



*THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*

Date: January 20, 2021

To: Metropolitan Board of Directors

From: Barry D. Pressman, Chair, Integrated Resources Plan Special Committee
David De Jesus, Vice Chair, Integrated Resources Plan Special Committee

Subject: Response to San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) letter of December 30, 2020 regarding Integrated Resources Plan Board Issues

We are pleased to have led the Integrated Water Resources Plan (IRP) Special Committee since its kickoff in February of last year. Over this time a new scenario planning tool was introduced and developed to more broadly examine our water resources over the next 25 years.

As expected, orienting the Board to this new approach required time. Early on we committed to taking whatever time was needed to complete this IRP collaboratively and comprehensively. In addition to the report and discussion from the Board Retreat in October 2019, the committee received and discussed white papers on scenario planning (May 2020), the purpose of the IRP (August 2020), and a retrospective of the 2015 IRP (December 2020).

We want to emphasize that scenario planning is not a policy shift; instead, it is only a tool to examine our water future. Scenario planning allows the Board to have robust policy discussions which will begin in earnest next week with a discussion of reliability. A selection of plausible scenarios allows the Committee and the Board to consider multiple possible futures. SDCWA requested that we pivot away from scenario planning and instead develop a single baseline scenario. We, staff, and the Chairwoman, have seriously discussed this proposal and believe the better course is to continue with the scenario planning process as the basis for the policy discussions.

SDCWA also raised several important rate refinement issues. Though the IRP and the rate refinement processes are indeed inter-related, many of the questions related to rate structures will require a broader discussion with the Board through the Finance and Insurance Committee.

Finally, we requested that staff respond in writing to other items raised in the SDCWA letter and to comments raised on the 2015 IRP Retrospective report. Staff's response will be provided to the Board and member agencies soon.