



The GENERAL MANAGER Monthly Report

**Activities for the Month of
January 2021**

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.

FEBRUARY 9, 2021



Flowers from Metropolitan's Property

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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 #2 - SUSTAINABILITY – Develop, promote and support sustainable business practices.

The second quarterly Rideshare employee newsletter was distributed to all Rideshare participants. The e-newsletter raises awareness of Metropolitan's Rideshare Program and events with relevant new information from other transit agencies and a variety of fun facts. The issue featured:

- Welcome to the Rideshare Quarterly Newsletter and farewell to Rideshare team lead Madeline Wong
- Rideshare Alerts on the Gold Line and Purple D Line
- Metrolink Announcements introducing TAP with your iPhone or Apple Watch, the 5-day Flex Pass, and riding the train earns you rewards
- Quotes by our participants regarding participation in the Electric Vehicle Program and commuting by transit
- Opening of Diemer's New Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- A fun recipe for teleworkers

Metro Updates
Check for regular updates at thesource.metro.net.

Quotes by our participants

Harry Bannerman | Sr. Administrative Analyst, Administrative Services Section

"Metropolitan's EV Program is an incredibly useful resource or amenity to employees. It provides valuable and convenient zero cost charging stations to employees like me who own electric vehicles. This provides you so much peace of mind as you go through your workday, knowing full well you are fully charged and ready for a smooth ride home at the end of the day."

Juan Espinoza | Reprographics Technician II, Administrative Services Section

"As a regular commuter, I feel Metrolink is doing their part to make me feel safe and to stay healthy on my commute. COVID-19 signage, hand sanitizer station on all cars, and observed cleaning crews disinfecting the cars before boarding at Union Station."

Ride the Train, Earn Rewards
Now when you ride **Metrolink**, you can earn points to redeem for free tickets, as well as discounts at area retailers, restaurants and attractions.

Metrolink's new SoCal Explorer program is free to join. For a limited time, when you sign up, you'll automatically get 750 points. That's enough for a round-trip ticket. Each time you ride, log your trip using the app or by scanning and submitting proof of a paper ticket to earn a point per mile.

Opening of Diemer's New Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations
The Rideshare Services team continues to move its goals forward by partnering with the Engineering group and Diemer Management to install a new single-port Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station at Diemer Filtration Plant. The new EV charging station and its designated parking spots are located near the Orange County Region Service Center.

Expanding the EV program is a milestone that will ensure the Metropolitan Water District's Rideshare Program continues to be effective for its employees and remains compliant with current air quality regulatory requirements.

Signage throughout the interior of the cars

Rideshare Quarterly Newsletter

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION/CAO *continued*

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

1. The Metropolitan Warehouse Team received the Warehousing Education Research Certification (WERC). The Gold Industry Logistics Standards Award for another successful three-year term.
2. The Procurement Team, various cardholders, and the supplier continue to progress on the P-Card software replacement pilot program. The program entered a new phase as the test group initiated the reconciliation and reporting process. The next step will include the development of training and a review of the enhanced auditing and reporting capabilities.

Accomplishments

1. Professional Services Contracting staff completed Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1258—Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Consulting Services. Services support a climate assessment of Metropolitan's workforce related to the agency's culture and work environment and provide a strategic plan to guide workplace improvement.
2. Professional Services Contracting staff launched the enterprise-wide deployment of the EForm to Requisition Transition Project. To unify acquisition methods enterprise-wide, staff created new EForms that allow professional services requests to matriculate through the Oracle system. To launch this effort, staff created job aids and developed a webinar series to facilitate training. Staff trained approximately 370 employees, including agreement administrators and managers, in a district-wide initiative.



Professional Services Contracting staff presents

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION/CAO *continued*

- Administrative Services staff participated in the annual 2021 conference sponsored by the California Association of Public Procurement Officials, Inc. (CAPPO). Metropolitan's Procurement Manager, John Poli, offered a presentation on the importance of planning. The "Plan \$2.00 Purchase" session provided attendees with tips and templates to promote the proactive procurement of goods and services. Additionally, Metropolitan was recognized for receiving an Achievement of Excellence in Procurement award; Metropolitan has received this award for the fourteenth consecutive year.



**"Planting for Success,
Harvesting the Knowledge"**

Enriching the Procurement Professional
January 4th–8th, 2021



Plan \$2.⁰⁰ Purchase
A Proactive Approach for Positive Results

John Poli, MPA, C.P.M., CPPO
Procurement Team Manager
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

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Metropolitan's Procurement Manager, John Poli, presents

BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES

GENERAL MANAGER'S 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 Opinions (BiOp) for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project, and in the 2020 Incidental Take Permit for Long-term Operation of the SWP. The role of the group is to address science development needs and help to support the process to inform management and operation of the water projects. Staff is participating in the Delta Coordination Group and providing input to the Delta smelt summer and fall habitat actions. Staff is also working with state and federal agencies to plan a science workshop focused on monitoring steelhead populations in the San Joaquin Basin. The workshop is scheduled for February 17–19, 2021 and will address requirements in the National Marine Fisheries Service 2019 BiOp.

GENERAL MANAGER'S 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 developing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act. Current work is focused on formulation of alternatives to be analyzed in the EIR, descriptions of the existing conditions, and development of methods to analyze potential impacts on environmental resources. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has started preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Joint Powers Authorities

The January regular meetings of the DCA Board of Directors and the DCA SEC were cancelled.

The January 21 regular meeting of the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) Board of Directors included the election of officers, appointments to the Executive Committee, and an AB 992 presentation regarding the changes to the Brown Act concerning open meetings, local agencies, and social media.

Objective # 3 Engage in planning and permitting activities for the Sites Reservoir.

The Sites Reservoir Project was allocated \$13.7 million in the 2021 federal spending bill, which was authorized through the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act and signed into law on December 27, 2020 by President Donald Trump. With the passage of this legislation, Congress has now appropriated roughly \$23.7 million in WIIN Act funding to the Bureau of Reclamation for Sites Reservoir. Sites Authority staff continues to work on the revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS, which includes a revised project description for the Sites Reservoir Project.

The Site's Reservoir Project key milestones for 2021 include release of a revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS in July, completion of a biological assessment, submittal of regulatory permit applications, development of terms for coordinating Sites operations with the state and federal water projects, development of financing alternatives, and ongoing engagement with NGOs, tribes, and non-English speaking communities.

BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES *continued*

Objective # 4 Develop and execute land use strategies for the Delta Islands that are consistent with board policies.

In December 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board approved Metropolitan's 2021 research and implementation workplan for compliance with the water diversion measurement regulations under Senate Bill 88. Over the last couple of years, Metropolitan in coordination with Delta Reclamation Districts and the Delta Watermaster, has been conducting water measurement research and experimentation of water measurement devices on siphon diversions in the Delta. This research has included testing 22 water flow meters, water level and internal pressure sensors, data loggers, and telemetry communication equipment of varying technologies/manufacturers.

GENERAL MANAGER'S 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). At the January 19 meeting, CAMT received an update from an expert workgroup developing recommendations for improved decision-support tools for evaluating Delta smelt management actions. Staff is participating on the expert workgroup and is coauthor on the workgroup white paper.

Staff is collaborating with a team of water contractor and NGO participants in CSAMP to address salmon recovery needs that consider the abundance, timing, and condition of salmon throughout their range, including the ocean, Delta, and upstream of the Delta. Staff is working with this team to develop a proposal to submit to the DSC Delta Science

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

The DSC is conducting a climate change study for the Delta and Suisun Marsh. Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future will help the DSC assess specific climate risks and vulnerabilities in the Delta and, in coordination with stakeholders, develop adaptation strategies to address those vulnerabilities. The Draft Vulnerability Assessment report was released January 15. Staff is reviewing the report and coordinating 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 33 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 34 risk assessments on contracts, including professional service agreements, construction contracts, entry permits, special events, and film permits.

CORE PRIORITY: Business Continuity

Facilitate district-wide planning and training to prepare employees and managers to effectively carry out critical roles and recover mission essential functions thus ensuring continuity of operations and resiliency in the event of a disaster.

Objective #1 Manage the Business Continuity Management Program in accordance with Operating Policy A-06 policy.

- Met with the emergency notification vendor (MIR3) to plan for the move from their data center to cloud-based Amazon Web Services.
- In an effort to continue monitoring COVID-19-related business plan impacts, worked with the groups to collect and report on any impacts.

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 December 2020 totaled 167.0 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which were 44.9 TAF higher than the budget of 122.1 TAF. This translates to \$137.7 million in revenues for December 2020, which were \$34.7 million higher than budget.
- Year-to-date (YTD) water transactions through December 2020 totaled 852.1 TAF, which were 7.5 TAF lower than the budget. YTD water revenues through December 2020 were \$745.9 million, which were \$14.4 million lower than the budget of \$760.3 million.
- In December 2020, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,800 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$21,200 in discounts.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER *continued*

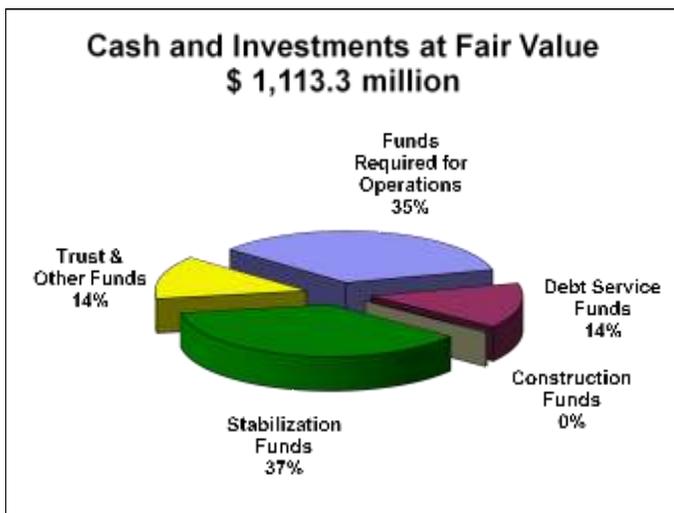
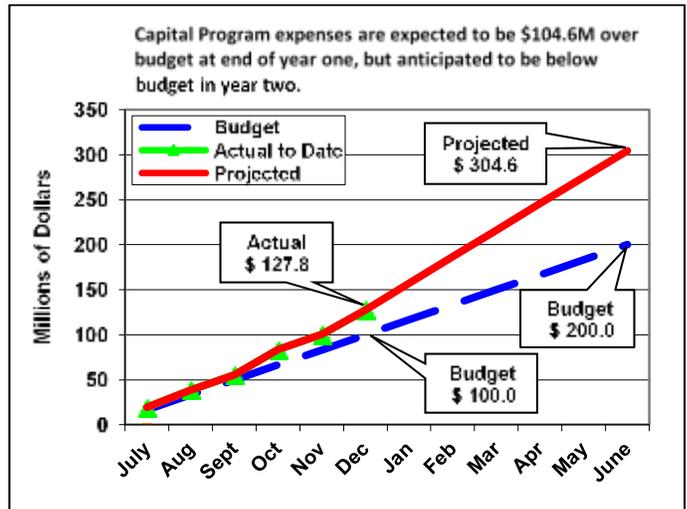
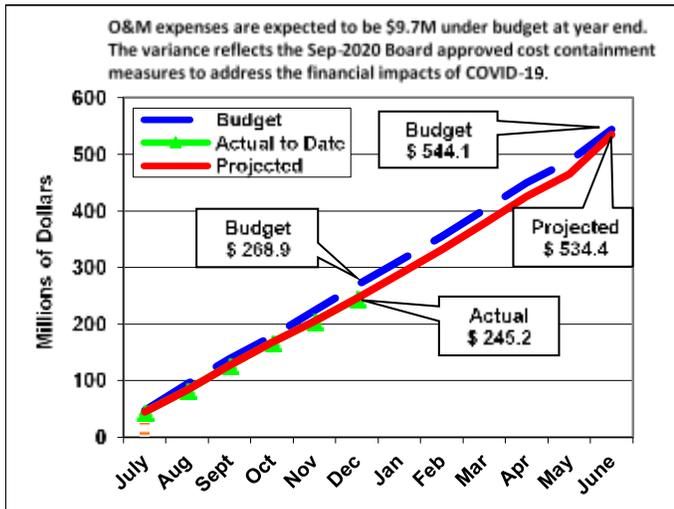
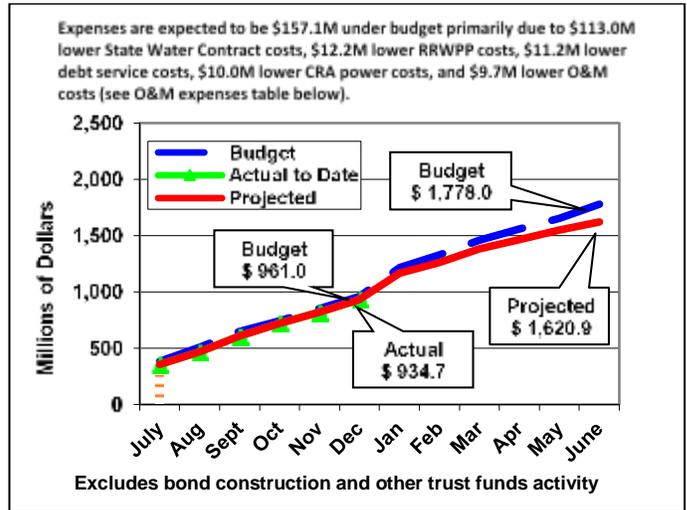
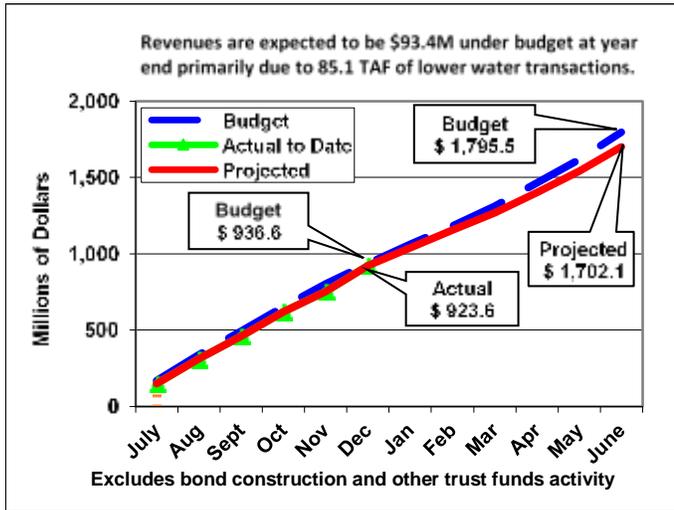
Objective #5 Prudently manage the investment of Metropolitan’s funds in accordance with policy guidelines and liquidity considerations.

