



The GENERAL MANAGER Monthly Report

**Activities for the Month of
March 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.

APRIL 13, 2021



Skinner Lake South Diamond Valley Lake

Table of Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Administrative Services | 3 |
| Bay-Delta Initiatives | 4-5 |
| Chief Financial Officer | 6-7 |
| Engineering Services..... | 8-12 |
| Environmental Planning..... | 13-16 |
| External Affairs | 17-24 |
| Human Resources | 25-29 |
| Information Technology | 30-35 |
| Real Property..... | 36-38 |
| Water Resource Mgmt..... | 39-42 |
| Water System Operations | 43-64 |

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION/CAO

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

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

1. The Procurement Team collaborated with various stakeholders to pilot a new Purchasing Card (P-Card) software application. The new software application offers real-time updates and enhanced reporting and audit capabilities. The P-Card pilot program was successfully completed in February 2021. The project team is now focused on rolling out the program to the remaining cardholders. The process will continue through March, with full implementation in April.
2. Progress continues with the implementation of ArchivEra, an archives management software that will significantly enhance Metropolitan's ability to manage, access, and provide visibility to archived physical and digital items.



Archives management software snapshot

Accomplishments

The Administrative Services Business Management Team collaborated with the Technical Writing Team and various subject matter experts in developing desktop procedure manuals for the Rideshare Program and Board Letter coordination and in updating the Mailroom procedures. These manuals are used as a tool for on-the-job training and succession planning training within the Administrative Services Section.

BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

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

Staff co-organized and participated in the Delta Science Program’s workshop, titled “Monitoring Steelhead Populations in The San Joaquin Basin.” The workshop supports the Biological Opinion on Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP), which aims to develop a plan to monitor steelhead populations within the San Joaquin Basin and/or the San Joaquin River downstream of the confluence of the Stanislaus River, including steelhead and rainbow trout on non-project San Joaquin tributaries.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

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

DWR conducted interviews with stakeholders in February and early March on the concept of incorporating a Community Benefits Program as part of the Delta Conveyance Project to help protect and enhance the cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta. DWR scheduled three public workshops: April 14, May 6, and May 25, and one tribal workshop on May 17, to have additional discussions and obtain feedback from a wider audience. Registration to participate in the workshops and additional information can be found on DWR’s website (<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/Community-Benefits-Program>).

Joint Powers Authorities

During the March 18 DCA Board of Directors Meeting, the board received an update on monthly progress, with an anticipated end-of-year budget savings of approximately \$1 million for fiscal year 2020-2021. At the March DCA meeting, the board unanimously voted to amend the Management Partners Agreement for Executive Director Services, transitioning the existing Executive Director Ms. Kathryn Mallon as a Senior Advisor and Mr. Graham Bradner to serve as the Executive Director on an initial interim basis effective April 1, 2021. Ms. Mallon conveyed to the board that she wished to pursue other opportunities more closely related to her experience in traditional construction and project delivery.

No DCA Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) meetings were scheduled in March. The next scheduled SEC meeting is on April 28.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

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

Staff co-authored a recently accepted publication in the journal *Ecotoxicology* titled, “Effects of dietary cypermethrin exposure on swimming performance and expression of lipid homeostatic genes in livers of juvenile Chinook salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*.” In the study, field-relevant concentrations of the pyrethroid pesticide cypermethrin were exposed to Chinook salmon to evaluate the effects of the pesticide on salmon following dietary exposure. The study found that the pesticide exposure significantly altered the salmon fatty acid metabolic pathways, suggesting impairments to the salmon nutritional status. The study was funded by Proposition 1 grant funding, and Metropolitan provided cost share funding and participated in the study.

BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES *continued*

In March, three scientific papers were published in the San Francisco Estuary & Watershed Science journal that reported on results from the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT) Delta smelt entrainment studies (diversion of fish at the state and federal water project diversions in the South Delta). The purpose of the entrainment studies was to evaluate the factors affecting Delta smelt entrainment at the SWP and CVP facilities. The first paper identified hydrology, water clarity, Delta smelt distribution, and precipitation as significant factors affecting entrainment at the export facilities. The other two papers report on the development and results from a Behavioral Particle Tracking model used in conjunction with hydrodynamics to evaluate the potential effects of Delta smelt swimming behaviors on distribution and proportional entrainment losses. Many unknowns were identified as part of these studies, and overall, the researchers report on an improved framework for evaluating entrainment. CAMT will discuss these published studies and consider next steps. The Collaborative Adaptive Management Team has representatives from state and federal agencies, public water agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Their work is directed by a policy group of the same entities.

