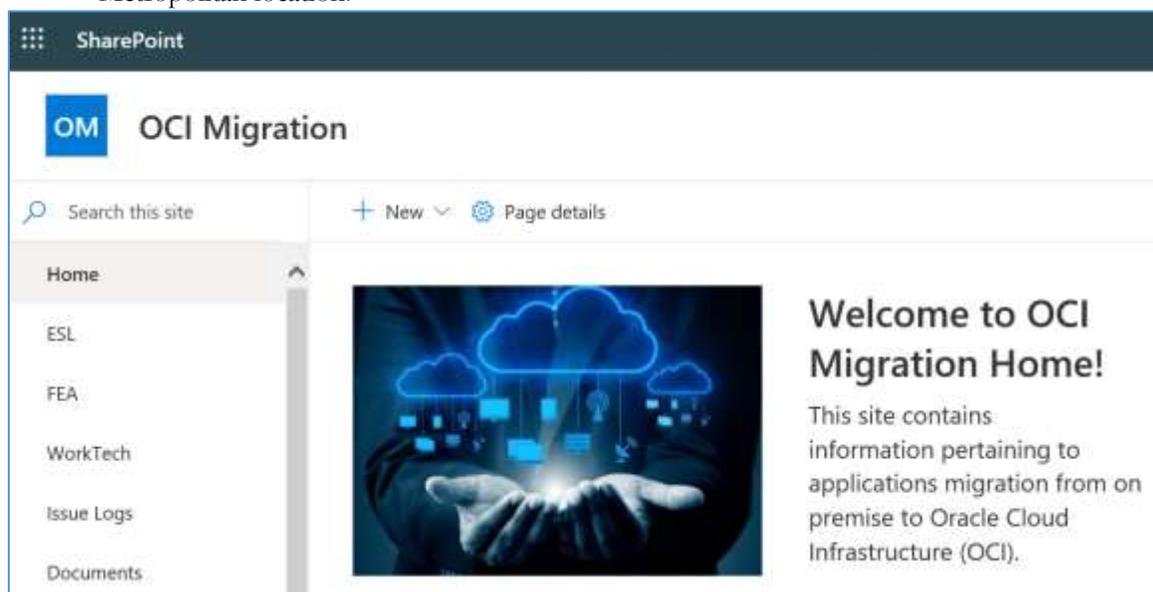
OBJECTIVE #2 Manage Information Technology Projects within the Capital Investment Plan to ensure sustainability of IT Systems and Infrastructure.

- IT resources worked to replace the end-of-life Incident Reporting Tool used for compliance tracking by Risk Management, Workers Compensation, Safety and Regulatory Services, and Water System Operations. The project team has completed the business requirements document, and it is currently circulating for review and approval by the project sponsor and key stakeholders, as part of the work within the project design phase.
- Continued efforts to upgrade the Fuel Management System that enables management controls over fuel inventories, dispensing, and security to ensure operability, vendor support, and system reliability. With the substantial completion of the RFP process, next steps include preparing for board approval to proceed with the next phase of this project. Board action is currently scheduled for first quarter of 2021.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

OBJECTIVE #4 Provide leadership, planning, and solutions in support of Metropolitan's Strategic Priorities.

- Maintained efforts to improve and expand the use of cloud services at Metropolitan. During the period, staff monitored and optimized the use of cloud services while planning for future migrations of virtual servers. In addition to enhancing operational resiliency and efficiency, another realized benefit is the ability to decommission legacy and end-of-life servers.
- Conducted ongoing monthly meetings to track Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) cloud migration initiatives. Once fully deployed, the migration of the selected applications will provide enhanced user experience, system reliability, and resiliency. Current migration work includes:
 - Electronic System Logs (ESL) is a Web application serving WSO users.
 - Facility and Equipment Availability (FEA) is a Web application that provides a tool for Metropolitan-internal users to input, update, and approve shutdown requests on facility or infrastructures at any Metropolitan location.



OCI Migration Portal

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

OBJECTIVE #6 Enhance workforce productivity by simplifying access to business information and deploy technologies to support our customers in business decisions.

- IT supported Payroll with the leave paydown testing and processing, which was completed in December.
- Partnered with Payroll and HR on software patching required for PeopleSoft Tax updates, which were placed into production in preparation for the new calendar year 2021.
- Completed customer requested enhancements and functionality (payroll processing). With the completion of development and programming, staff is currently performing user acceptance testing.
- Assisted WRM with Conservation Past Participation historical data validation, maintenance, and clean-up. The system is used to validate whether a customer has claimed any rebate in the prior years.
- Deployed to production a new native iOS WorkTech mobile application to support mobile time approval.
- Supported complex workflow requirements associated with conversion of EForms into the new system being implemented by the Administrative Services Section.
- Partnered with customers on new workflow tool—Power Automate. Microsoft recently announced that the classic workflow server would not work beyond November 2020; therefore, IT had to respond quickly to upgrade to the new workflow tool.
 - The Business Application Team reviewed all the 2010 workflows and created a dashboard with stakeholders and associated task lists. This dashboard was useful in keeping track of progress and checking off completed items. In total, 110 workflows were identified and categorized into complex, medium, and simple, which were then converted and tested with the users. Staff also provided end-user training on the new Power Automate workflows as part of the partnership. The work was successfully completed within a short timeframe.

REAL PROPERTY

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Provide right-of-way planning, valuation, and real property acquisition support services for the protection and reliability of existing infrastructure.

An entry permit was obtained from a private property owner to install and replace drainage improvements adjacent to the Garvey Reservoir in the city of Monterey Park, in support of the Garvey Reservoir Drainage and Erosion Improvements Project. The drainage improvement work is being implemented in partnership with the City to improve and increase property slope drainage from Garvey Reservoir.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #1 Partner with academia, current agriculture tenants and subject matter experts to develop and implement new and progressive farm practices that are in line with Metropolitan's sustainability and water conservation objectives.

Metropolitan has entered into a consultant services agreement with California State University, Chico (Chico) for a five-year research program to increase Metropolitan's knowledge of regenerative agriculture and carbon sequestration opportunities in the Palo Verde valley. The scope of work entails identifying three fallow fields for scientific study of regenerative fallowing methods as compared with current fallowing practices. The study will be captured in an annual summary report as a key deliverable to Metropolitan.