- As of December 31, 2020, the balance in Metropolitan’s investment portfolio was \$1,113.1 million; for the month of December 2020, Metropolitan’s portfolio managers executed 18 trades.
- During the month of December 2020, Treasury staff processed 1,046 disbursements by check, 18 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 92 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 63 receipts by check, 36 receipts by ACH, and 53 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

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	1.71
Revenue Bond Coverage	> 2.00 x	1.71
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: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security, and 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 eight percent complete, with the contractor currently working on preparation of contract submittals, fabrication of the steel liners, and site excavation. Construction is scheduled to be complete by April 2021.
- **Black Metal Mountain 2.4 kV Electrical Power Upgrade**—This project will upgrade the existing 2.4 kV power line that serves Metropolitan's Black Metal Mountain communications site. The work will include installation of new power poles, larger conductors to increase the available power to the sites. A study is 10 percent complete and is planned to be complete by June 2021.
- **Greg Avenue Pump Station Rehabilitation**—This project improves reliability of the Greg Avenue Pump Station by replacing the existing pumps and by upgrading the electrical and control systems. The contractor is installing new site paving, completing the surge tank cat walks and electrical, and testing the new compressors. A COVID-19 outbreak at a supplier's fabrication facility will delay delivery of a pump control panel by approximately six weeks. It is currently anticipated that this delivery delay will affect the overall facility on-line date by a similar interval. Construction is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed in April 2021.
- **West Valley Feeder De Soto Valve Replacement**—This project replaces the existing 42-inch butterfly valve with a new 42-inch high-performance butterfly valve and a 42-inch multiple-orifice valve. The Metropolitan-furnished valves have been fabricated and delivered. Construction is 8 percent complete and is scheduled 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, Calaberas 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 miles of PCCP on the Second Lower Feeder has been relined. Construction for Reach 2 is 98 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2021. The contractor is currently coordinating the construction of a manhole modification on Reach 2. Final design of Reach 3 is 96 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.
- **Allen McColloch Pipeline Relining**—This project rehabilitates approximately 1,200 feet of existing PCCP segments with a steel liner pipe that will accommodate full internal and external pressures on the line. Construction is 4 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 June 2021.

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

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

- **CRA Discharge Isolation Couplings**—This project fabricates and installs 44 isolation coupling assemblies at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. Approximately one half of the couplings have been installed. Overall, construction is 70 percent complete, with much of the remaining work to be completed during the upcoming CRA shutdown in February 2021. The contractor is currently installing scaffold and containment for the upcoming shutdown work. 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. Construction is 4 percent complete, with the contractor working on contract submittals and site surveys of the existing cranes. Construction is scheduled to be complete by July 2023.
- **CRA Radial Gates Replacement**—This project replaces eight deteriorated radial gates along the aqueduct in two stages. Construction of Stage 1 to replace a radial gate at Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant is complete. In August 2019, Metropolitan’s Board awarded a construction contract for the Stage 2 work, which includes replacement of seven radial gates at seven facilities along the CRA. Construction of Stage 2 is 75 percent complete, with the contractor currently installing and leak testing the radial gates prior to the upcoming shutdown. Construction is scheduled to be complete by June 2021.
- **CRA Mile 12 Flow Monitoring Station Upgrades**—This project furnishes and installs a roof-mounted solar photovoltaic power generating system and upgrades the flow monitoring equipment at the Colorado River Aqueduct’s Mile 12 Flow Monitoring Site. Final design is 98 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by February 2021, and a board award of the construction contract is tentatively scheduled for May 2021.



CRA Discharge Isolation Couplings—Intake Pumping Plant: Concrete placement for Delivery Line No. 1 anchor block and new steel stairs

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. The contractor is currently working on piping, instrumentation, and electrical equipment installation, wire terminations, and control system programming. The contractor suspended work on this contract for two weeks in January because of a COVID-19 outbreak in its workforce. Construction is 91 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2021.

ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

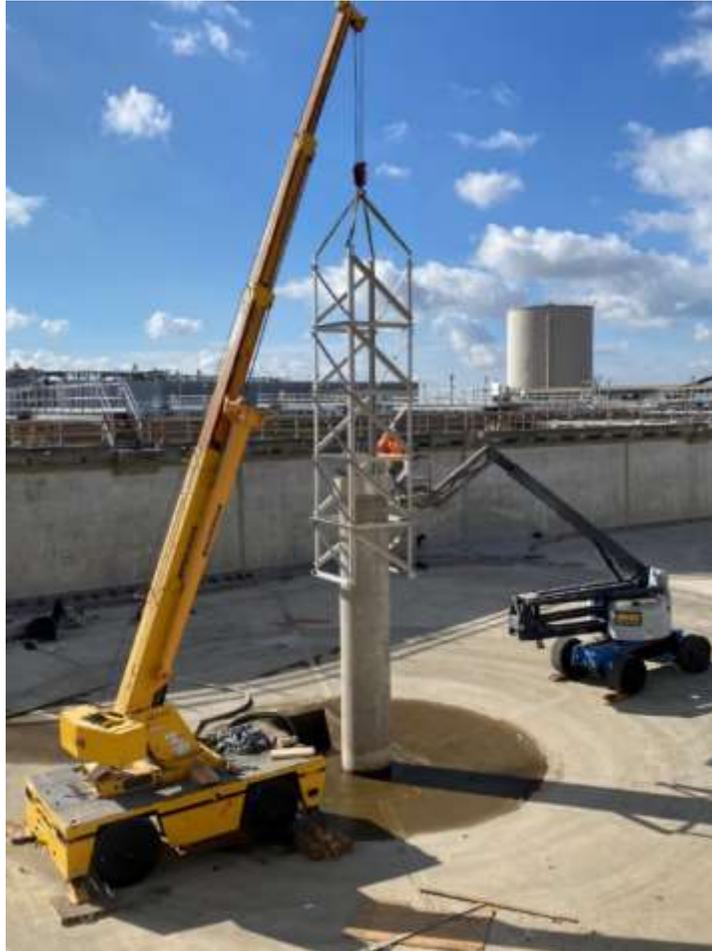
- **Weymouth Water Quality Instrumentation Improvements**—This project will improve monitoring and rapid response to changing water quality conditions at the Weymouth plant, by adding required sample piping, pumps, and housing for water quality analyzers. The contractor is currently installing doors, drywall, and cable trays, and pulling wires for exterior lighting. Construction is 74 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 continues removing and replacing basin and filter equipment, installing new electrical conduits and panels, and performing hazardous abatement activities. The contractor suspended work on this contract for two weeks in January because of a COVID-19 outbreak in its workforce. Construction is 90 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 District staff working in micro-teams due to 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 75 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 completed installation of Unit Substations, medium-voltage cables, and duct banks and is currently pulling feeder cables 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 55 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 installing new equipment in Basins 9 and 10. Construction is 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2021.



Diemer West Basin and Filter Building Rehabilitation—Assembly of new clarifier turntable cage in Basin 8

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 the Metropolitan Headquarters at Union Station. Construction related to the original contract scope is 88 percent complete, and the contractor is currently working on Floors 8 –10 and continuing 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 room, three committee rooms, and the rotunda at the Metropolitan Headquarters at Union Station. Engineering Services, IT, and Facilities Management are working collaboratively on this technology replacement project. The contractor is continuing installation of electrical and HVAC equipment in the board room and Committee Room 1-102, and an LED video wall in the Rotunda. Construction is 40 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2021.

ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

- **Headquarter Physical Security Upgrades**—The comprehensive security upgrades for the Metropolitan Headquarters at Union Station have been prioritized and staged to minimize rework and impacts on 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 and is scheduled to be complete by August 2021. Construction of Stage 2 improvements is 10 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2022. Stage 3 improvements are currently in the design phase.
- **Headquarter Building Fire Alarm and Smoke Control System Upgrades**—This project upgrades the Metropolitan Headquarters at Union Station fire life safety systems, which includes replacement of the fire detection and alarm system and HVAC system improvements for smoke control. The contractor is currently preparing contract submittals and obtaining city permits. Construction is 10 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2022.



Board and Committee Room Upgrade—Installation new LED lights and LED video screen in board room

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.

Regulatory Permitting

CRA Conduit Structural Protection Project

- Submitted the Regional Water Quality Control Board Waste Discharge Requirements application.

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

Staff completed the following trainings:

- Wildfire Smoke and Worker Protection
- How Was Your Day? Getting Real About Bias, Inclusion, Harassment, and Bullying
- COVID-19 Prevention
- Basic Electrical Safety Awareness
- Defensive Driver
- Leading Yourself
- Leading Cultural Change

Objective #2 Provide planning, CEQA/NEPA, and regulatory permitting support for projects and activities that address the challenges of sustainability, including aging infrastructure, contaminants of concern, and affordability of water supplies.

Delta Conveyance Project

- Served as Public Water Agency coordinator for regulatory permitting effort.
- Participated in planning discussions for a Programmatic Agreement to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting needs, and Clean Water Act Section 408 review plan development.

Lake Perris Seepage Recovery Project

- Coordinated with the Department of Water Resources on the preparation of Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Regional Recycled Water Program (RRWP)

- Identified data needs for Program/Project EIR.
- Attended coordination meetings with Los Angeles County Sanitation District.