CORE BUSINESS RELIABILITY

Objective # 1 Provide analysis of key regulations and legislation that may influence SWP supply reliability, Bay Delta water quality and environmental health.

Delta Stewardship Council

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) is conducting a climate change study for the Delta and Suisun Marsh as part of their Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future initiative (Delta Adapts). The study will help the Council assess specific climate risks and vulnerabilities in the Delta and, in coordination with stakeholders, develop adaptation strategies to address those vulnerabilities. The draft Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) portion of Delta Adapts analyzes the vulnerability of various asset types within the Delta from a number of climate stressors and hazards. The Council released its draft CCVA in January 2021 and began conducting scoping meetings for its Adaptation Strategy in late February 2021.

Staff participated in stakeholder workgroup meetings regarding the draft CCVA along with representatives from local and regional government agencies, state agencies, utility companies, other water districts, and environmental organizations.

Staff reviewed and developed a comment letter on the draft CCVA in coordination with the State Water Contractors (SWC). Staff provided detailed technical comments related to water supply, water quality, flooding, ecosystems and the economy that centered on the need for the CCVA to fully recognize the connections between climate change challenges in the Delta and vulnerabilities outside of the Delta. Comments were submitted through the SWC on March 16 and highlighted the need to address technical concerns identified in the draft CCVA because climate change risks in the Delta are of statewide importance and hold significant policy implications as the Council develops the Adaptation strategy portion of Delta Adapts.

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 55 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 47 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.

- Continued working with groups across the district on Business Continuity Plan updates.
- Collaborated with IT and the MetAlert emergency notification vendor (MIR3) to make technical changes in support of the vendor's data center move to Amazon Web Services.
- Participated in Metropolitan's Innovation Council and its Charter Committee.
- Continued working with the vendor on enhancements being made to the Fusion business continuity software.
- In preparation for Fusion software renewal, participated in scoping calls to get estimates on a couple of other vendor products.

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 February 2021 totaled 95.4 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 5.0 TAF lower than the budget of 100.4 TAF. This translates to \$86.6 million in revenues for February 2021, which were \$2.7 million lower than the budget of \$89.3 million.
- Year-to-date water transactions through February 2021 were 1,038.6 TAF, which was 28.8 TAF lower than the budget of 1,067.4 TAF. Year-to-date water transactions through February 2021 were \$913.7 million, which were \$32.2 million lower than the budget of \$945.9 million.
- In February 2021, Accounts Payable processed approximately 2,800 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$12,800 in discounts.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER *continued*

Objective #4 Update capital financing plans and work with rating agencies and investors to communicate financial needs and capabilities, ensure cost-effective access to capital markets, and maintain long-term bond ratings of AA or better.

On February 4, 2021, Metropolitan issued \$188,890,000 of Water Revenue Bonds, 2021 Series A, at a true interest cost of 2.77 percent. There was strong investor demand with \$839 million in orders. This allowed for interest rates to be lowered, resulting in \$1.27 million in debt service savings, over the life of the bonds. Bond proceeds will provide \$255 million for funding a portion of the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2020/21 and 2021/22.

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

- As of February 28, 2021, the balance in Metropolitan's investment portfolio was \$1,301.0 million; for the month of February 2021, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 89 trades.
- During the month of February 2021, Treasury staff processed 1,003 disbursements by check, 19 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 78 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 77 receipts by check, 24 receipts by ACH, and 49 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

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 relines approximately 1,500 feet of the Lake Perris Bypass Pipeline. Construction is 12 percent complete. The contractor is currently working on the preparation of contract submittals, fabrication of the steel pipe liners, site excavation, and planning for the upcoming shutdown. Construction is scheduled to be complete by May 2021.
- **Lakeview Pipeline Improvements** – This project relines approximately 450 feet of the Lakeview Pipeline and replaces a 60-inch tee at the Lake Perris Control Facility. Construction is 7 percent complete, with the contractor working on the preparation of contract submittals and planning for the upcoming shutdown. Delivery of pipe is scheduled for in March. Construction is scheduled to be complete by early June 2021.
- **Greg Avenue Pump Station Rehabilitation** – This project improves the Greg Avenue Pump Station's reliability by replacing the existing pumps and upgrading the electrical and control systems. The contractor is conducting start-up testing, which will be completed in March. Construction is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in April 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 99 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. The final design of Reach 3 is 96 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2021. Preliminary design continues for 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 rehabilitates 13 conical plug isolation valves on the Second Lower Feeder. 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 August 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. Fabrication and machining of the 54-inch conical plug components continued in preparation for the second delivery.

ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

- **Allen McColloch Pipeline Relining** – This project relines approximately 1,200 feet of existing PCCP segments with a steel liner pipe. Construction is 4 percent complete, with the contractor currently working on the preparation of contract submittals and fabrication of the steel pipe liners. Construction is scheduled to be complete by June 2021.
- **Sepulveda Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation** – This project relines the remaining 35 miles of PCCP segments within the Sepulveda Feeder. Long-term rehabilitation of the Sepulveda Feeder will be staged over multiple years with multiple construction and procurement contracts. The final design of Reach 1 is 6 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by February 2023. Preliminary design to rehabilitate the remaining reaches of the feeder continues.

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. Overall, construction is 98 percent complete, with the remaining couplings’ installation and relining of discharge lines completed during the February 2021 CRA shutdown. The project is scheduled to be complete by June 2021.
- **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. Stage 2 work includes the replacement of seven radial gates at seven facilities along with the CRA. Construction of Stage 2 is 91 percent complete, with the installation of the last radial gate, hoist, and actuator completed during the February 2021 CRA shutdown. The contractor is working on installing electrical components and panels. Construction is scheduled to be complete by June 2021.
- **CRA Whipple Mountain Meter Installation** - This project replaces deteriorated metering equipment at the Whipple Mountain Tunnel located just downstream of Copper Basin Reservoir. Metropolitan forces completed the installation of the new transducers, flow meter console, conduits, and cables during the February 2021 CRA Shutdown.
- **CRA Security Improvements** – This project will improve infrastructure protection at all five desert pumping plant facilities and the Camino Switching Station on the CRA system. The planned physical security improvements include installation and upgrades of perimeter fencing; permanent guard stations, cameras, motion detectors, card readers, remote speakers, lights; and signage, access control, and road improvements. The preliminary design is 30 percent complete and will be completed in June 2021.
- **Black Metal Mountain 2.4 kV Electrical Power Upgrade** – This project will design and construct the existing 2.4 kV power line replacement that serves Metropolitan’s Black Metal Mountain communications sites. The work will include the installation of new power poles, larger conductors to increase the available power to the sites, and service roads where feasible, to allow access for maintenance. The study phase is 35 percent complete and is planned to be completed by June 2021.



Greg Avenue Pump Station Rehabilitation – Check out and start-up of instrumentation in the pump area

Treatment Plant Reliability Program

This program was initiated to maintain reliability and improve Metropolitan’s water treatment plants’ operating efficiency 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, electrical equipment installation, wire terminations, and control system programming. Construction is 93 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2021.
- **Weymouth Water Quality Instrumentation Improvements** – This project improves 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 suspended work for two weeks in January because of a COVID-19 outbreak in its workforce. Since then, the contractor has resumed work and is currently installing doors and windows, cable trays, a motor control center, and reservoir inlet sample pumps. Construction is 88 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.

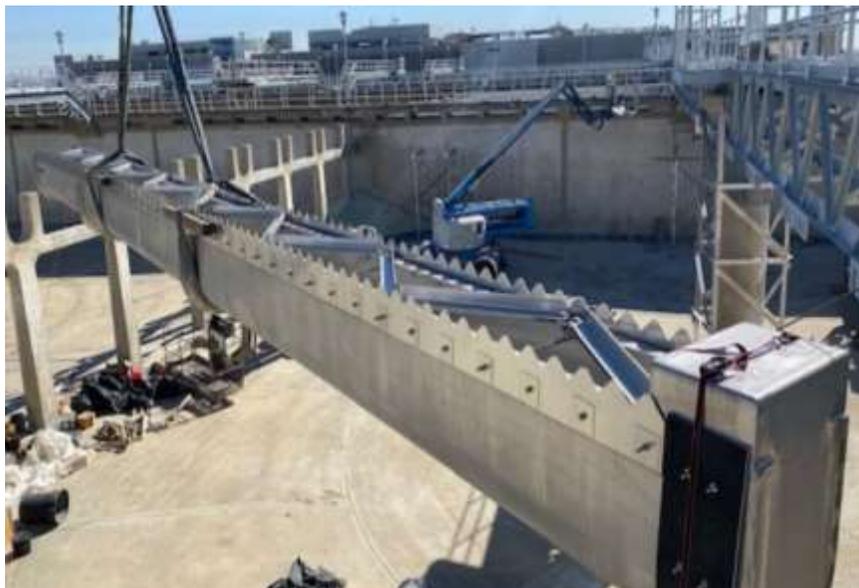
ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

Construction was suspended last year for six weeks because of COVID-19 and resumed in May 2020. In January 2021, the contractor suspended work on this contract for two weeks because of a COVID-19 outbreak in its workforce. Since then, the contractor has resumed work and continues removing and replacing basin and filter equipment, installing new electrical conduits and panels, and performing hazardous abatement activities. Construction is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 2021.