Objective #2 Provide valuation, land management, and real property disposition support services for the maximum return or use of Metropolitan-owned land and facilities.

A license amendment was executed with Shell Oil extending the lease term through November 2025 for the premises at the Venice Pressure Control Structure in West Los Angeles. The amendment also included new rent and insurance terms.

An existing lease with Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District has been amended, extending the term through August 31, 2021. The lease allows Valley-Wide to provide recreational amenities and activities at Diamond Valley Lake.

The 2020 Statement of the Change of Boundaries was completed and transmitted to the State Board of Equalization before the December 1 statutory deadline. Each Office of the Assessor in the six counties Metropolitan serves was copied to assist in the levying of Metropolitan's ad valorem tax and standby charges. This report is for boundary changes that occurred during fiscal year 2019/20, in which Metropolitan completed three annexations, increasing our service area 20.28 acres and increasing the total service area to 5,181 square miles.

Objective #3 Efficiently maintain and operate assets not related to the treatment and distribution of water.

Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) was stocked with an additional 3500 pounds of trout. This additional stocking included varieties of rainbow and lighting trout to entice anglers to continue to come out and safely enjoy the fall fishing events at DVL. The night fishing tournaments in December are sponsored by American Bass and National Bass West.

REAL PROPERTY *continued*



Diamond Valley Lake Trout Restocking

Staff completed refurbishment of a Union Station Headquarters courtyard monument honoring the Gabrielino Mission Indians who inhabited the area where Union Station Headquarters is now located in Los Angeles. The monument received a new brass plaque and power wash. A new light will be installed to illuminate the monument in the evenings.



Before-and-after pictures of USHQ monument

REAL PROPERTY *continued*

Objective #4 District Housing Maintenance and Management.

Completion of a District Housing fencing project that included the installation of fencing for 20 residences throughout the four villages. The fencing was installed for the purpose of safeguarding pets and children from wildlife and vehicular traffic.

SECURITY/CAO

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Develop and Refine Security's Strategic Plan

Metropolitan's Security Management Unit staff took advantage of free online chemical security training recently provided through the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).



Chemical security training provided by CISA

Objective #2 Improve Security and Emergency Response

With the recent alarming spike of COVID-19 cases nationwide, Metropolitan took immediate proactive steps to implement new safety measures for employees engaged in shutdown work in the field. Over a five-day period, the SMU worked collaboratively with Metropolitan's bargaining units, Environment Health and Safety (EHS), Water System Operations (WSO), Legal, Conveyance and Distribution (C&D), Ops Safety, Security, and our current contract guard force provider (Securitas) to quickly provide temperature checking stations and health protocols at every job site location. This procedure will be implemented for future shutdowns until further notice.



Temperature-checking stations and other safety measures implemented

Objective #3 Improve Employee Readiness for All Hazards Emergencies

Metropolitan's Security Management Unit (SMU) hosted a guest online speaker to discuss the exploding epidemic of homelessness within Southern California centering on Los Angeles County, which has the largest homeless population in the United States. Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Senior Lead Officer Deon Joseph, known as the "Angel Cop of Skid Row," has spent nearly two decades exclusively in the Skid Row area as a police officer working and caring for crime victims in the direst of circumstances and environments. His precinct, Central Division, also provides service calls to the Union Station Headquarters building. An engaging and charismatic speaker, Officer Joseph vividly described the various complex reasons for homelessness, the four primary demographics within Skid Row's population, do's and don'ts

SECURITY/CAO *continued*

when encountering homeless persons, impacts of recent legislative crime bills, and other topics of interest that affect our local communities and Metropolitan's service areas.



LAPD's Officer Deon Joseph, known as the "Angel Cop of Skid Row"

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #4 Improve succession planning and staff development

Staff participated in two virtual conveyance workshops hosted by the California Water Commission (CWC). The input received at the two initial workshops will guide CWC's white paper on the essential criteria for resilience and help assess a potential state role in financing conveyance projects that could help meet needs in a changing climate.

Objective #5 Ensure reliable State Water Project (SWP).

Staff worked with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), and Desert Water Agency (DWA) on the Lake Perris Seepage Project financial agreement. This project is currently in its design phase. Once constructed, the Lake Perris Seepage project will provide Metropolitan, CVWD, and DWA with an estimated additional 7,500 acre-feet per year of supply water that is currently lost from the SWP system.

Staff chaired two State Water Contractors Water Operations Committee meetings. DWR staff presented several topics, including a 2021 climate outlook, 2021 allocation studies, and the new SWP water management amendment.

Staff received and reviewed the annual audit of the SWP contract statement of charges. The latest audit report made nine new findings with a net value of \$473,000. Six findings from prior audits were resolved, and 56 issues remain outstanding. The audit report is available electronically upon request.

Objective #6 Ensure access to sufficient water supplies to operate a full Colorado River Aqueduct in times of drought.

Staff submitted Metropolitan's Final 2020 Municipal and Industrial Water Conservation Plan (M&I Plan) to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The M&I Plan summarizes Metropolitan's water supplies, water conservation outreach efforts, and water conservation measures.

Staff recently attended two stakeholder webinars focusing on the Long-Range Scenario Modeling of the Colorado River Basin Project. Arizona State University (ASU), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), jointly funded this research project. The Project will develop modeled hydrologic scenarios that reflect long-term climate change conditions in the Colorado River Basin (CRB).

Staff attended a webinar hosted by USBR on Colorado River system modeling. USBR presented an updated schedule of Upper Colorado River Basin demands to be integrated into the January 2021 iterations of USBR's Colorado River forecasting models, including their 24-month study and the CRSS. This new schedule incorporates the most recent 2016 demand projection data available from the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) and will supersede the 2007 version.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #2 Complete the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

Staff continues with its efforts to develop Metropolitan’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). As part of the continued coordination with member agencies and other appropriate agencies within the service area, Metropolitan completed an UWMP Coordination Meeting on November 30 to present the contents of the draft plan, including the preliminary water service reliability assessments. Metropolitan is continuing to work with member agencies to refine estimates of local supply projections and demand information to better align Metropolitan’s UWMP data and assumptions with those of member agencies. Metropolitan is releasing the Final Draft 2020 UWMP to the member agencies in mid-December 2020 to assist with their plan preparations. Metropolitan will consider member agency comments received by January 8, 2021, in developing the Public Review Draft 2020 UWMP.