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

- Mowed the 50-acre Stephens' kangaroo rat habitat restoration site in preparation for seeding with native vegetation and Riversidean sage scrub.
- With funding from a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant, a California Conservation Corps crew removed invasive tobacco trees from the Reserve.
- Installed signage and conducted fence repairs along Cajalco Road and other roads adjacent to the Reserve.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Conducted inspections, maintenance, and vegetation clearance on artificial burrowing owl sites in the Reserve. Evidence of burrowing owls was observed.
- The Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count, which took place December 27 on the Reserve, indicated the presence of 137 different avian species within the survey area, including all 12 of the species covered by the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (see photos).



White-crowned sparrow



Rufous Crowned Sparrow



Red-tailed Hawk



Thrasher



Spotted Towhee



Loggerhead Shrike

Objective #4 Develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) and prepare CEQA documentation to be used to offset greenhouse (GHG) emissions from future construction projects. Identify new and continuing conservation efforts for the purpose of reducing future GHG reductions, as well as highlighting Metropolitan’s effort to achieve those reductions, and develop a tracking methodology to ensure Metropolitan is meeting its goal.

Climate Action Plan

- Continued preparation of draft Program EIR for the CAP.
- Completed CAP Working Group review of the draft document and began incorporating comments.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3 Innovation

Objective #1 Pursue programmatic CEQA and regulatory permitting efforts for operations and maintenance activities throughout Metropolitan’s service area to streamline clearances for capital projects and O&M activities.

Western San Bernardino Right-of-Way and Infrastructure Protection Program (RWIPP)

- Held kick-off meeting with regulatory permitting consultants.

Riverside-San Diego RWIPP

- Reviewed and provided comments on the draft Preliminary Design Report.

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Compliance

- Completed review and provided edits to the project description for the CEQA document.
- Identified additional survey areas and coordinated cultural resource field investigations.

Objective #3 Partner and collaborate with regulatory and resources agencies, as well as other public agencies and external organizations, to build relationships and expedite/streamline environmental authorizations and clearances for Metropolitan projects.

- Collaborated with ESG to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Federal Water Resources Development Act for resources to streamline and expedite Clean Water Act Section 408 permitting for Pre-Stressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Program, RRWP, and other Metropolitan projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION/CAO *continued*

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.

- Coordinated with External Affairs to produce an updated desert tortoise training video which is specifically applicable to Metropolitan staff and activities.
- Developed working group with Water Quality, Safety, and Regulatory Services and Conveyance and Distribution staff to coordinate shutdowns and quagga mussel compliance as required by CDFW.

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.

Engineering Services

- Provided environmental support for the Metropolitan Headquarters Credit Union Wall, Lower Feeder Blow-off Drain, Foothill Feeder Hydroelectric Power Plant Seismic Upgrades, CRA Reliability Program, the Battery Energy Storage System, Eagle Mountain 230kV Local Breaker Failure Backup, Black Metal Mountain 2.4kV Electrical Power Upgrade, CRA Pump Plant Domestic Water Treatment System Replacement, and the Whipple Mountain Flowmeter Replacement projects.
- Reviewed and documented CEQA exemption for the Live Oak Reservoir Asphalt Road Rehabilitation Project.
- Submitted CEQA language for the Headquarters Fire Alarm and Smoke Control Upgrades, Audiovisual Systems Upgrade, and Physical Security Improvement Projects February Board Letter.
- Coordinated pre-construction surveys and biological monitoring in support of the Perris Bypass Pipeline Relining Project.
- Provided design phase support for PCCP Second Lower Feeder Reach 9.

Water System Operations

- Conducted surveys and completed biological resource reports in support of CDFW Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration for the San Diego Canal and Upper Feeder/Lower Feeder shutdowns and dewatering.
- Submitted CDFW Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration for the Box Springs Feeder, San Diego Canal, and Upper Feeder/Lower Feeder shutdowns and dewatering.
- Received a No Agreement Necessary letter from CDFW for the Box Spring Feeder shutdown and dewatering.
- Submitted U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project closeout letter, in accordance with the requirements of the emergency permits for the CRA Exposed Barrel Emergency Repairs and the San Diego Pipeline Nos. 1 and 2 Exposed Barrel Emergency Repairs.
- Provided environmental coordination for the 2021 CRA Shutdown planning effort, including conducting desert tortoise avoidance training for staff in advance of the shutdown.
- Coordinated environmental monitoring for maintenance activities in the desert region.
- Completed environmental coordination and clearance for the Box Springs Feeder shutdown, Garvey Reservoir Winterization, Palos Verdes Reservoir Winterization, Palos Verdes Discharge Line Modification, West Valley Feeder #1 and #2 Pothole project, Placerita Canyon House, Jensen Washwater Tank Tree Removal, and Live Oak Reservoir Tree Trimming.

Construction Monitoring

- Continued construction monitoring for the following projects: Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Valve Replacement, CRA Weir Clean-out, CRA 6.9kV Cable Replacement, CRA Overhead Cranes Replacement, CRA Discharge Line Isolation, and Couplings Repair Projects, and Orange County RWIPP.

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 offered a message of resilience and collaboration, which was sent to more than 18,000 water agencies, business and community organizations, elected officials, conservation groups and stakeholders. The document provided an overview of key accomplishments during the Chairwoman's first term and outlined many of her program and policy goals for her second term.

Chairwoman Gray was featured on "The Rebuild SoCal Zone" podcast on which she discussed her public service career, Metropolitan priorities, infrastructure investments, and her vision for the future of the water industry. The podcast is produced by Rebuild SoCal, an organization of 2,750 contractors, 90,000 union workers and numerous construction trade associations (January 12) [\(image below\)](#)



GM Kightlinger was a guest speaker to the Orange County Business Council's Infrastructure Committee. He shared a Metropolitan update on regional reliability and resilience, the Delta conveyance, progress on the Voluntary Agreements, and local supply development with an audience of 30 business and local leaders. (January 19)

GM Kightlinger was a featured speaker at the VerdeXchange Marketmakers' Conference virtual event, providing an update on regional efforts to enhance resiliency, ensure high-quality water supplies, and reinvest in the region's essential water infrastructure. An interview with the General Manager is also posted in the VerdeXchange news publication and website. (January 25)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

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

Engage the public, labor, business community, agriculture, government leaders, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in California's water issues, communicating Metropolitan's interests and Board-adopted policies through federal and state legislative strategies, multimedia and multi-cultural communications, and educational and other outreach programs. Inform the public about Metropolitan projects, facilities, operations and initiatives to gather input and support, foster competitive and diverse business opportunities, and facilitate innovation and technology sharing.

Objective #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

Congress passed a legislative package that was signed into law to provide FY 2021 funding for the federal government, coronavirus relief, and other initiatives, including a low-income water and wastewater ratepayer assistance program and the Water Resources and Development Act of 2020, which authorizes many Army Corps of Engineers projects.

The Biden administration proposed a framework for COVID-19 relief legislation that includes \$350 billion to help state and local governments respond to the pandemic. Metropolitan continues to advocate for aid to all public agencies impacted by the pandemic, including special districts.

State

The California Legislature has set an agenda focused on COVID-19, housing, health care, education, climate change, and wildfire response this year. Senator Portantino (D-La Cañada Flintridge) has reintroduced the Constituent of Emerging Concern bill, which is co-sponsored by Metropolitan and the California Municipal Utilities Association. Assembly Member Mayes (I-Yucca Valley) plans to introduce a Metropolitan-sponsored bill to modify the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to allow a master reclamation plan for repairs to regional water infrastructure in our service area.

Two other water policy bills were introduced by Senator Dodd (D-Napa). SB 222 creates a Water Affordability Assistance Fund to aid low-income ratepayers with their water and wastewater bills, and SB 223 would update the 2018 Water Shutoff Protection Act to include systems with less than 200 connections.

Chairwoman Gray attended the California Legislative Black Caucus meeting (January 27) and spoke about Metropolitan's water priorities for 2021, including our constituents of emerging concern legislation, and support for the Senate's climate resiliency bond legislation (SB 45, Portantino) and funding in the Governor's proposed 2021-22 budget for the Voluntary Agreements.

Newsom Administration

On January 8, Governor Newsom released his proposed 2021–2022 state budget, totaling \$227 billion, and requested immediate action on COVID-19 response, including \$5 billion to safely reopen schools, stimulus checks to the unemployed, and financial support to small businesses.

The proposed budget does not include a climate resiliency bond but does have one-time funding for the Department of Water Resources for sustainable groundwater, flood preparedness, critical levee repair projects, and ecosystem restoration in the Delta and San Joaquin River. The Department requested authority for 150 permanent full-time employees funded by the State Water Project to address on-going maintenance, asset management, subsidence, and emergency action planning.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Governor Newsom appointed Assembly Member Weber to serve as Secretary of State, the first African American to serve in that role. The appointment requires confirmation by the Senate and the Assembly. There will be a special election to fill her seat, Assembly District 49 (San Diego).

Local

Metropolitan staff provided a virtual presentation of pilot direct-use and recharge stormwater pilot programs to 30 local city officials and agency representatives at the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Water Policy Committee. (January 12)

Metropolitan staff participated in the California Contract Cities Association Virtual Sacramento Legislative Tour, featuring California State Controller Yee, who addressed state-related COVID-19 economic impacts and the state budget. Other speakers included Senator Portantino (D-La Cañada-Flintridge), Assembly Speaker Rendon (D-Lakewood) and Assembly Members Aguilar-Curry (D-Winters), Freidman (D-Glendale), and Kamlager (D-Los Angeles). (January 12, 21, and 28)

Chairwoman Gray and staff attended, and Metropolitan sponsored, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce's virtual Inaugural Program, which recognized local civic and business leaders. (January 28)

Metropolitan staff participated in virtual town halls, meetings, and webinars 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 (January 3)
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce (January 4)
- Glendora Chamber Legislative Action and Economic Development Committee (January 7)
- LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce (January 7)
- Assembly Member Gipson (D-Carson) COVID Townhall (January 7)
- North Orange County Chamber of Commerce (January 7)
- Orange County Business Council Legislative Committee (January 8)
- Southern California Water Coalition Legislative Committee (January 8)
- CalCities Riverside Division Meeting (January 11)
- Inland Action Environmental Committee (January 12)
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee (January 12)
- City of Long Beach—Mayor's State of the City Address (January 12)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition (January 13)
- Corona Chamber Legislative Briefing with Assembly Member Cervantes (D-Corona) (January 13)
- Central City Association meeting with Los Angeles City Councilmember de Leon (January 14)
- Los Angeles County Business Federation Roundtable with Los Angeles Police Chief Moore (January 14)
- Upland Chamber of Commerce Legislative Advocacy Committee (January 14)
- Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (January 14)
- Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Council (January 14)
- South Bay Cities Council of Governments Legislative Briefings with South Bay Congressional and State Representatives (January 14)
- Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Meeting (January 14)
- Inland Empire Economic Partnership (January 14)
- Ventura County Economic Development Association Annual Business Forecast Conference (January 15)
- Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (January 15)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Anaheim Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs (January 15)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association meeting with Assembly Member Valladares (D-Simi Valley) (January 19)
- Association of California Cities Orange County Energy & Water Committee (January 19)
- Orange County Business Council Infrastructure Committee (January 19)
- Inland Action briefing with Assembly Majority Leader Reyes (D-San Bernardino) (January 19)
- El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee (January 20)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee (January 20)
- Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation Board of Governors meeting with Los Angeles County Supervisor Mitchell (January 20)
- Southern California Contractors Association Economic Forecast (January 20)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (January 21)
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce (January 21)
- California Contract Cities Association Board (January 21)
- Corona Chamber Legislative Briefing with Riverside County Board of Supervisors President Spiegel (January 21)
- Engineering Contractors Association Annual Installation (January 22)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition (January 22)
- El Segundo Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (January 25)
- Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (January 26)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Sacramento Day (January 26)
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce Governing Board (January 26)
- Gateway Chambers Alliance Governing Board (January 26)
- Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality Board of Directors (January 27)
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Legislative Committee (January 27)
- San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network (January 27)
- Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Meeting (January 27)
- Association of California Cities Orange County Legislative Meeting (January 28)
- El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce Governing Board (January 28)
- Greater Ontario Business Council Economic Summit (January 29)
- California Women in Agriculture Statewide Annual Meeting (January 30-31)

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 GM Kightlinger and freelance writer Sammy Roth on Colorado River and climate change impacts. The article ran in Los Angeles Times.
- Coordinated interview between GM Kightlinger and freelance reporter Ben Howe for New York Times Sunday business section story on private investments in water.
- Arranged interview between Bloomberg reporter Emily Dooley and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp on issues at the Paradox Valley Unit along the Colorado River.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Provided a statement from Chairwoman Gray to Los Angeles Times reporter Adam Elmahrek in response to inquiry on allegations of past harassment and misconduct in Metropolitan’s workforce.