- **Diemer Water Sampling System Improvements** – This project upgrades the existing Diemer water sampling system, comprising 13 sample locations. At each location, the sample pump, piping, and field analyzers will be upgraded by Metropolitan staff. All materials and equipment have been procured for this project. Metropolitan staff is currently installing and commissioning water quality field analyzers. Construction is 81 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 upgrades UPC-7, UPC-9, and their associated motor control centers to support critical process equipment. The contractor completed the installation of both unit substations and two motor control centers and is currently pulling feeder cables to this equipment and installing new motor control centers throughout the site. Because of the COVID-19 work suspension last year, the Spring 2021 plant shutdown for this project has been rescheduled for Spring 2022. Construction is 66 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. Construction is complete, and all eight basins have been successfully refurbished with new equipment and placed back into service.



**West Basin and Filter Building Rehabilitation –
Installation of new stainless-steel launderer onto existing concrete supports**

System Reliability Program

The System Reliability Program consists of projects to improve or modify facilities located throughout Metropolitan's service area in order to use new processes and/or technologies and 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 Building. Construction related to the original contract scope is 93 percent complete. 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 Upgrades** – This project upgrades audio/visual (A/V) systems in the board room, three committee rooms, and the Rotunda at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. Engineering Services, IT, and Facilities Management are working collaboratively on this technology replacement project. The contractor is currently installing electrical and HVAC equipment in the board room and second floor committee rooms and AV equipment in Committee Room 1-102. Construction is 50 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2021.
- **Headquarters Physical Security Upgrades** – The comprehensive security upgrades for the Metropolitan Headquarters Building have been prioritized and staged to minimize rework and impacts on the building's day-to-day operations. The Stage 1 work enhances security related to perimeter windows and doors. Stage 2 improvements provides 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 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 12 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2022. The contractor is installing cabling for cameras and card readers on Floors 1 and 11, in concurrence with other building improvement work. Stage 3 improvements are currently in the design phase.
- **Headquarters Building Fire Alarm and Smoke Control System Upgrades** – This project upgrades the Metropolitan Headquarters Building fire life safety systems, which includes replacement of the fire detection and alarm system and HVAC system improvements for smoke control. The contractor is performing utility research, continuing the permit approval process, and installing mock-ups for the fire alarm panel and elevator lobby containment. Construction is 12 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2022.



Board and Committee Room Upgrade –
Painting board room ceiling following the installation of new LED lights, speakers, and HVAC

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION/CAO

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

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

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Review

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Projects

- Provided CEQA review for the following projects: Employee Housing Window Replacement, District Housing and Property Improvements Program, and Upgrades to Flow Monitoring Station at Mile 12.

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program

- Coordinated with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Communities Conservation Reserve Manager, and Irvine Ranch Company on Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP)/Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) permit requirements; conducted preconstruction survey activities and developed shutdown monitoring plans in support of the Allen McColloch Pipeline (AMP) PCCP Urgent Relining Project.

Perris Valley Pipeline

- Completed Hazardous Waste and Water Quality Analysis memorandums and submitted to the California Department of Transportation in support of obtaining encroachment permit.

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

Webinars attended by staff:

- Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) CEQA Intermediate Workshop
- Office of Planning and Research (OPR) CEQA 202 Series: Exemptions
- 46th Annual Desert Tortoise Council Symposium hosted by the Desert Tortoise Council

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

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

Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Removed invasive stinknet and castor bean vegetation and conducted drone flights to monitor for new infestations.
- Repaired reserve boundary fence along Cajalco Road.
- Observed red diamond and pacific rattlesnakes, rosy boas, gopher, and coachwhip snakes while conducting reptile and amphibian surveys.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Installed Quino checkerspot butterfly habitat protection measures along the Lake Skinner equestrian trail by placing railroad ties along the trail edge.
- Applied herbicide to invasive short-pod mustard populations north of Lake Skinner.
- Conducted prescribed burn of cut invasive tamarisk within the Tucolota Creek restoration site.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION/CAO *continued*

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.

- Received draft Long-Term Routine Maintenance Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW and draft Water Quality Certification from Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Orange County Right-of-Way and Infrastructure Protection Program (RWIPP).

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

- Submitted the Master Specification 01065 (Environmental Requirements) to the Technical Control Team Master Workflow to address changes to regulations.

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.

- Conducted coordination meeting with CDFW Region 5 management and supervisory staff.