Objective #4 Manage existing and develop new regional water management programs to maintain water supply reliability in the face of increasing water supply volatility.

On December 7, Metropolitan held its annual public hearing to review its progress in achieving cost-effective conservation, water recycling, and groundwater recharge. Metropolitan will incorporate comments from the public hearing and finalize the report to submit to the California State Legislature on February 1, 2021.

Objective #8 Implement Regional Conservation Program.

Metropolitan held a Water Efficient Landscape Certification Program (WELDCP) dual certification workshop series that allows participants to achieve certification as Qualified Water Efficient Landscapers and Certified Water Managers. Approximately 40 participants attended the workshop series and received the certifications.

The California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) held its annual Peer To Peer Reimagined virtual conference this month. CalWEP, a chapter of the national Alliance for Water Efficiency, seeks to maximize urban water efficiency and conservation throughout California by supporting and integrating innovative technologies and practices; encouraging effective public policies; advancing research, training, and public education; and building collaborative approaches and partnerships.



Caption: Peer to Peer Reimagined, A Virtual Event /Peer to Peer Reimagined Event Sponsors

Staff also participated in one of the panel discussions in the Peer to Peer conference titled, “Water and Energy Utilities Join Together for Conservation in Low Income Households.” The panel discussion focused on several agencies’ experience and joint effort under a California Public Utilities Commission directive for all investor-owned utilities, such as Pacific Gas and Electric and SoCal Gas, to develop collaborative programs with large water wholesalers and retailers that will assist in water conservation and other measures that have inherent embedded energy savings.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

Objective #2 Collaborate with member agencies, water agencies and associations, and provide leadership for policy development, advocacy, outreach and education.

Staff participated in CalDesal's annual Board meeting and elected a new slate of leaders for the organization. Mark Donovan of the consulting firm GHD was elected Board Chair, with Marice DePasquale of Mesa Water District elected to the Vice Chair position.

Objective #4 Promote Metropolitan's technical capabilities and innovation efforts to advance the understanding of water resources management.

Staff participated in an innovation workshop with representatives from Mekorot, Israel's national water carrier. The workshop included a focused presentation on the lessons learned from Metropolitan's portfolio planning and Water Surplus and Drought Management approach.

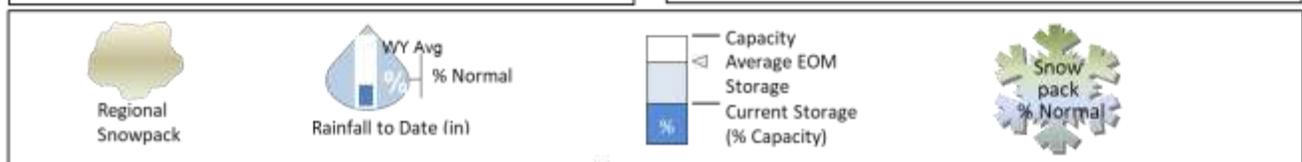
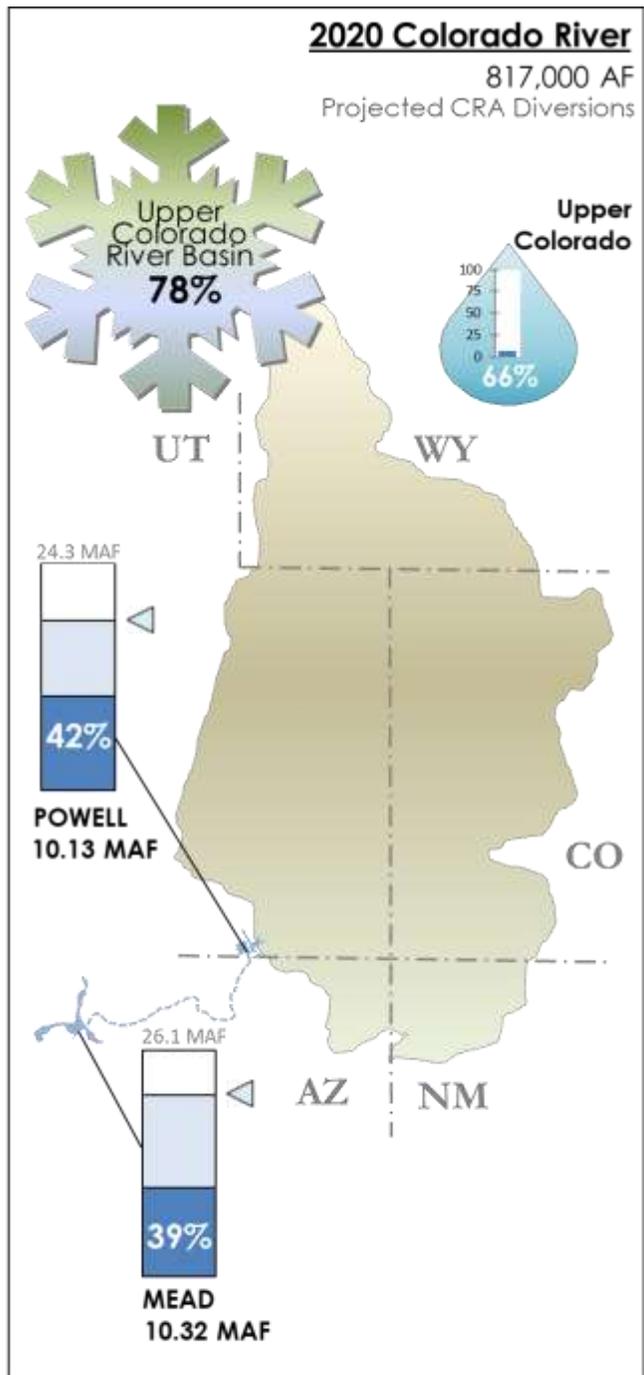
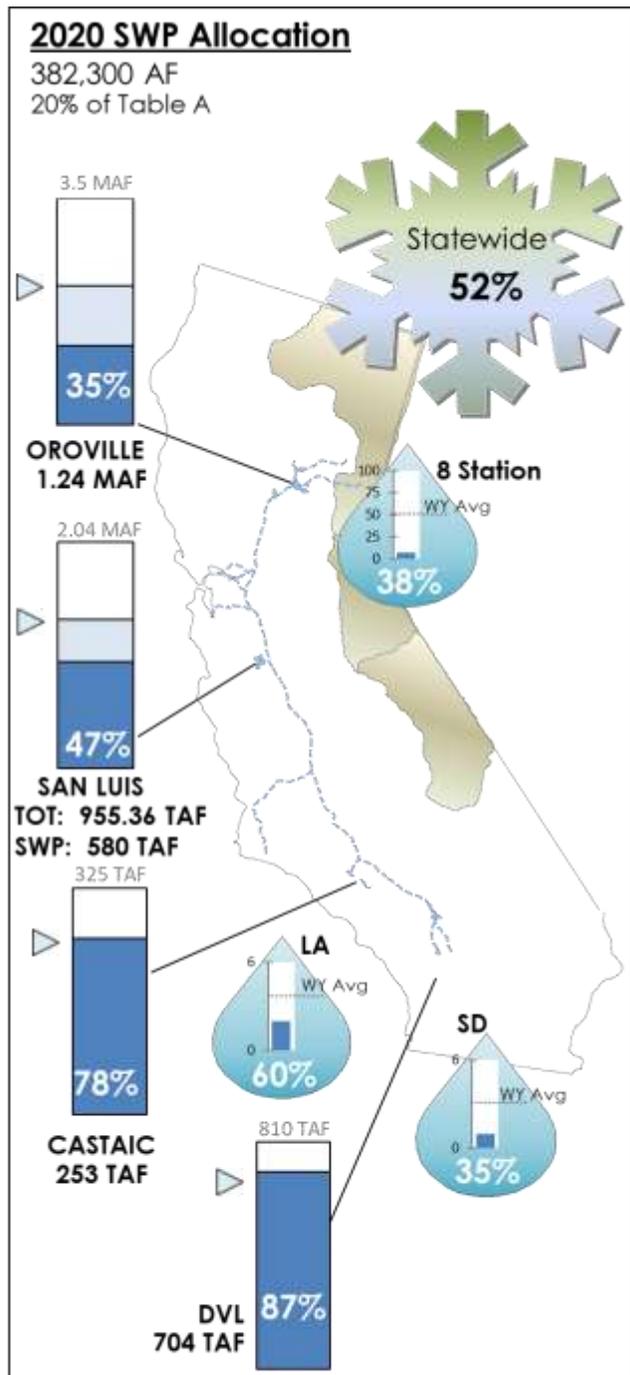
The 2020 Innovative Conservation Program application period closed on December 8, and Metropolitan received 27 project proposals from various businesses, universities, organizations, and municipalities. Staff will review applications over the next month and will issue a total of up to \$275,000 in grants to support projects which advance water efficient technologies and management strategies.