Online

- Received nearly 197,000 page views on the mwdh2o.com home page, with the careers page among the most frequented.
- Generated more than 38,000 views on bewaterwise.com with the highest engagement on gardening, turf replacement, and rebates pages.

Social Media

- Received more than 1.5 million impressions on Facebook and Instagram as part of the “We’re California Friendly Plants” campaign. The plant characters were featured in holiday-themed post, which performed well on a cost-per-click basis. **(image below)**



- Supported Metropolitan’s education efforts by posting a series of quotes from Solar Cup teachers. **(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 staff provided a virtual tour of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center to the public (January 28).

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Member Agency Support

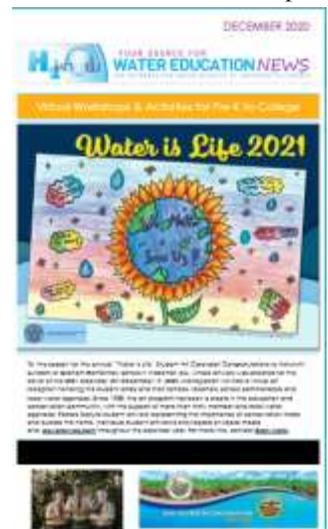
Metropolitan met with the Member Agency Managers to discuss water supply conditions and operations, COVID-19 conditions and practices, updates on the Urban Water Management Plans and rate refinement process, and a discussion of the IRP and reliability (January 15).

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

Staff virtually interacted with more than 6,100 teachers, students, and parents. Activities included:

- Worked with member agencies to address the evolving needs of students with online Diamond Valley Lake and Regional Recycled Water facility tours, scouting programs, and customized class presentations.
- Supported activities of the Water Energy Education Alliance, led by Municipal Water District of Orange County and sponsored by Metropolitan, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Western Municipal Water District, Water Replenishment District of Southern California, and Moulton Niguel Water District, to develop career technical education programs for the water industry.
- Distributed 3,000 student art calendars at the request of member and retail agencies. **(image to right)**
- Together with Water Resource Management staff, presented information on rebates, water-saving tips, and turf replacement resources to several San Gabriel Valley community and senior centers.
- Finalized partnerships with Strategic Energy Innovators (SEI) and Southern California Edison (SCE) to provide program, technical, and financial support for the Solar Cup 2021 program. Participating high school teams have begun work on 11 virtual challenges covering robotics, CAD software, online gaming, social media messaging, visual arts, and dream job skills.



Community Partnering and Sponsorship Programs

Metropolitan sponsored and staff participated in the following events to promote water education, conservation and sustainability initiatives:

- LA River—Music and Stories of the LA River (January 1-31) **(image below)**
- Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Inaugural Program (January 28)



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

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:

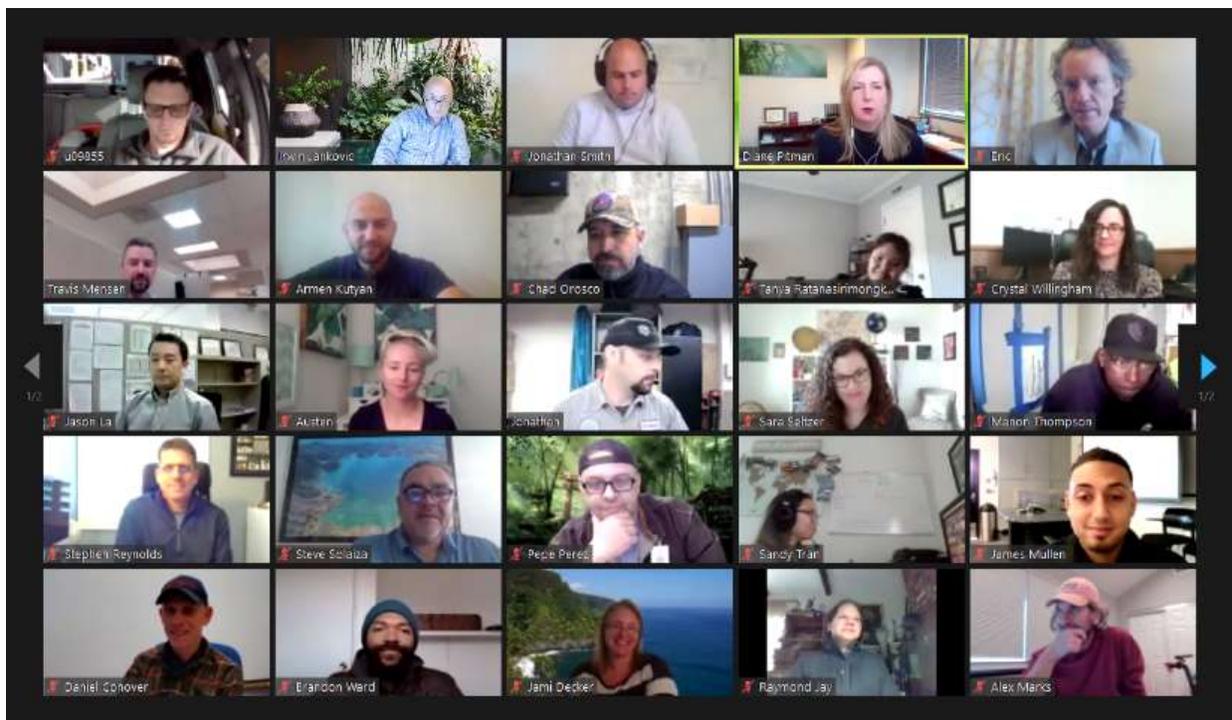
- American Indian Chamber of Commerce advisory board meeting (January 7)
- Southern California Leadership Network (SCLN)'s LA County meeting (January 8)
- US Green Building Council Los Angeles (January 12)
- National Association of Women Business Owners: A Conversation on Diversity (January 14)
- City of LA/YMCA's 50th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Brotherhood Event (January 15)
- Southern California Business Virtual Center training (January 20)
- Los Angeles Sustainability Executive Roundtable (January 22)
- American Association of Blacks in Energy Webinar Series: Energy Policy and the 117th Congress. (January 27)

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 launched the Metropolitan Leadership Academy for 30 employees interested in management. The sessions, presented virtually, covered topics such as “Transitioning to Management” (which allowed participants to strategize potential solutions to common mistakes that first-time managers often make) and “Foundations of Self-Awareness” (which included an Emotional Intelligence assessment to help with the participants’ personal and professional development).



The third session of Metropolitan Leadership Academy with HR Group Manager Diane Pitman, discussing Delegation and Section Manager, Arnout Van der Berg, discussing Revenue and Budgets.

This month, 1792 Metropolitan employees attended other online classes, including Diversity and Inclusion, Preventing Workplace Harassment, Crucial Conversations, Stress Management, and OneNote.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan’s online, e-learning content platform, was accessed for 88 classes, including Skills for Inclusive Conversations, Unconscious Bias, Habits of High Performers, and Leading Cultural Change in Your Team.

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

Recruitment successfully filled 20 positions for the month of January. We received 19 new staffing requisitions resulting in 116 positions currently in recruitment. Recruitment continues conducting virtual interviews using Zoom. We have completed Zoom interviews for 106 positions in 2020 and 13 additional positions in 2021.

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

The General Manager recruitment announcement has been posted and will be open until February 26, 2021. The Human Resources Group Manager is working directly with the Board of Directors and executive search firm on the General Manager recruitment process.

In January, meetings of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council resumed. An independent consulting firm is being retained to perform a Culture Assessment of Metropolitan.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: SUSTAINABILITY

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

Staff continued the transitioning of Metropolitan's new-hire on-boarding process to an online methodology that will ensure employee preparedness from day one as well as offer continual support by management and Human Resources throughout their first year of employment.

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

Human Resources (HR) staff continued to provide one-on-one coaching and mediation services for managers and employees in the developmental areas of generating trust, managerial presence, communication skills, and providing performance feedback.

In collaboration with the bargaining units, Human Resources has developed a comprehensive set of COVID-19 Protocols, which establish how Metropolitan will address possible COVID-19 exposures in the workplace, as well as employees who either test positive themselves for the virus or are exposed to individuals who are COVID-19 positive. These protocols complement the already existing COVID-19 Business Transition Plan, which was developed in 2020.

With the uptick in COVID-19 cases throughout the Metropolitan service area, the Human Resources Group Manager continues to organize a bi-weekly check-in meeting with all group managers, as well as weekly meetings with the bargaining units. These meetings are 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.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: INNOVATION

Objective #1 Continue to upgrade HR's technological capabilities and continue to seek out improved technologies to better serve HR's customers.

HR contributed to the design and testing of a new Incident Reporting System in collaboration with Risk Management, Health and Safety, IT, and Security staff.

HR staff continues to partner with IT and payroll to implement ACA statements and improved reports.

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.

HR began the use of DocuSign for new-hire mandatory benefit forms to provide new employees with the option of completing their required forms electronically. Additionally, HR began updating various benefit election and change forms to provide employees with the option of using an electronic signature when changes cannot be done using our HRIS system, PeopleSoft. These enhancements are being implemented to provide employees with an efficient and secure way to make benefit elections, plan changes, and report family status changes.

HR Benefits processed 85 leaves of absence under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave and Extended Family Medical Leave Expansion Acts for the month of January. HR Benefits updated the Family Medical Leave policy and application to comply with SB 1383, signed into law on September 10, 2020, with an effective date of January 1, 2021. In making the updates, the leave application was converted to an EForm to improve efficiency.

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 Policies, and Memorandum of Understanding.

In January, four new Workers' Compensation claims were received, and eleven were resolved. Four employees remain off work because of an industrial injury or illness. This reflects Metropolitan's effort to accommodate injured workers while enabling them to be productive and remain on the job.

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

- Submitted 12 new claims to Metropolitan's Workers' Compensation Claim Administrator
- Closed 11 Workers' Compensation Claim Files
- Currently, four employees remain off work because of industrial injury or illness
- Coordinated medical surveillance exams at two facilities. (Diemer and Jensen) The exams included respirator exams, Department of Motor Vehicle exams, and hearing tests
- Covid Task Team addressed four Covid-related issues.
- Addressed two accommodation issues.

HR Metrics	June 2020	January 2021	Prior Month December
Headcount			
Regular Employees	1,799	1,810	1,810
Temporary Employees	29	25	27
Interns	9	5	4
Recurrents	21	20	20
Annuitants	17	13	14

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

	January 2021	December 2020
Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	116	117
Number of New Staffing Requisitions	19	3
	January 2021	December 2020
Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress	14	11
Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits	2	2
Number of New Job Audit Requests	5	3

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
External Hires	FY 19/20 Totals	January 2021	FISCAL YTD
Regular Employees	127	11	39
Temporary Employees	29	0	15
Interns	18	1	3
Internal Promotions	91	9	47
Management Requested Promotions	109	22	79
Retirements/Separations (regular employees)	124	10	38
Employee Requested Transfers	15	2	14

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

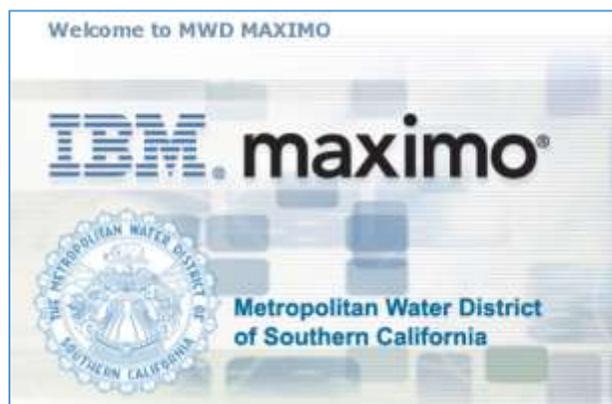
OBJECTIVE #1 Strengthen Metropolitan’s cybersecurity capabilities by deploying new and emerging technologies, and implementing enhanced security countermeasures

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.