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 design phase support for
 - Battery Energy Storage Systems
 - CRA Reliability Program, CRA Mile 12 Flow, and Chlorine Station Upgrades
 - CRA 69kV and 230kV Transformers Replacement Projects
 - Copper and Gene Sluiceways Rehabilitation
 - DVL Boat Launch repairs
 - DVL Wave Attenuator Repair, and
 - EMWD EM-25 Service Connection projects
 - Foothill Hydroelectric Plant Seismic Upgrades
 - Jensen Ozone Power System Units
 - Jensen Vehicle Maintenance and Warehouse Building Roof Replacement
 - Live Oak Reservoir Asphalt Rehabilitation
 - Live Oak Reservoir Piezometer Replacement.
 - Mills Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2
 - Mills Perimeter Security & Erosion Control Project
 - Santa Monica Feeder Cathodic Protection Project
 - Upper Feeder Blow Off Structure Station 2858+91

 - WB23A Service connection Project
 - West Orange County Feeder Cathodic Protection Project
 - West Valley Feeder 1—Stage 3 Improvements Project
 - Weymouth Basin 5-8 Rehabilitation

Water System Operations

- Provided CEQA analysis and environmental planning clearances, including conducting environmental surveys and project reviews, for six WSO projects, including the following shutdowns: Lake Mathews Forebay, San Diego Pipeline No. 5, Lakeview Pipeline, Perris Bypass Pipeline, West Valley Feeder No. 1, and Allen McColloch Pipeline.
- Negotiated with and obtained Streambed Alteration Agreements from CDFW, conducted pre-shutdown surveys, and submitted pre-project reporting for the following shutdowns: Upper Feeder and Lower Feeder, San Diego Pipeline No. 5, and Lakeview Pipeline.

Water Resource Management

- Completed environmental analysis and provided environmental support for
 - Agreement with West Valley Water District
 - Agreement with the Department of Water Resources

Legislative Support

- Prepared a Sponsor support letter and background questionnaire in support of the Metropolitan-sponsored legislative bill AB 442 that will streamline compliance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). Responded to inquiries from committee consultants in preparation for the Assembly Natural Resources (ANR) Committee, which was held on March 24.
- Monitored status of pending state legislation and federal legislation, including providing legislative analysis on AB 11, AB 50, AB 51, AB 223, AB 330, AB 534, AB 649, AB 897, AB 1183, AB 1385, AB 1395, SB 27 (Amendment 1), SB 456, SB 582, SB 592, SB 604, and SB 716.

External Reviews

- Reviewed 17 notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities or operations or both.
- Provided Federal Register review and coordinated responses for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities or operations or both.

Real Property Support

- Provided CEQA analysis and determinations in support of three real property agreements.

Construction Monitoring

- Provided construction monitoring for the following projects: Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Valve Replacement, CRA 6.9kV Cable Replacement, CRA Overhead Cranes Replacement, CRA Discharge Line Isolation and Couplings Repair, Orange County RWIPP, Santiago Lateral Station 280+85 Rehabilitation, and Jensen Plant Flocculators 2 and 3 Rehabilitation.
- Completed environmental monitoring and reporting for the annual CRA shutdown (see photos).



Sunset at Iron Mountain during CRA Shutdown



California quail observed during CRA shutdown



Red-tailed hawk rescued during CRA shutdown

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

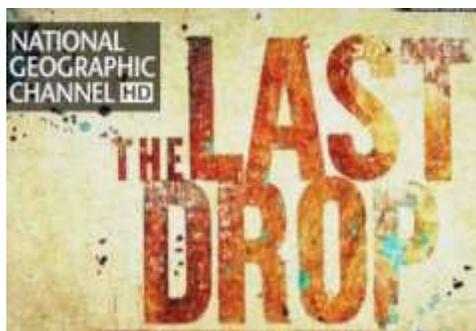
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PRIORITY: Advance Initiatives to Educate and Inform the Public, Elected Officials and Stakeholders on Water Supply Conditions and Important Water Management Decisions.

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.

In response to public and press interest in current water supply conditions, drought impacts on operations and the reduction of State Water Project allocation to five percent, Metropolitan issued a press statement and coordinated interviews with LA Times reporter Bettina Boxall, China Global Television Network, and KNX radio. Postings on social media also renewed the call for conservation, highlighted actions by Metropolitan and member agencies that have resulted in record in-region water storage levels, and emphasized the need for long-term investments in water infrastructure.