Objective #5 Position Metropolitan as a leader in Open Water Data.

The California Water Data Consortium has selected inaugural co-chairs for their Technical Working Group and Data Users Working Group. Each working group will be chaired by one state and one non-state representative.

The Data Users Working Group will be chaired by Mahesh Guatam (DWR) and Sadie Gill (FlowWest) and will focus on data users' needs and priorities across a variety of sectors and interest groups. The Technical Working Group is chaired by Rafael Maestu (SWRCB) and Rich Pauloo (Larry Walker Associates), and will identify, develop, and recommend the functional and technical data requirements to support open water data, and support awareness and adoption of best practices by data providers.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*



As of December 31, 2020

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Provide Reliable Water Deliveries.

Metropolitan delivered approximately 121,000 acre-feet (AF) of water to member agencies in December. Deliveries averaged approximately 3,903 AF per day in December, which was 97 AF per day lower than November's deliveries. Treated water deliveries for December totaled 57,265 AF, or 47 percent of total deliveries for the month. This was a decrease of about 315 AF from November's treated water deliveries. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) maintained a seven-pump flow, or 3,150 AF per day, for the majority of December. A total of 97,650 AF was pumped on the CRA for the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,411 AF per day, totaling about 43,730 AF for the month. The target SWP blends remained at zero percent for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

Objective #2 Ensure Water Quality Compliance, Worker Safety, and Environmental Protection.

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during November 2020.

On December 17, staff submitted a comment letter to the State Water Resource Control Board on its Revised Total Coliform Rule. The objective of this rule is to strengthen public health protection by ensuring distribution system integrity and monitoring for the presence of microbial contamination. It establishes a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for *Escherichia coli* for protection against potential fecal contamination of drinking water and establishes public notification requirements and health effects language for public water systems that experience a total coliform or *E. coli* assessment or corrective action violation or both. The revised rule has more stringent monitoring and reporting requirements than current regulations. Metropolitan's comments are intended to clarify provisions within the rule and help in its implementation.

Staff implemented a pilot temperature-screening protocol at the Rainbow Tunnel and Rialto Feeder shutdowns. Currently, the temperature screening is voluntary for employees and mandatory for all contractors and visitors. These pilots will help establish screening protocols that are planned to be part of Metropolitan's COVID-19 prevention practices at shutdowns and facilities.



Contract security staff using a handheld infrared thermometer for temperature screening during the Rialto Feeder shutdown

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

On December 3, staff submitted waste recycling forms for the Diamond Valley Lake facility to the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources in compliance with new recycling regulations.

On December 4, staff submitted an emergency use variance petition to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to obtain compliance relief from the annual 200-hour run-time permit limit for Pleasants Peak Emergency Propane Generator. With increased Southern California Edison power outages due to Public Safety Power Shutoffs and the Bond fire in Orange County, the emergency generator exceeded the 200-hour annual run-time limit. The SCAQMD Hearing Board conditionally approved the variance on December 9.

In response to increasing wildfire activity in recent years, staff published a revised Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the Jensen plant, which includes a new wildfire shelter-in-place procedure. The EAPs for the remaining Metropolitan facilities are also being updated to include these new procedures to ensure staff safety during wildfire events.

Staff published a new Safety Talk on COVID-19 Shutdown Safety and a template COVID-19 Prevention Plan for Shutdowns. Both are posted on the COVID-19 and SRS IntraMet webpages. The Safety Talk provides general guidance on COVID-19 safety measures during shutdowns. The template prevention plan provides detailed information on safety measures and controls during shutdowns and will be modified by shutdown managers for developing shutdown-specific prevention plans.

MWD Safety Talk

**Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for
COVID-19 Prevention during Shutdowns**



Shutdowns are critical and necessary to maintain and refurbish infrastructure and systems. The work involved during shutdowns can be challenging for COVID-19 prevention because it involves a concentrated effort of many individuals belonging to different micro-teams working together, and at times in confined or enclosed spaces where physical distancing may not be feasible.