- Completed deployment of a new network anti-malware software across the enterprise to enhance Metropolitan’s cybersecurity posture.
- Partnered with business groups and worked behind the scenes to conduct security improvements to mitigate evolving cybersecurity risks to Metropolitan’s business networks and applications.
- Evaluated security needs for new capital projects within the Capital Investment Plan to ensure compliance with cybersecurity requirements.
- Provided on-going cybersecurity monitoring and developed proactive countermeasures to protect IT infrastructure, data, and electronic assets.
- Coordinated with executive management and kept them apprised of security alerts and related news applicable to Metropolitan’s computing environment.

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 10-year-old custom application using older technology and 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, the team completed requirements which were used to publish a competitive RFP for services.
- **Maximo Upgrade Project**—The project team continued to work in collaboration with stakeholders to upgrade Metropolitan’s enterprise-wide maintenance management software application used for planning, scheduling, and reporting of required maintenance of equipment deployed throughout the treatment plants and the conveyance and distribution system.
 - The Maximo system is in final preparations for deployment. End user training is underway as IT continues to partner with WSO on deployment planning. During the period, IT successfully migrated Maximo v7.6 to the staging environment in preparation for deployment to production in February.



Maximo System

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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

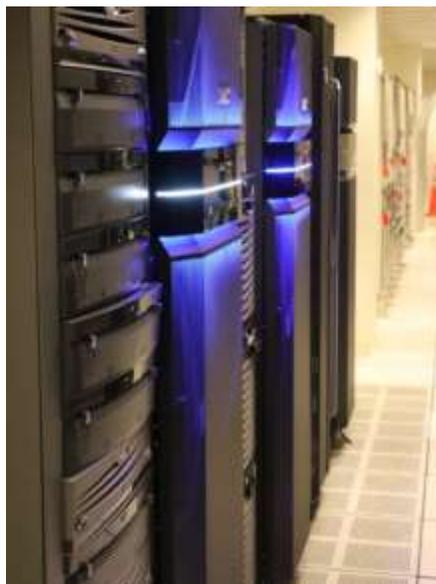
- Automated Meter Reading (AMR) Upgrade—The AMR project will address equipment obsolescence as the current communication equipment used in the system is approaching end-of-life. During the period, staff continued with the study phase of the project as part of evaluating design alternatives and technologies, including pilot-testing of four radio frequency technologies.
- Continued requirements gathering and detail planning to install a new high-speed Internet connection (fiber) between Gene and Parker Dam to enhance resiliency and support SCADA, business applications, and security networks.

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

- Conducted on-going IT disaster planning for future recovery exercises as part of validating Metropolitan’s recovery capabilities in the event of a disaster. In addition, IT continued to evaluate solutions for enterprise-wide backup requirements as part of replacing end-of-life and obsolete technology.

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 to enhance operational uptime of data center processing.
 - **Primary site**—In January, IT received board approval to proceed with procurement of equipment for the primary location space for the Datacenter Modernization/Relocation project. With the Board’s approval, the project team will initiate project planning and begin work for the primary site.
 - **Secondary site**—Based on prior board approval and substantial completion of the procurement phase, IT began new equipment setup and configuration of hardware, software, and systems. The project team continued detailed planning and logistics to establish connectivities between the new and existing secondary datacenter, providing for on-going seamless migration while supporting Metropolitan’s daily operations.



Metropolitan Data Center

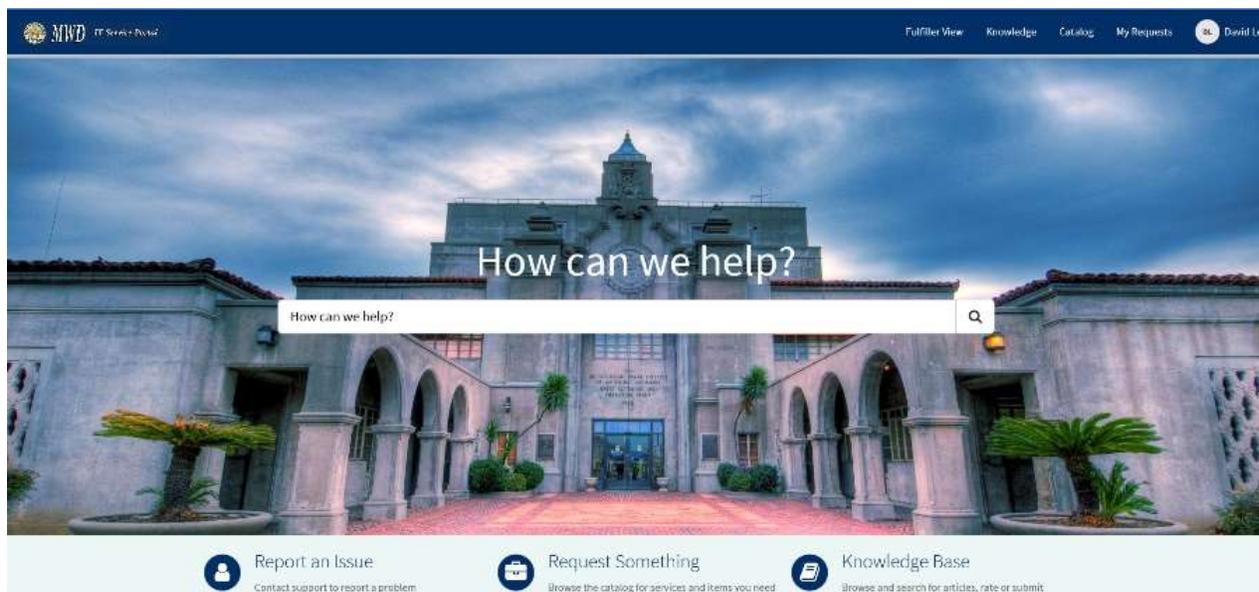
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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 provide Metropolitan employees with computers that have greater processing speed, disc space, and improved reliability because the existing PCs have reached end-of-life.
 - To date, approximately 1,438 units have been deployed.
 - With the substantial completion of deployment efforts at headquarters, the PCRP team's current deployment focus is at the Weymouth facility (La Verne) and other field sites.
- Continued to partner with business stakeholders to implement Enterprise Content Management to assist Metropolitan's regulatory compliance requirements to manage both paper and electronic records. Current efforts include optimizing existing digital data and working with Water Quality (WQ) to finalize the mapping and migration planning of WQ's electronic records.
- Focused resources to engage with selected business users on a high-priority initiative to replace legacy PCs with the Windows 7 operating systems, which are at end-of-life. IT staff continued the effort to upgrade PCs using Windows 7 in order to maintain currency of PC operating system and cybersecurity protection within Metropolitan's computing environment.

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

- Completed development and rolled-out phase one of the new IT Service Management (ITSM) application to centralize and modernize service management within the Information Technology Group. ITSM is used by the IT Service Desk Team to manage service ticket requests, generated by business users across Metropolitan. ITSM provides the enterprise with a self-service portal for work requests while improving operational reporting capabilities. To support deployment efforts, IT conducted training to functional teams and held end-user webinars and Q&A forums to familiarize users with the new tool.



ServiceNow Portal

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

OBJECTIVE #1 Provide IT services in support of the Headquarters Improvements Program.

- Provided on-going IT services for equipment relocation of workstations, phones, printers, and network configuration changes as part of the seismic retrofit upgrades in support of the Headquarters Improvements Program. On-going logistics continued in preparation for the return of seventh floor operations involving staff from IT, CFO, and WSO, while the team continued to support ESG on the relocation of upper floors to the wing area to facilitate construction activities.
- Supported Physical Security Enhancements (IP cameras and IT infrastructure needs for physical security). Partnered with key stakeholders to provide necessary infrastructure requirements for connectivity and integration of equipment and systems.

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

- Provided on-going IT services for equipment relocation of workstations, phones, printers, and network configuration changes as part of the seismic retrofit upgrades in support of the Headquarters Improvements Program. On-going logistics continued in preparation for the return of seventh floor operations involving staff from IT, CFO, and WSO, while the team continued to support ESG on the relocation of upper floors to the wing area to facilitate construction activities.
- 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, final preparation is underway to seek authority to proceed and is scheduled for March 2021 Board action.
- Supported Physical Security Enhancements (IP cameras, IT infrastructure needs for physical security). Partnered with key stakeholders to provide necessary infrastructure requirements for connectivity and integration of equipment and systems.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

OBJECTIVE #2 Manage Information Technology Projects within the Capital Investment Plan to deploy innovative solutions.

- Collaborated with ESG on the capital improvements project to upgrade the audiovisual (AV) technology systems at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building for the Boardroom Technology Upgrade Project. This project replaces end-of-life equipment with current technologies and AV equipment located in the board and committee rooms. The IT work is being closely coordinated with current construction activities at the headquarters building. In addition, current activities include coordination of design and construction for a new LED Curved Display Screen in Metropolitan's rotunda/reception area.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*



Headquarters Rotunda



Construction Behind Board Room Area

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

- Leveraged technologies (testing equipment) to support business partners. IT continued to collaborate with WSO on testing activities for the CRA Teleprotection, which is a mission-critical communications network for transmission of electricity at Metropolitan hydro-electric plants.
- Continued provisioning newly acquired iPads as part of the Maximo Mobile Computing Project to simplify access to information and improve functionality.
- Delivered customer-requested enhancements (LIMS application reconfiguration) and dashboard reporting (WQ IEWSTR Dashboard Interactive Report).

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.

Metropolitan was granted a permanent access easement by Avalon Brea Place LLC (Avalon) for ingress, egress, road, and pipeline maintenance purposes associated with the Orange County Feeder (OC Feeder). In exchange, Avalon proposed to construct access driveways and parking stalls over Metropolitan's existing easement, which required a substitute easement for continued and unobstructed access to the OC Feeder.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) granted Metropolitan a one-year entry permit in support of the Lake Perris Bypass Relining Project. This project will reline a 1,200-foot portion of Metropolitan's Perris Bypass Pipeline to accommodate DWR's improvements to their emergency release facilities, which will reduce risks to public safety and property due to pipeline failure and flooding.

Objective #2 Foster staff training and development.

Staff completed the following International Right of Way Association-sponsored courses:

- Environmental Awareness
- The Uniform Act Executive Summary for knowledge in relocation assistance
- Principles of Real Estate Negotiation

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.

A Strategic Partnership Program agreement with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) has been executed for a seven-month term, whereby LLNL is tasked with identifying carbon dioxide capture and storage (CCS) opportunities within Metropolitan's Bay-Delta islands. The scope of work entails LLNL performing a general assessment of the technological, scientific, economic, and regulatory dimensions of CCS within the Bay-Delta islands. The assessment will be captured in a final report as a key deliverable.

REAL PROPERTY *continued*

CORE BUSINESS: Real Property Acquisition, Management and Revenue Enhancement

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

Staff replaced the original “Metropolitan Water District” sign located above the west entrance of the Headquarters building.



Lettering replaced at West Entrance of USHQ.

Objective #4 District Housing Maintenance and Management.

Staff prepared two district houses for occupancy in January for employees whose positions require them to have an onsite residence.

Partnering with a contractor, staff completed the replacement of flooring that had exceeded its life expectancy for six district houses within the four Desert villages.