Reinforcing the timely conservation message, a National Geographic Channel documentary, “The Last Drop,” premiered and featured Metropolitan’s role as a regional water provider and leader in water use efficiency. The show presented information on Southern California’s water supply challenges, and steps to conserve water with turf replacement and California Friendly® landscapes. The show is available on Nat Geo TV and streaming platforms. (March 26)



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

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

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Objective #1 LEGISLATIVE SERVICES - Develop and implement local, state and federal legislative and regulatory strategies consistent with Board-adopted policies. Promote interaction between Metropolitan leadership and various stakeholders, including elected officials, to facilitate support for and garner greater understanding of water policy issues.

Federal

Chairwoman Gray, Directors Cordero and Kurtz, GM Kightlinger, and staff held virtual briefings with members of Congress to discuss legislative and appropriation priorities including the Regional Recycled Water Program, tax parity for water conservation measures, and infrastructure investments. Meetings were held with Senator Feinstein, Representatives Lowenthal (D-Long Beach) and Calvert (R-Corona), and staff for Senator Padilla. (March 7)

Metropolitan staff is tracking the implementation of the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package that provides \$350 billion for state and local government recovery, including \$42.6 billion for California. Funds can be used for COVID-19 related expenses, provide premium pay to essential workers, and make investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. Additionally, the law includes \$500 million for emergency low-income water ratepayer assistance and \$30 billion in renter and homeowner assistance that could be used to help residents pay their utility bills.

State

Chairwoman Gray, Director Cordero, GM Kightlinger and staff held virtual briefings with Southern California legislators to discuss sponsored bills, legislative priorities and provide an update on Metropolitan. (March 2)

The Chairwoman and staff met with Joint Legislative Audit Committee Chair Rudy Salas (D-Bakersfield) and Co-Chair John Laird (D-Santa Cruz). (March 18)

The Chairwoman spoke to the Los Angeles Legislative Delegation during their March meeting to provide an update. (March 19)

Metropolitan-sponsored SB 230 by Senator Portantino (D-La Cañada Flintridge), was heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and referred to Senate Appropriations. Working with our co-sponsors, California Municipal Utilities Association, staff have decided to make SB 230 a two-year bill to allow more time for discussions with stakeholders on amendments to the bill and to identify funding sources.

Metropolitan's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act legislation AB 442 (Mayes, I—Yucca Valley) to create a master reclamation plan for sand and gravel mining activity to support repairs to Metropolitan's water infrastructure was passed by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources on consent and has been referred to the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee. (March 24)

Former Assembly Member Kamlager was sworn in as the new State Senator representing Senate District 30 that stretches from downtown Los Angeles to South Los Angeles County. (March 11)

Local

Metropolitan staff briefed Assembly Member Calderon's (D-Whittier) district office on water supply issues, regional projects, Delta conveyance, and legislative priorities. Assembly Member Calderon's primary role as Chair of Human Services Committee will be to address COVID-19 relief, as well as issues associated with both the environment and water (March 4).

Metropolitan staff participated on the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership "Meet the Mayor" virtual series featuring Pasadena Mayor Gordo. (March 12).