Because of this, it is of the utmost importance that COVID-19 preventative measures be in place and managers review these measures with their employees. COVID-19 preventative measures outlined in this safety talk will be updated as needed as new guidance develops from local, state, and federal authorities.

Shutdown Manager - Before Shutdown

- Review the **Shutdown COVID-19 Prevention Plan** with all employees participating in the shutdown.
- Ensure employees complete the **Voluntary Dust Mask Respirator Use Record E-Form #2565** so that they are able to use the voluntary N95/P100/KN95 respirators during the shutdown.
- Order adequate **COVID-related supplies**, such as:
 - Hand sanitizers
 - Disinfectant wipes, spray, or solutions
 - Towels/Cloth
 - Cloth/Surgical masks
 - Voluntary N95/P100/KN95 respirators
 - Face shields/safety glasses with side shields
 - Disposable (latex/nitrile) gloves
 - Temperature checking devices
- Order adequate **portable restrooms ("porta-potties")** with handwashing facility for employee use.
 - Service each porta-potty frequently to ensure adequate supply of water, soap and paper towels.

New COVID-19 Prevention Safety Talk for shutdowns

Knowing operational conditions before entering ozone process areas is important for staff when responding to alarms or emergencies. Critical operational information for the Mills plant is now displayed on a new human machine interface (HMI) display installed in the ozone lobby. The purpose of this safety HMI is to give responders a quick summary of current alarm conditions and ambient leak detection levels. These are critical life-safety alarms for conditions that can reach dangerous levels. This real-time information will help responders make decisions regarding which PPE to wear and what standard operating procedure may be required before entering an area where a leak is detected.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



HMI overview screen showing real-time operating levels at the Mills plant

Objective #3 Actively Engage in Capital Project Planning and Execution.

Staff continued refurbishment of the seven large sleeve valves that augment the release of water from DVL to the southern portions of Metropolitan's service area. These repairs are included in the approved Capital Investment Plan (CIP) and are necessary because of microbiological induced corrosion (MIC) that affects the operation of the valves.



Upper portion of valve assembly with previous coatings removed and exposing loss of metal (void)

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff applying improved coating material in interior of sleeve valve assembly



Exterior view of repairs and coating of sleeve valve assembly

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff installed flow meter transducers on the Eagle Mountain pumping plant's delivery lines. These flow meters will allow staff to accurately balance flows across the CRA. Each pumping plant along the CRA has three 10-foot-diameter delivery lines heading up the mountain, adjacent to the plants that require balancing of flows for reliable operations.



Staff installing flow meters on delivery lines at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

Objective #4 Optimize Maintenance.

From December 6 to 15, a shutdown of San Diego Pipelines 1 and 2 was conducted at the request of the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) to allow SDCWA staff to complete repairs on their portion of the pipelines. Metropolitan staff used this opportunity to perform an inspection of the Rainbow Tunnel, including performing three-dimensional imaging, which will be used to log the condition of the pipe and tunnels and will aid in planning future lining repair work.



Calcium formation at pipe joint in the Rainbow Tunnel

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

The Rialto Feeder was removed from service from December 7 to 18. The planned outage allowed the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to perform maintenance and repairs on its large valves and facilitated Metropolitan's electromagnetic and visual inspection on approximately 21 miles of prestressed concrete cylinder pipe. Staff relined a 30-foot section of pipe using an NSF-approved epoxy to replace a section of failed mortar, inspected several large isolation valves, and replaced smaller aging valves at various locations including several critical valves at blow-off/dewatering locations.



Staff performing internal inspection of the Rialto Feeder

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff lowering new valve at a blowoff structure during the Rialto Feeder shutdown



Staff replacing a valve at a blowoff structure during the Rialto Feeder shutdown



Staff installing a pipeline access flange with attached vacuum air release assembly at Live Oak Reservoir during the Rialto Feeder shutdown

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff quickly responded to instrumentation that registered a possible electrical issue at the Eagle Mountain pumping plant. After reviewing electrical schematic drawings and the plant's wiring, staff located and replaced a conductor that was potentially causing the fault. Repairs were made without disruptions to plant operations or aqueduct flow.



Staff troubleshooting electrical issue at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

Staff replaced existing fluorescent lights with LED lighting at the Eagle Mountain pumping plant. LED lighting is more energy-efficient than fluorescent lighting and provides higher light output, improving operational and safety conditions.



Staff installing LED lighting at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

The CRA has been in service for nearly 80 years and many of the systems are experiencing periodic failures. The copper thrust bearing cooling water return piping on one of the pump units developed a “pinhole” leak at Eagle Mountain pumping plant. Though copper is a long-lasting material, the pipe wall had worn thin over the years because of corrosion. Staff repaired the leak, thereby ensuring reliable operation of the main pump unit.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff repairing a leak in the cooling water system at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

An electrical fault occurred on a conductor in the 6.9 kV switch house at Gene pumping plant because of insulation failure. Over time, the conductor's cloth insulation had degraded resulting in an electrical fault. Staff performed troubleshooting, identified and replaced the failed conductor, and tested the repair to ensure that the fault was resolved.



Eighty-year-old conductors with cloth insulation as part of the CRA electrical system

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Communication was out of service for a short time because fiber optic cables were being damaged by rodent activity at the Gene pumping plant. Staff repaired the fiber optic cables by fusing in new splices that restored communications. Additionally, measures were taken to mitigate the potential for future damage by rodents.



Staff repairing fiber optic communication cables at Gene pumping plant

Staff restored the fill over a section of the CRA that was exposed by erosion. The work temporarily protects the exposed section of the CRA conduit during the upcoming rainy season. A permanent repair is planned after the required environmental permits are received.



Staff made temporary repairs to erosion above a section of the CRA

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

To prevent flooding caused by rain and high tide from Newport Bay, staff began restoration of the access road to the blow-off structure on the Orange County Feeder and will raise the structure's elevation. Phase 1 work includes re-grading the existing access road, reinforcing crossings where the road intersects the drainage channel, and replacing corroded piping. During Phase 2, staff will raise the blow-off structure above flood elevation during a scheduled shutdown of the feeder in 2021.