SECURITY/CAO

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Develop and Refine Security's Strategic Plan

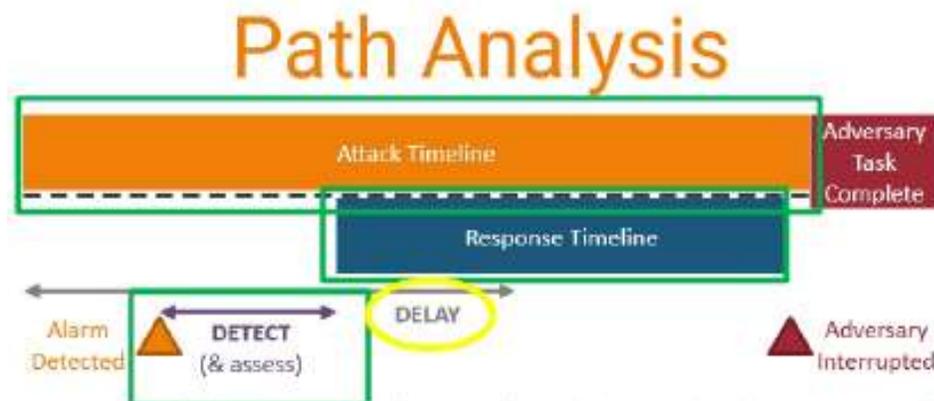
In December, Security Management Unit and Water System Operations staff participated in a Jensen Plant meet-and-greet event with a team of firefighters from the Knollwood Fire Station (LAFD 18). The firefighters were given an overview of plant operations from the Administrative Building's rooftop. Their focus was on mass casualty operations, medevac landing zones, and identification and location of the most hazardous chemicals in the plant. Their Hazmat Squad is located nearby at Station 87, Devonshire and Balboa.



Meet-and-greet with Knollwood Fire Station (LAFD 18) firefighters

Objective #2 Improve Security and Emergency Response

Metropolitan's Security Management Unit staff completed the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Utility Risk & Resilience Certificate Program. The 10-hour online certificate program was based on several AWWA standards and associated water utility resources (G430, G440, J100, and Cybersecurity Guidance) that facilitate compliance with the new expanded provisions of America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018, which Metropolitan met in 2020.



Path analysis was included in AWWA's Utility Risk & Resilience Certificate Program

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #5 Ensure reliable State Water Project (SWP)

Staff participated in discussions with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding the Castaic Dam Modernization Project. Castaic Lake is the terminal reservoir of the State Water Project (SWP) West Branch. DWR is working on a comprehensive plan to upgrade the aging Castaic Dam facilities, which may involve water outages.

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

Staff commented on the Paradox Valley Unit Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) published by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The Paradox Valley Unit is a deep aquifer brine injection well that is part of the Colorado River Basin (CRB) Salinity Control Program. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation identified no action as the preferred alternative in the FEIS; however, CRB Salinity Control Forum members, including Metropolitan staff, recommended that USBR select a modified version of evaporation ponds alternative as the preferred alternative.



Aerial view of the Paradox Valley Unit (Credit: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #2 Complete the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan

On December 17, 2020, Metropolitan posted its Final Draft 2020 UWMP for member agency review as part of continued regional coordination and to help member agencies with their UWMP preparation. Metropolitan received comments from three member agencies and will consider these comments in developing the Public Review Draft 2020 UWMP.

Metropolitan is currently developing the Public Review Draft 2020 UWMP, which will incorporate recently received supply and demand information from the member agencies, DWR, and USBR. The first Public Review Draft will be posted on Metropolitan's website on February 1, 2021.

Metropolitan is preparing the required 60-day notification for the joint hearing for the draft UWMP, draft Water Shortage Contingency Plan and the addendum to the 2015 UWMP on Reduced Delta Reliance reporting. Metropolitan will send notification letters to the cities and counties within the service area in the last week of January. In addition, Metropolitan will publish the notification, both in English and Spanish, to satisfy their multi-language requirement. The publication in English will be on February 1 and 8 and, in Spanish, on January 28–30 and February 4–6 in 12 Southern California newspapers.

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

In January, Metropolitan submitted its Annual Report to the California State Legislature on Achievements in Conservation, Recycling, and Groundwater Recharge for the fiscal year ending in 2020.

Objective #7 Participate in Federal, State and Local Water-Energy Nexus processes to support Metropolitan Energy Sustainability and Climate Action Plans

Staff briefed Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) representatives on Metropolitan's UWMP Water-Energy Nexus data and GHG reporting. The 2020 UWMP requires water agencies to provide readily available information on the energy intensities of their supplies. Metropolitan is providing a single energy intensity metric for member agencies to use in their own UWMPs. The data is disaggregated into conveyance, treatment, and distribution. Metropolitan's Water-Energy reporting also incorporates net embedded energy from the State Water Project to ensure that it accurately reflects the overall energy intensity of supplies delivered to the member agencies. Staff coordinated with LADWP on how to interpret Metropolitan's data for LADWP's UWMP. Staff also provided an overview of Metropolitan's GHG reporting to The Climate Registry.

Objective #8 Implement Regional Conservation Program

Metropolitan staff hosted a virtual Program Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting with more than 30 member and retail agency representatives. The PAC considered potential new technologies for inclusion in Metropolitan's rebate and incentive programs and discussed recommendations for programmatic changes to the overall Conservation Credits Program. Additional items discussed at the PAC included potential modification to Metropolitan's Large Landscape Survey program, ways Metropolitan might assist member and retail agencies in meeting requirements for AB 1668 and SB 606 (Make Conservation a California Way of Life), and the implementation of the recently approved Leak Detection pilot program. The PAC will meet again in early March 2021.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

Staff hosted a virtual Model Water Efficient Ordinance workshop series for 45 landscape and water agency professionals. This workshop series taught the elements of the ordinance and best management practices for applying the ordinance.

Staff hosted the virtual Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program workshop series for 50 landscape professionals. This series focused on water efficient irrigation and landscape practices and allowed participants to graduate with two WaterSense industry certifications.

OBJECTIVE #9 Ensure cost-effective State Water Project supplies

Staff participated in DWR's Operations, Maintenance, and Engineering Committee (OME) meeting. DWR staff informed the SWP contractors that Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) studies for Oroville will begin soon. DWR is working with the US Army Corps of Engineers to update the Oroville Water Control Manual, which, with the implementation of new forecasting tools, could potentially allow for water supply benefits.

Staff participated in DWR's briefing on the California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP). The CASP implemented short-term actions that consisted of raising concrete lining and installing instrumentation in the sections of the California Aqueduct more severely impacted by subsidence. DWR is currently working on a long-term plan to restore capacity and improve operations of the aqueduct.

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 on a hiring panel for a new President and Chief Executive Officer for the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE). Mary Ann Dickenson is retiring as President and CEO of AWE. AWE is a 501(c)(3) and has over 500 members in the United States and Canada committed to promoting the efficient and sustainable use of water.

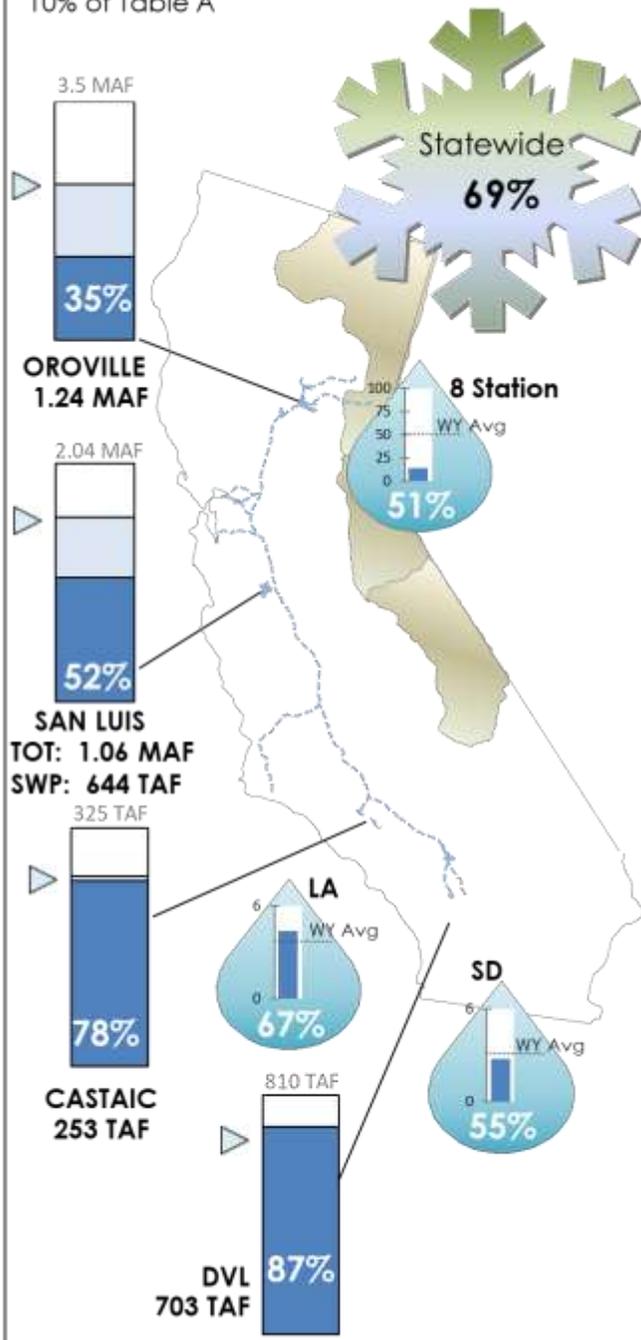
Objective #4 Promote Metropolitan's technical capabilities and innovation efforts to advance the understanding of water resources management.

Metropolitan staff presented to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' Water Policy and Water Technical Advisory Committees information regarding Metropolitan's Stormwater for Direct Use and Stormwater Recharge Pilot Programs. The presentation focused on the general scope of both of Metropolitan's stormwater pilot programs, including the pilots' goals, project criteria, funding structure, and project selection processes.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

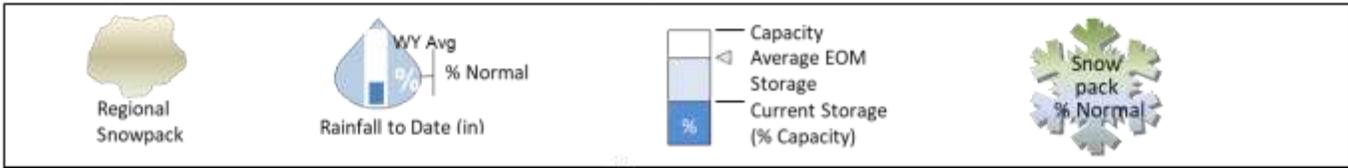
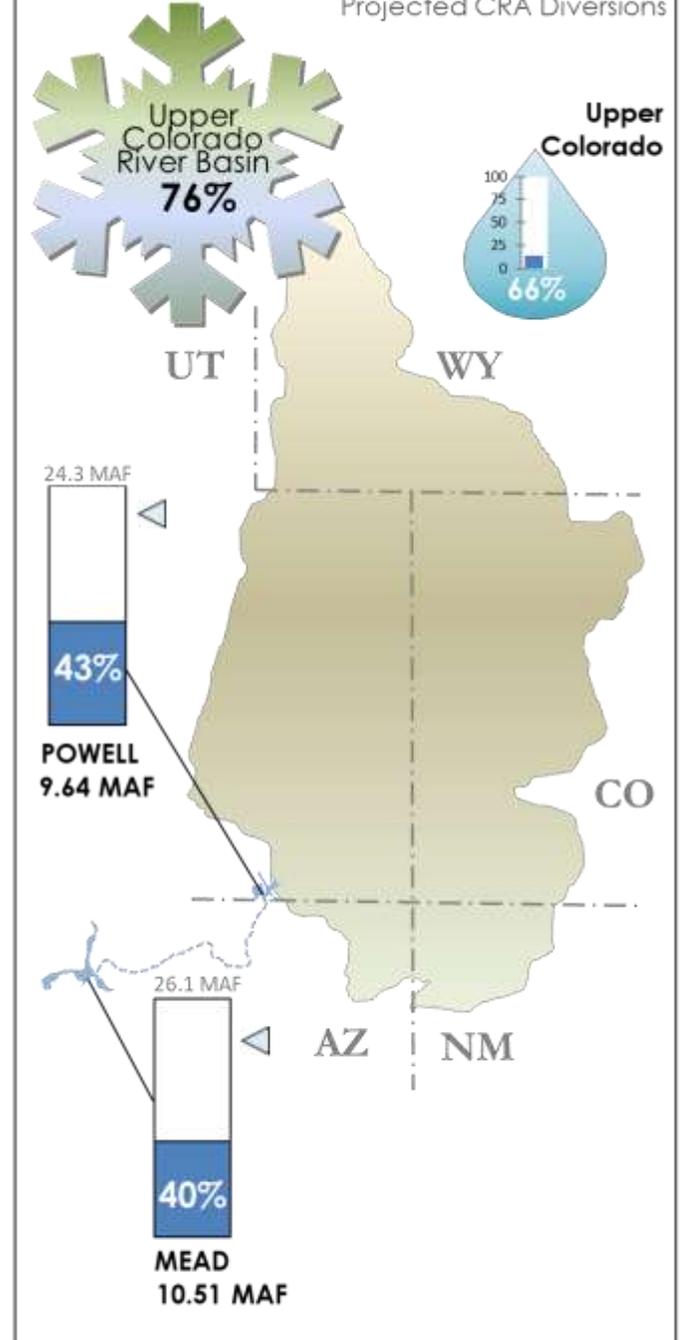
2021 SWP Allocation