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

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

- Western Riverside Council of Governments (March 1)
- San Fernando City Council (March 1)
- Ventura County Economic Development Association Policy Committee (March 3)
- Inland Empire Economic Partnership Public Policy Committee (March 3)
- South Bay Association of Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (March 2)
- Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee (March 2)
- Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (March 3)
- Los Angeles Business Council Energy & Environment Committee (March 3)
- Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Gabriel Valley, Executive Board (March 4)
- Glendora Chamber Legislative Action & Economic Development Committee (March 4)
- Glendale Chamber of Commerce Business Advocacy/Legislative Review Committee (March 4)
- League of California Cities meeting with California Secretary of State Weber (March 4)
- Orange County Business Council Health Task Force (March 4)
- LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce Public Policy (March 4)
- Corona Chamber Legislative Action Committee (March 5)
- Orange County Business Council Government Affairs (March 5)
- Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Business Advocacy Committee (March 8)
- Regional Chamber of Commerce San Gabriel Valley, Government Affairs Committee (March 8)
- Inland Action (March 9)
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce (March 9)
- Orange County Business Council Infrastructure Committee (March 9)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition (March 10)
- Upland Chamber of Commerce, Legislative Advocacy (March 11)
- San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers (March 11)
- Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Council (March 11)
- Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Policy Committee (March 11)
- San Fernando City Chamber Board Meeting (March 11)
- Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (March 11)
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, Conversation with Pasadena Mayor (March 12)
- Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Leadership Steering Committee (March 12)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition Economic Outlook (March 12)
- Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce (March 12)
- Southwest California Legislative Council (March 15)
- United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley's Governmental Affairs Committee to request support of SB 230 (Portantino) (March 15)
- Los Angeles County Business Federation with California Office of Business and Economic Development Director Myers (March 15)
- El Segundo Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (March 15)
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County's Water Issues Committee (March 16)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Sacramento Day (March 16)
- California Women in Agriculture Ventura County (March 16)
- Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation meeting with California State Treasurer Ma (March 17)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Governmental Affairs Committee (March 17)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Water's Water, Housing, Energy, Environment and Labor Committee (March 17)
- El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce, Legislative Committee (March 17)
- SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee (March 17)
- South Gate Chamber of Commerce Board (March 18)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, Governing Board (March 18)
- California Contract Cities Association, Governing Board (March 18)
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County's WaterWise Meeting (March 18)
- Westside Coalition of Government's Sustainability Committee (March 18)
- Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs (March 18)
- Anaheim Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (March 19)
- Townhall with Senator Richard Roth (D-Riverside) and Assembly Members Cervantes (D-Riverside) and Medina (D-Riverside) (March 20)
- United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley (March 22)
- Gateway Chambers Alliance, (March 23)
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce, Legislative Committee (March 23)
- Ventura County Economic Development Association (March 23)
- Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (March 23)
- Central City Association with Representative Gomez (D-Los Angeles) (March 23)
- Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality—Board of Directors/Regulatory Affairs Committee (March 24)
- Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (March 24)
- Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee to request support of SB 230 (Portantino) (March 24)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association (March 24)
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership (March 24)
- San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network (March 24)
- El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce, Governing Board (March 25)
- Inland Empire State of the Region (March 25)
- Los Angeles County League of Cities 88 Cities Annual Update (March 25)
- Oxnard Chamber of Commerce (March 25)
- United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley's Inspirational Women Awards (March 25)
- Association of California Cities Orange County Legislative Committee (March 25)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition Membership Meeting (March 26)

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

- Coordinated responses to Los Angeles Times reporter Adam Elmahrek regarding former Metropolitan employee Nash
- Arranged interview between Cal Matters reporter Rachel Becker and Water Quality Section Manager Stewart and Unit Manager Slifko about microplastics
- Responded to questions from City News Services about the Wildflowers Trail at Diamond Valley Lake

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

- Set up interview between Water & Waste Digest and Engineering Services' Program Manager Singh and engineer Kutyan to highlight the discharge line isolation couplings and bulkheads project at the Hinds Pumping Plant

Press Release

- Issued press statement on reduction in State Water Project allocation
- Issued press release on three new directors representing the cities of Los Angeles and San Fernando and Municipal Water District of Orange County joining the Metropolitan Board
- Issued news release on the opening of the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake, which generated coverage on KNBC-TV Channel 4 News

Online

- Received nearly 92,000 page views on mwdh2o.com home page, with the career's webpage among the most visited
- Generated more than 30,000 views on bewaterwise.com, with the turf replacement, rebates and the garden pages the most popular

Social Media

- Joined U.S. Environmental Protect Agency for its annual Fix a Leak Week awareness campaign by employing our We're California Friendly Plants theme to show the plant characters fixing leaks around the house
- Continued sharing how our employees create a culture of innovation at Metropolitan
(see image below)



- Reached more than 70,000 followers on social media in response to our National Engineers Week campaign, featuring six Metropolitan engineers and receiving strong engagement with many comments congratulating and celebrating the featured engineers

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 participated in the opening general session at the WasteReuse Symposium (March 1)
- Provided virtual tours of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center to students at Cal Poly Pomona (March 4) and to the public (March 25)
- Gave a presentation on the Regional Recycled Water Program and virtual tour of the Advanced Purification Center at the Real Property Public Agency Outreach Event (March 12)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Construction Project Updates

- Notified 40 homeowners adjacent to the Palos Verdes Reservoir about upcoming maintenance activities at the site (March 12)
- Distributed notifications to businesses and residents of the Allen-McColloch shutdown (March 24)
- Notified 400 homes and businesses of the South Coast Feeder Shutdown (March 25)

Member Agency Support

- Met with Member Agency Managers to discuss water supply conditions and operations; proposed legislation; 2021 Annual Operating Plan; Metropolitan and member agency COVID-19 reopening plans; and upcoming IRP workshops (March 12)

Objective #4 EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS - Facilitate public engagement in and understanding of water resource issues through community relations activities and education projects. Build awareness of and appreciation among Southern California for the value of clean, reliable water supplies and the importance of good water stewardship.

General Education

Metropolitan staff hosted a Diamond Valley Lake docent meeting as well as two meetings for member and retail agencies that discussed topics of career technical education and curriculum on climate change, groundwater, and consumptive use.