Staff restoring the access road at Newport Bay along the Orange County Feeder



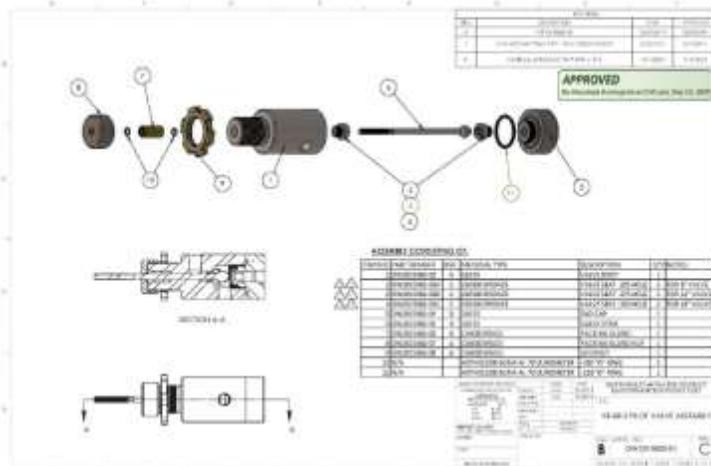
Staff installed concrete revetment mats on access road near Newport Bay along the Orange County Feeder

The La Verne Shops manufactured four pilot valve assemblies that have undergone a series of design revisions over the last 32 years. Staff revised the design to allow for a pilot valve that could be used for both pressure control and pressure regulation within Metropolitan's distribution system. Staff pressure-tested the pilot valves to pass a leakage test for a 300-lb valve.



The La Verne Shops manufactured a valve body (left) and bronze valve seats (right) for new pilot valve assemblies used in Metropolitan's distribution system

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff-prepared assembly drawing of the pilot valves

Staff is performing annual preventive maintenance this month at the solids handling facility at the Weymouth plant. Annually, the facility is shut down for staff to safely de-energize the electrical control cabinets in order to verify the reliability of the facility's equipment. Various electrical tests are also conducted to ensure continued integrity and functionality of control circuits and motorized equipment for processing solids removed from the treatment process.



Staff performing motor insulation tests at the Weymouth plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff testing control wiring at the Weymouth plant

Objective #5 Manage the Power System.

The US Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Interior, and the Department of Energy have developed a Memorandum of Understanding and draft Action Plan to collaborate and leverage their collective resources and efforts to help position Federal hydropower to meet the nation's need for reliable and affordable renewable energy. The Action Plan will identify research and development opportunities to address emerging hydropower issues and enhance technology research, development, and demonstration in five topic areas: (1) asset management, (2) value of hydropower, (3) workforce, (4) water supply reliability, and (5) environmental outcomes. Metropolitan staff will participate with the American Public Power Association in the development of the Action Plan.

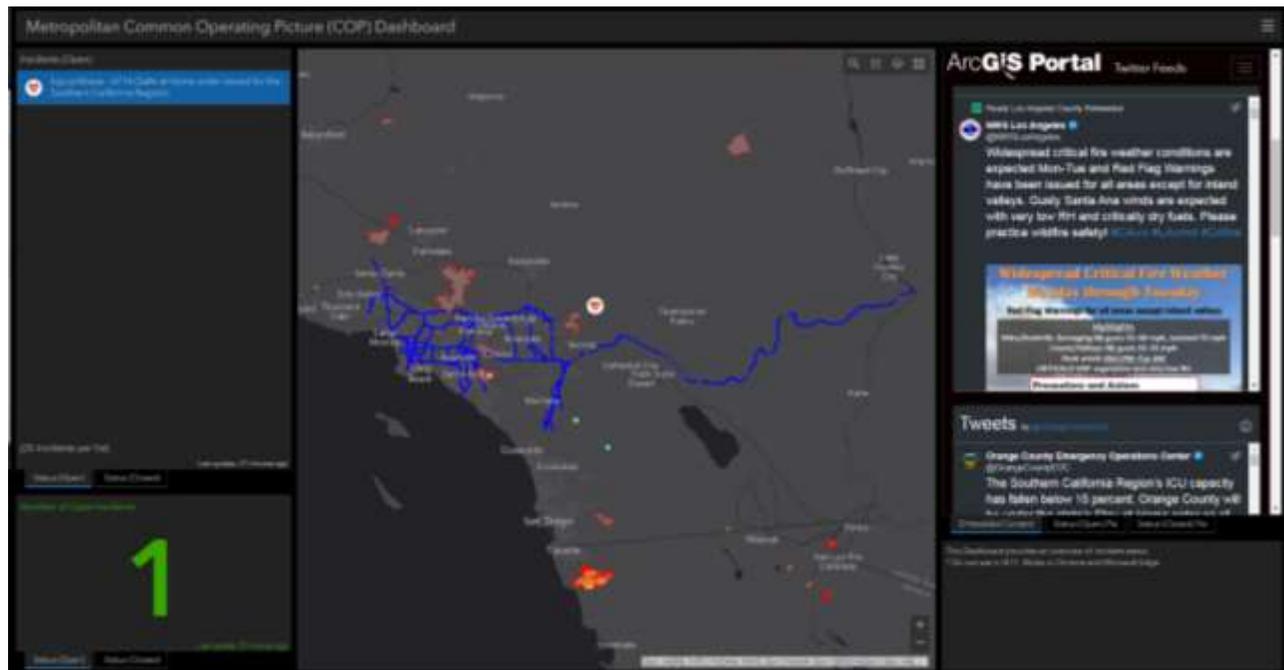
On December 8, Metropolitan provided oral comments to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) regarding revisions to their Business Practice Manual that would impose requirements on Metropolitan's interruptible load program for the pumps at Gene and Intake along the CRA. Metropolitan currently receives capacity credit for the ability to interrupt Gene and Intake pumps for short periods based on available reservoir capacity at Gene Wash and Copper Basin. The CAISO is pursuing measures to require interruptible load programs participate in the day-ahead energy market as a supply resource and be dispatched under high demand conditions. Metropolitan's comments support continued use of current procedures under which Metropolitan would provide pump interruption based on water system needs. Staff will participate in the stakeholder effort to evaluate options to improve the operability of interruptible load in meeting CAISO peak load requirements.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Objective #6 Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Duty Officers in Metropolitan’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) rotate on-call shifts to provide 24-hour emergency coverage when the EOC is not activated. During the last month, the Duty Officers monitored and responded to multiple brushfires in Orange and Riverside Counties, Public Safety Power Shutoffs by local power utilities, and a small earthquake. The Duty Officers have also been closely monitoring COVID-19 activity in Southern California, including state and county public health orders.