191,150 AF
10% of Table A



2021 Colorado River

1,063,000 AF
Projected CRA Diversions



As of January 31, 2021

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Provide Reliable Water Deliveries

Metropolitan delivered approximately 96,875, acre-feet (AF) of water to member agencies in January. Deliveries averaged approximately 3,125 AF per day in January, which was 778 AF per day lower than December's deliveries. Treated water deliveries for January totaled 46,130 AF, or 48 percent of total deliveries for the month. This was a decrease of about 11,135 AF from December's treated water deliveries. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) maintained a seven-pump flow, or 3,150 AF per day, for the majority of January. The CRA transitioned to zero flow on January 28 in preparation for the CRA shutdown. A total of 85,550 AF was pumped on the CRA for the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,078 AF per day, totaling about 33,410 AF for the month which accounted for about 34 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. 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 December 2020.

On January 19, staff met with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for the regular quarterly collaborative update. Discussion topics included regulatory updates, revised Total Coliform Rule, shutdown update, and an update on disinfection byproducts.

Staff submitted the diesel permit applications to Cal/OSHA to operate the tunnel cleaning machine (TCM) during the CRA shutdown in February 2021. An inspection and pre-job field meeting with Cal/OSHA is scheduled for February 3.

Staff published a new Safety Talk on Reducing the Spread of Flu, Cold, or Coronavirus that is posted on the COVID-19 and SRS IntraMet webpages. The Safety Talk provides information on universal precautions that employees can take to help prevent the spread of these illnesses.

MWD Safety Talk
Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Reducing the Spread of Flu, Cold, or Coronavirus

As flu and cold season approaches, and with the threat of COVID-19 still around, many people are wondering how to tell the difference between these illnesses and how to prevent its spread. While the flu, cold and COVID-19 have different symptoms, there are some universal precautions that everyone can take to help prevent the spread of these illnesses all year-round.

Differences in Symptoms:

Symptoms	Coronavirus	Flu	Cold
Fever	Common	Common	Rarely
Fatigue	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Sneezing	Common (rarely dry)	Common (rarely dry)	Very
Coughing	Yes	Yes	Common
Runny nose	Uncommon	Common	Common
Sore throat	Uncommon	Uncommon	Common
Headache	Yes	Uncommon (rarely)	No
Redness of eyes	Uncommon	Common	Very
Loss of taste	Uncommon	No	No

New Safety Talk on Reducing the Spread of Flu, Cold, or Coronavirus

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Hearing Board granted Metropolitan a variance allowing exceedance of the annual 200-hour run-time permit limit because of the recent wildfires and PSPS events. In accordance with the variance requirements, staff submitted the engine operating log to SCAQMD, with a final run-time total of 356.6 hours for calendar year 2020. A fee for the excess run-time (beyond the 200-hour annual limit) was paid to SCAQMD.

Objective #3 Actively Engage in Capital Project Planning and Execution

Replacement flow meters were installed on the delivery lines as a part of a capital project at the Eagle Mountain pumping plant. Staff also fabricated and installed a stand for the flow meter's electrical disconnect switches. At Iron Mountain pumping plant, staff replaced a delivery line flow meter. Each delivery line is fed by up to three pumps, and the flow meters assist the aqueduct and power dispatchers with balancing flows along the Colorado River Aqueduct.



**Staff fabricating a stand for
CRA flow meter equipment at Eagle Mountain pumping plant**



Staff replacing a flow meter at Iron Mountain pumping plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff installed new on-line water quality instruments in several new locations as part of the Diemer Sample Line Improvement capital project. This work was performed by Metropolitan staff and involved the replacement and upgrade of water quality instruments, in order to provide rapid and reliable feedback to the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. The project is scheduled to be completed by July 2021.



New on-line water quality instruments installed at the Diemer plant

Objective #4 Optimize Maintenance

Staff rebuilt the Eagle Mountain 230/6.9 kV C Phase transformer oil pump because of a failed bearing. The transformer oil pump is used to keep the large transformer cool by circulating the transformer oil through heat exchangers. The transformer reduces incoming voltage from 230 kV to the 6.9 kV used by the CRA's main pump unit motors.



Staff rebuilding transformer oil cooling pump at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

During a routine inspection of one of the main pump units at Eagle Mountain pumping plant, staff discovered that part of an insulating band was delaminating inside the electrical motor. The unit was rotated out of service to allow a more detailed inspection and repair. Staff applied an epoxy and an insulating coating to repair the delamination. Eagle Mountain pumping plant's nine 12,500 hp pumps lift the water 438 feet along the CRA.



Electrical motor delamination on a pump unit at Eagle Mountain pumping plant



Staff repairing delamination inside a pump unit's electrical motor at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

Staff continued the system-wide coatings program aimed at preventing corrosion and extending the life of pipelines and other infrastructure. Staff recently completed coating maintenance on the East Valley Feeder and Rialto Pipeline. Recently, staff coated a vandalized vacuum valve air release structure along the West Valley Feeder No. 1.



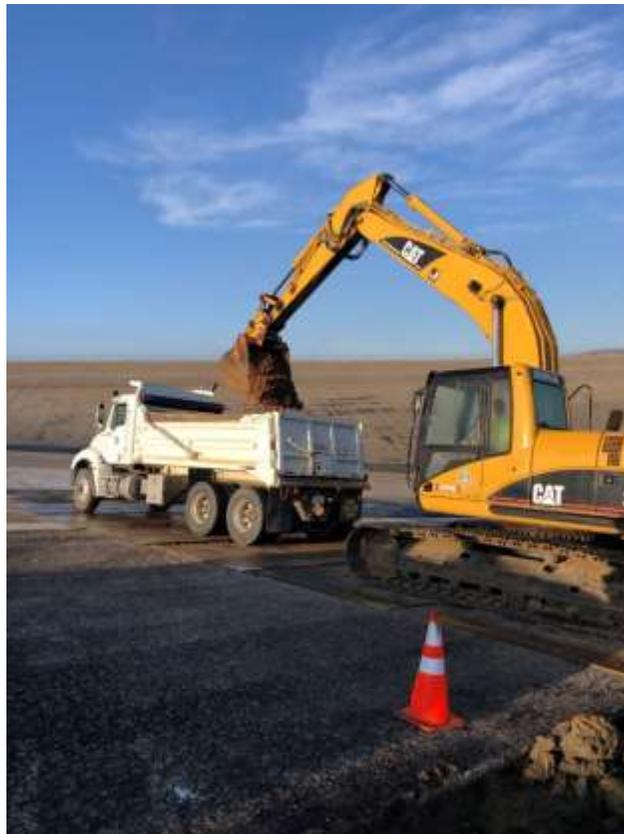
Pipeline access flange on the East Valley Feeder before (left) and after (right) coating repairs

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Vandalized vacuum valve air release structure on West Valley Feeder No. 1 before (left) and after (right) coating repairs

Live Oak Reservoir, located along the Rialto Feeder, has a storage capacity of 2,500 acre-feet. The reservoir provides raw water to the Diemer and Weymouth plants. During a recent inspection of the reservoir, engineering staff identified 16 locations along the reservoir's asphalt liner, which was placed in service the 1970s, that had become compromised and needed immediate mitigation. Staff is repairing 6,000 sq. ft. of asphalt liner, with the work scheduled to be completed in February 2021.



Staff repairing the asphalt liner at Live Oak Reservoir

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff is upgrading the catwalk in the loading bays of the Chemical Unloading Facility (CUF). The CUF is Metropolitan's transloading facility, located in Riverside County, where chlorine is transferred from railcars to cargo truck trailers for delivery to the treatment plants. The work includes installing and repositioning convenience receptacles and installing a gantry crane. The additional receptacles will minimize tripping hazards on the catwalk and the gantry crane will enable staff to safely raise or lower the stairway to access the chlorine trailers.



Catwalk in the loading bay at the Chemical Unloading Facility (CUF)

The La Verne Shops manufactured a new manhole cover for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Santa Ana Valley Pipeline, which transports water from Devil Canyon power plant to Lake Perris. The manhole cover will be installed during a scheduled shutdown this month to address a leak that was detected and temporarily repaired in October 2020.



Corroded condition of the existing manhole cover (left) and top of leaking cover (right) in DWR's Santa Ana Valley Pipeline

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



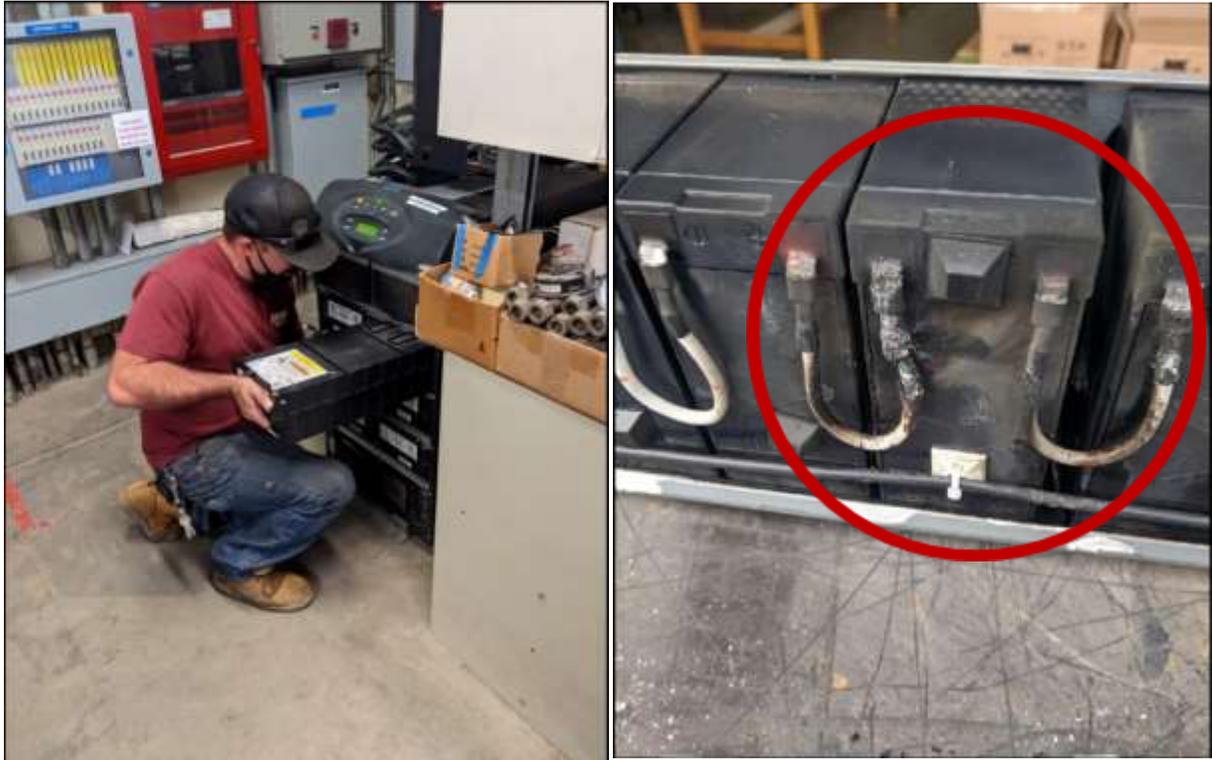
Staff fabricating a manhole cover for DWR's Santa Ana Valley Pipeline



Manhole cover with corrosion resistant coating for DWR's Santa Ana Valley Pipeline

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff is currently in the process of replacing over 300 batteries in 15 Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) units throughout the Weymouth plant. These units are designed to provide for a seamless transition to emergency generator power for critical equipment in the event of a utility power failure. Batteries are typically replaced every five years to ensure reliability.



Staff installing a new battery module (left) to replace failed batteries (right) during maintenance activities at the Weymouth plant

Lake Mathews is a raw water reservoir located in Riverside County that was built in 1938 and has a capacity of 182,000 acre-feet. The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), the state's jurisdictional agency overseeing reservoirs and dams, annually inspects the dam. After its last inspection, DSOD identified 36 locations on the main dam for concrete spalling repairs. This month, staff and a contractor removed spalling concrete, repaired exposed rebar, and added new concrete.

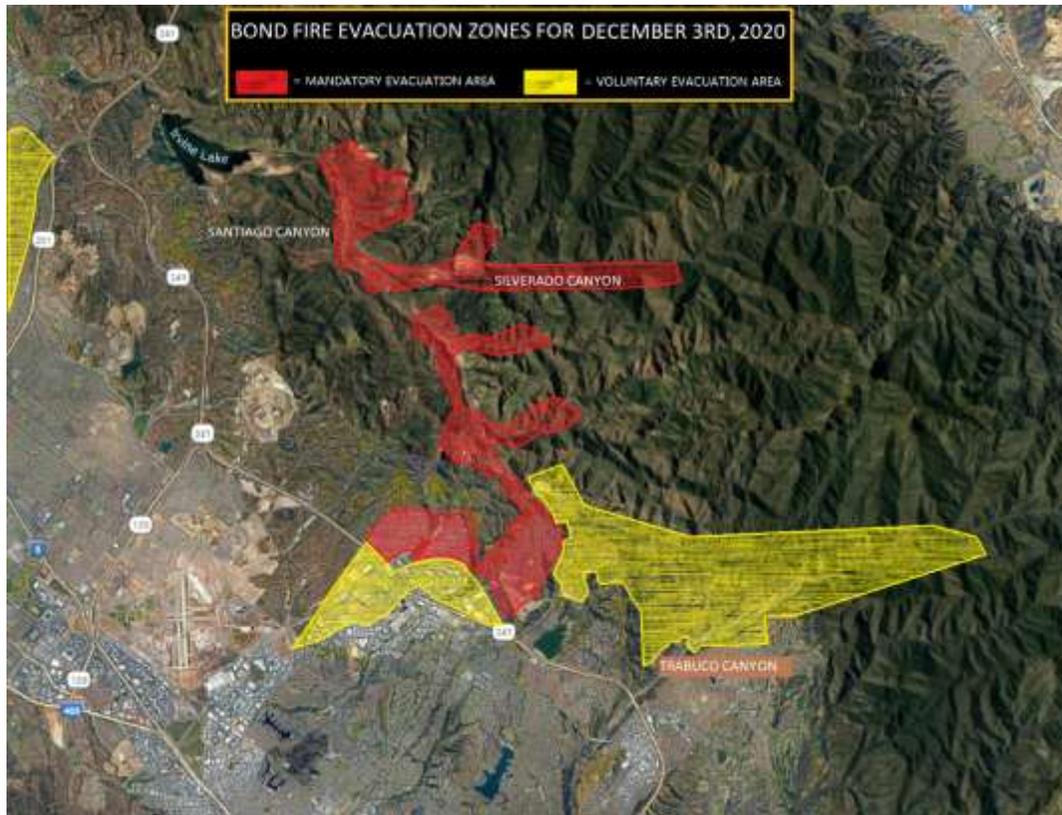


Staff removing spalling concrete on the dam at Lake Mathews

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Objective #6 Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Bond Fire threatened portions of Metropolitan's service area in Orange County in early December 2020. Staff monitored the spread of the fire and the communication status of distribution facilities, as precautionary power outages were implemented by Southern California Edison affecting several Metropolitan structures. Redundant telemetry systems remained in service and ensured that remote operations were uninterrupted. The Bond Fire was effectively contained before there was any damage to Metropolitan property. Staff developed mapping tools that were used to effectively monitor the effects of the Bond Fire. These tools will continue to be used as part of Metropolitan's emergency preparedness and response efforts.



Map showing the impact of the Bond Fire in the Orange County area

Objective #7 Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution

The State Project Water (SPW) target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants was zero percent in January 2021. The SPW target entering Lake Skinner was also zero percent in January 2021.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from November 2019 through October 2020 for Metropolitan's treatment plants that can receive a blend of SPW and CRA water were 539, 533, and 452 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Staff installed bird netting on Module 7 at the Skinner plant. Birds seasonally search for nesting areas throughout the plant and sometimes in locations that can potentially affect water quality.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff installed bird netting (outlined in blue) at the Module 7 filter inlet channel at the Skinner plant

Staff installed a new Human Machine Interface (HMI) touch screen panel in the Solids Handling Belt Press Building at the Skinner plant. The new HMI panel provides more detailed alarm and status information and can be used by operators to communicate and troubleshoot problems with the belt presses more effectively.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff installing a new touch screen HMI panel in the Solids Handling Belt Press Building at the Skinner plant

Staff serviced a distribution breaker that provides power to the water treatment equipment at the Diemer plant. The breaker is inspected and maintained annually to ensure power system and treatment reliability.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff performing maintenance on a power distribution panel at the Diemer plant

Staff repaired a leak on the sulfuric acid feed system at the Weymouth plant. During a routine inspection, staff discovered that the feed pump was leaking at the discharge flange. After switching to a redundant spare pump, staff safely flushed, isolated, and repaired the leak.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff replacing a leaking gasket on a sulfuric acid pump at the Weymouth plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Objective #8 Manage Water Reserves

Water reserves continued to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles, operational objectives, and the current 10 percent SWP allocation. Because of this low allocation and to manage storage levels in Lake Mathews, deliveries to the Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District exchange account were suspended on January 7. Deliveries of SWP supply were minimized to preserve SWP Carryover and Flexible Storage. Releases from DVL through PC-1 to connections on the Lakeview Pipeline began on January 21 to stop SWP use in that area as a precaution in case the SWP allocation remains low for the entire year. Metropolitan's record-high storage levels at the end of 2020 provide significant water supply reliability in 2021.

Objective #10 Manage Vacancies

WSO filled two vacant positions in December 2020.

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. DPA testing began in December and concluded this month. DPAs were proctored by journey-level staff from Metropolitan's treatment and distribution teams.



Class of 2020 Apprentice Fabrication Exercise during the Demonstrated Proficiency Assessment

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #1 Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation

On January 22, staff participated in a microplastics workshop organized by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project. The focus of the workshop was a two-year multi-laboratory evaluation to develop and validate methods for detecting and quantifying microplastics in water.

On December 17, staff submitted comments on the State Water Resources Control Board's Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR). Metropolitan has been complying with both the federal RTCR and state TCR since 2016. The new RTCR seeks to align the state and federal rules, though the state RTCR is more stringent in some regards.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Metropolitan’s comments focused on clarifying the public notification process in the event of a bacteriological exceedance.

On January 7, staff submitted comments on the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) interpretation over how to determine “functional equivalency” in response to the Supreme Court’s ruling in the *County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund* case. While the Supreme Court set out seven factors to help determine when functional equivalency exists for a pollutant discharge from a point source that reaches a jurisdictional surface water via groundwater or other subsurface flow, the EPA added an eighth factor (i.e., the design and performance of the system or facility from which the pollutant is released), which may limit the ruling’s applicability. Metropolitan recommended that the EPA develop guidance without adding any new factors that are inconsistent with both the Court’s ruling and the intent of the Clean Water Act.

Objective #3 Support the Regional Recycled Water Program

In January, staff continued testing, operations, monitoring, and maintenance 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), a process called “challenge testing”. Staff also continued performing routine sample collection to demonstrate water quality performance through the treatment process, as well as overall treatment system performance monitoring.

Staff prepared two submittals for the Division of Drinking Water, including an addendum to explain revisions to the current testing and monitoring plan for a tertiary MBR treating secondary wastewater effluent, and the proposed testing and monitoring plan for a secondary MBR process treating primary wastewater effluent.



Inspecting the inside of an MBR tank to assess snail removal following a routine chemical clean

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff preparing to install a water quality instrument at the demonstration plant to improve accuracy and reliability of turbidity measurements

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

Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of approximately 13 megawatts, or over 9,610 megawatt-hours and just over \$558,080 in revenue, for the month of December 2020. Metropolitan's solar facilities totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity generated over 445 megawatt-hours in November 2020.

Objective #6 Protect Source Water Quality

On January 16, Metropolitan submitted comments to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) on its response to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Hoover Dam Landfill Mitigation Plan issued in October 2020. Metropolitan's comments addressed the landfill surface water quality sampling and analysis plan and the background soil sampling and analysis plan.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

Objective #1 Develop New Solutions to Enhance Operational and Business Processes

Staff completed and submitted the draft final report for an applied research project on cyanotoxins. This two-year project was funded by the Water Research Foundation to optimize and standardize analytical methods for detecting and measuring cyanotoxins in water. The tools developed and refined by the project ensure that Metropolitan can reliably detect and quantify cyanotoxins in source waters and therefore make sound operational decisions in response to cyanobacterial bloom events.

Objective #2 Support and Engage with Member Agencies on Technical Matters

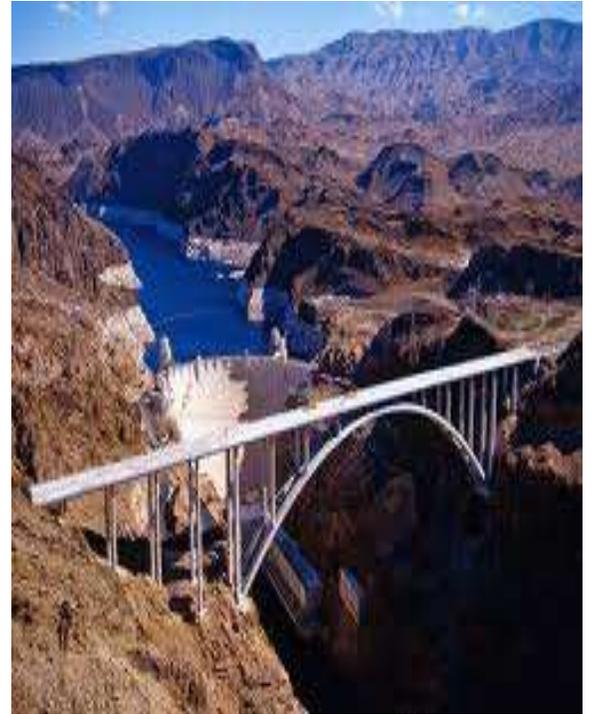
On January 21, staff organized and hosted a technical meeting for Water Quality managers and staff from Member Agencies. Topics presented and discussed included an update from the American Water Works Association, a California regulatory update, the latest information on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and an update on Metropolitan's system and operations.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Monthly Update as of:

1/31/2021

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	9,649,000	40%
Lake Mead	10,510,000	41%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	1,238,824	35%
Shasta Lake	2,128,716	47%
San Luis Total	1,059,893	52%
San Luis CDWR	643,937	61%
Castaic Lake	252,637	78%
Silverwood Lake	66,027	88%
Lake Perris	121,926	93%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	702,960	87%
Lake Mathews	106,630	59%
Lake Skinner	41,775	95%



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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