GIS and Emergency Management staff have created a “Common Operating Picture” map and “Dashboard” to allow Emergency Management staff and EOC Duty Officers to share real-time regional incidents, weather alerts (from the National Weather Service), earthquakes (from the US Geological Survey), wildfire thermal satellite imagery, etc.—all overlaid on a map of Metropolitan’s distribution system. The Dashboard also shows current emergency-related Twitter feeds and current Metropolitan-related events on one screen.



A snapshot of the Common Operating Picture dashboard

Objective #7 Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution.

The State Project Water (SPW) target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants was zero percent in December 2020. The SPW target entering Lake Skinner was zero percent in December 2020.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from October 2019 through September 2020 for Metropolitan's treatment plants that can receive a blend of SPW and CRA water were 506, 505, and 424 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Staff installed an automatic transfer switch for sodium hypochlorite feed pumps at the Diemer plant. These pumps are critical for emergency disinfection during unexpected ozone outages, which are normally caused by power loss events.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff installing an automatic transfer switch for emergency backup disinfection at the Diemer plant

Earlier this year, the actuator for the Diemer finished water reservoir bypass gate failed and was removed for repairs. A temporary actuator was installed while the original actuator was refurbished in-house. Staff removed the temporary actuator and gearbox and replaced it with the newly refurbished reservoir bypass gate actuator. Staff tested the functionality of the new actuator, and the reservoir bypass gate operation has been restored.



Newly refurbished reservoir bypass gate actuator at the Diemer plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff installing the refurbished bypass gate actuator at the Diemer plant

The Jensen plant has 40 filters that are equipped with on-line turbidimeters to ensure that effluent water quality regulatory parameters are met. These turbidimeters were installed between 10 and 20 years ago. With spare parts no longer available, they require a significant amount of maintenance to keep operational. This past month, staff installed new turbidimeters for each of the filters. These new turbidimeters are more reliable, have lower maintenance costs and use a simpler calibration method. The cost saving from this improvement is estimated at \$120,000 annually. At a project cost of \$392,000, this project will have a payback period of less than four years.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



New turbidimeters installed at the Jensen plant

As part of Metropolitan's preventive maintenance program, Weymouth plant staff found a valve that was difficult to operate on a chlorine neutralization scrubber tank. The maintenance technicians donned the required personal protective equipment to replace the valve and ensure reliable operation.



Staff wearing appropriate PPE and replacing a valve on a chlorine neutralization scrubber system at the Weymouth plant

Staff at the Skinner plant cleaned the V-notch launder weirs and troughs at the effluent of the sedimentation basins. Staff used the appropriate safety equipment that was cleaned and disinfected to enter the troughs and clean the launders of algae that grows in certain weather conditions. Removing the algae from the launders improves their performance to provide even water distribution from the top layer of the sedimentation basins before that water enters the filters.



Staff cleaning the V-notch launder weirs in an idle sedimentation basin at the Skinner plant

Staff removed the ozone power supply unit (PSU) cooling water components to clean the water passages at the Skinner plant. This work was completed to ensure the electronic components of the PSU maintain the proper temperature to lengthen the service life of the equipment. Along with this work, the capacitors in the PSU were tested and replaced as necessary. The Skinner PSUs and associated ozone generators continue to operate above the efficiency curve established by the equipment manufacturer.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff performing preventive maintenance on an ozone generator PSU at the Skinner plant

The two existing fluorosilicic acid (FSA) tanks located at the Jensen plant have reached the end of their life cycle and are in the process of being replaced. The FSA tanks are an essential part of the water treatment system and require removal in two phases. The scope of work includes retrofitting the current feed system, installing new piping and instrumentation, and starting up and commissioning the system. Staff completed the tie-in for the first tank and installation of the second tank. The project is scheduled to be completed in February 2021.



Staff welding piping (left) for FSA tanks and tanks after installation (right) at the Jensen plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Objective #8 Manage Water Reserves.

State Water Project imports into the service area in December accounted for about 36 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. Storage at Diamond Valley Lake was at 702,200 AF, or 87 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 20 percent SWP allocation. Deliveries to the Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District exchange account continued this month to increase storage for future drought reliability. This action also allows the seven-pump flow on the CRA to continue, maintains appropriate storage levels in Lake Mathews for upcoming winter operations, and maintains additional put capacity to Lake Mead ICS storage to capture potential additional Colorado River supplies at the end of the year. Metropolitan's record high storage levels at the end of 2019 provided significant water supply reliability in 2020, under the low SWP allocation of 20 percent. On December 1, DWR announced a 10 percent SWP initial allocation for 2021.

Objective #11 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. Apprentices must complete eight periods of academic instruction, 7,280 hours of on-the-job training, and pass a Demonstrated Proficiency Assessment (DPA) before achieving journey-level status. This month, the Class of 2020 electricians and mechanics concluded their final period of instruction. Program staff began facilitating Demonstrated Proficiency Assessments and will continue to hold exams into 2021.



Class of 2020 Electrician completing the Demonstrated Proficiency Assessment

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff received training on new clamp-on, ultrasonic flow meters. These portable meters are temporarily used when the permanent flow meter fails, to verify the accuracy of the permanent meter or to perform testing when a flow meter is not available. The meters can be quickly installed to the outside of a pipe and provide accurate measurements until the permanent meter is repaired. The first part of the training was conducted online in a virtual classroom via Microsoft Teams. The required hands-on portion of the training used exposed pipes on the La Verne facility's domestic water system, while maintaining physical distancing and adhering to COVID-19 prevention protocols.



Virtual classroom equipment for portable flow meter training at the Weymouth plant



New portable flow meter in a protective case



Portable flow meter installed on a domestic water pipeline at the Weymouth plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Objective #13 Ensure Accurate Billing Infrastructure.

Staff completed an urgent leak repair of the service line piping at the OC-56 service connection on the Second Lower Feeder in the city of Placentia. The work included potholing to locate the leak and excavation to expose the 20-inch pipe, repair the leak, and restore the site to its original condition.



Staff excavating to repair service line piping at the OC-56 service connection



Staff excavated and installed shoring to expose the service line for repairs at the OC-56 service connection

The La Verne Shops manufactured a split packing follower for a conical plug valve that was placed in service in 1964 at service connection PM-21 on the Rialto Pipeline. During a routine inspection of the valve in spring of 2019, staff discovered that the packing was leaking, and to minimize the leakage, the existing packing follower was adjusted until a new packing follower was manufactured. Staff installed the split packing follower during a scheduled shutdown of the Rialto Pipeline.



The La Verne Shops manufactured a split packing follower for the PM-21 service connection

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #1 Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation.

On December 1, California's Office of Administrative Law approved Cal/OSHA's General Industry Safety Orders §3205 (Order) that addresses COVID-19 prevention in the workplace. The Order is effective immediately and will expire in six months unless re-adopted for up to two consecutive 90-day periods. Metropolitan already implements most of the Order's guidelines (e.g., having written site-specific COVID-19 plans, investigating and responding to COVID-19 cases, and notifying employees who might be exposed within one day, as well as physical distancing (where possible), mask-wearing, and routine disinfection of its facilities). Staff are still evaluating how best to implement the Order's other provisions into Metropolitan's COVID-19 site-specific plans.

On December 1, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted its Toxicity Provisions—a statewide program to add acute and chronic toxicity testing to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. According to the new rule, Metropolitan may need to implement toxicity testing under its Foothill Power Plant NPDES permit. However, staff worked collaboratively with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) to ensure that exemptions for drinking water agencies (e.g., operations and maintenance activities such as potable water discharges and aquatic weed/quagga mussel control applications) were included. Staff will continue to monitor the implementation of the Toxicity Provisions.

On December 10, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) held its first Working Group Meeting to amend Rules 1110.2, 1470, and 1472 to provide water agencies with more flexibility to operate emergency generators during PSPS events and for routine maintenance and testing. This rulemaking effort is in response to SB 1099 that was co-sponsored by Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and CMUA but didn't advance in 2020. During the meeting, staff expressed Metropolitan's concerns and issues regarding emergency generator operations to be considered in the rulemaking.

On December 10, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a draft guidance memo describing the EPA's proposed considerations for determining "functional equivalency" under the Clean Water Act. This memo was in response to a Supreme Court ruling in April 2020 (*County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund*) that found that a Clean Water Act permit is required for discharging pollutants to groundwater if it is the "functional equivalent" of a direct discharge of pollutants into navigable waters. Comments are due by January 11, 2021. Staff anticipate commenting on EPA's draft guidance memo.

Objective #3 Support the Regional Recycled Water Program

In December, staff continued testing, operations, and monitoring at the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center demonstration facility. Staff continued protozoa, virus, and indicator organism sampling and analyses to evaluate pathogen removal through the intentionally compromised membrane bioreactor (MBR). Staff also performed routine sample collection to demonstrate water quality performance through the treatment process, as well as overall treatment system performance monitoring. Staff conducted a fourth workshop with the Independent Science Advisory Panel on December 9, reviewing preliminary findings from the baseline testing phase, and discussing future testing in a secondary MBR configuration.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff continued to work with consultants, Sanitation Districts, and membrane manufacturers on a mitigation strategy to address snail proliferation within the MBR tanks. Staff also completed several maintenance and improvement projects onsite to ensure proper operation and reliability of the demonstration plant.



Staff reinstalling an MBR cassette following membrane fiber cutting as part of challenge testing at the demonstration facility



Cutting and removal of membrane fibers to intentionally compromise the MBR system as part of challenge testing at the demonstration facility

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff collect MBR filtrate samples for particle count analysis following a routine chemical recovery clean at the demonstration facility

Objective #5 Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner.

Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of 14.3 megawatts, or almost 10,620 megawatt-hours and approximately \$604,630 in revenue, for the month of November 2020. Metropolitan's solar facilities, totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated over 580 megawatt-hours in November 2020.

Objective #6 Protect Source Water Quality.

On December 9 and 10, staff participated in comment resolution meetings for the Topock Chromium-6 Groundwater Remediation Project. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) addressed Metropolitan's and other stakeholders' comments on the soil remedial investigation. Construction of the groundwater remedy is expected to be completed in 2025, followed by long-term operation and maintenance of the system. Concurrently, PG&E is developing a long-term soil cleanup plan.

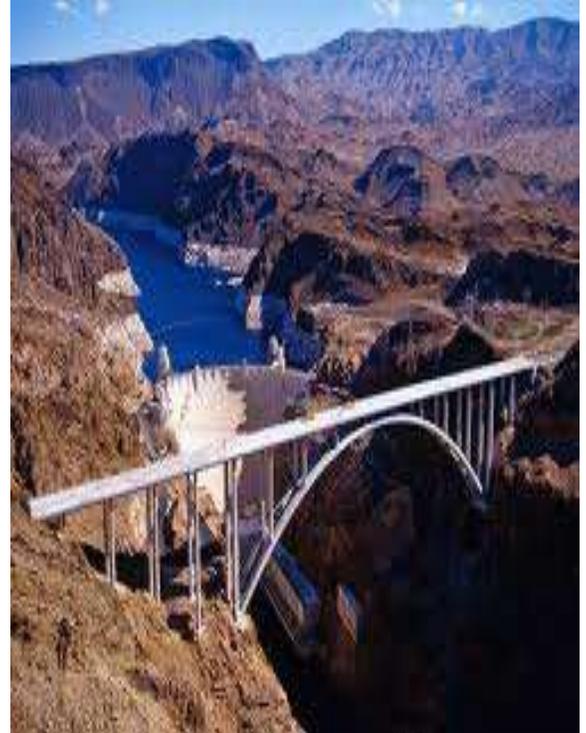
On December 16, staff attended the quarterly meeting of the California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom Network, which includes a diverse group of stakeholders that manage, research, and/or regulate issues relating to cyanotoxins in surface waters.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Monthly Update as of:

12/31/2020

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	10,117,000	42%
Lake Mead	10,328,000	40%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	1,236,706	35%
Shasta Lake	2,031,649	45%
San Luis Total	955,363	47%
San Luis CDWR	580,237	55%
Castaic Lake	252,947	78%
Silverwood Lake	65,745	88%
Lake Perris	122,107	93%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	703,577	87%
Lake Mathews	85,111	47%
Lake Skinner	40,931	93%



Hoover Dam



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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