Education staff provided presentations to Romoland, Clearwater, Crowne Hill, Winchester, Academy of Innovation, Rondo School of Discovery elementary schools, Rowland High school, as well as Girl Scout troops in San Geronio, Crescenta Valley, Clinton, Mario Cosio, and Mission Viejo. Analytics from Metropolitan’s online Girl Scout programs reveal 78 percent accuracy for elementary and 81 percent accuracy for secondary students’ awareness of California’s various aqueducts. This month staff virtually interacted with nearly 635 teachers, students, and parents. **(see image below)**



Staff worked with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Southern California Gas to offer the third and fourth sessions of the online teacher institute: Best Practices in Environmental Education and Stewardship. Participating teachers worked with water and energy experts to develop water-themed environmental modules and conservation projects. Staff supported a “Discover Career Opportunities in Real Estate” outreach to college students hosted by Metropolitan’s Real Property Group.

Staff conducted a Green Careers webinar for Solar Cup students. The webinar focused on young professionals and their green career journey, as well as what their typical workday is like. A “Blender Help” webinar helped Solar Cup students navigate the free and open-source 3D computer graphics software toolset used for creating animated films, visual effects,

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

virtual reality, and computer games. In addition, three new student challenges were released: Robotics, Green Careers, and Unity/Unreal Game Development. All student challenges cover a wide range of STEAM fields including robotics, utilizing CAD software, building an online game, social media messaging, and visual arts.

Staff presented to Gateway Cities community and senior centers as part of LA Metro's "On the Move" program. Staff discussed Metropolitan's history, the Colorado River aqueduct and State Water Project, and conservation initiatives.

Community Partnering and Sponsorship Programs

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

- VerdeXchange: Water & Recycling (March 2)
- Capitol Weekly: Calif. Economic and Labor Impacts (March 4)
- Capitol Weekly: Keynote: Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (March 11)
- VerdeXchange: Climate Change (March 16)
- 14th Annual VerdeXchange, VX2021 Marketmakers' Conference (March 30)

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:

- CALPIRG's Virtual Climate Rally from Northern to Southern California (March 1)
- Association of General Contractors (AGC)'s Public Sector Construction Roundtable (March 3)
- US Green Building Council Los Angeles' USGBC-LA Chapter Leaders (March 8)
- National Association of Women Business Owners—Ventura County Chapter's How to do Business with Water Agencies (March 9) **(see image below)**



- The Department of General Services' Small Business Advisory Council meeting (March 10)
- National Association of Minority Contractors' advisory board meeting (March 11)
- Los Angeles Sustainability Executive Roundtable's LASER Leadership Committee (March 12)
- Women Business Enterprise Council's West Supplier Diversity and Corporate Procurement presentation (March 12)
- AWWA's Women Leaders Meeting (March 17)
- San Fernando Valley Economic Alliance's Back to Business on Procurement and Contracting (March 25)
- Caltrans' Statewide 2021 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Virtual Summit (March 30)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Metropolitan's Innovation Team and Engineering met with LADWP Engineering/Operations to discuss the Abyss Pilot that Metropolitan had done. Abyss is an unmanned remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROUV) that is used to inspect inside pipelines, dams, and other structures for anomalies and deformation. LADWP is interested in possibly doing a pilot with Abyss. Metropolitan's Abyss Pilot was very successful and Metropolitan will be implementing the technology in other areas. It also provided an opportunity for both groups to start developing relationships and sharing knowledge. (March 15)

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 continued the Metropolitan Leadership Academy for 30 employees interested in transitioning into a management role. Recent sessions have focused on conflict resolution as well as developing a leadership brand and mindset. A full session was also dedicated to the Engineering Services Group. Chief Engineer John Bednarski introduced Section Managers (John Shamma, Mark Bushyeager, Mai Hatter, and Dave Clark), who provided overviews of their areas.



HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

This month, 208 Metropolitan employees attended online classes including Influence at Work, Customer Service Skills, Drug & Alcohol Awareness, Adobe Forms, Effective Communication, and Visio.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online, e-learning content platform, was accessed for 62 classes, including Communicating in Times of Change, Leading and Working in Teams, Boosting Emotional Intelligence with Mindfulness, Cloud Concepts (Determining your Cloud Strategy), Leadership Blind Spots, Inclusive Leadership, and Excel Quick Tips.

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

Recruitment successfully filled 26 positions for the month of March. We received 20 new staffing requisitions resulting in 89 positions currently in recruitment. Recruitment continues to successfully conduct virtual job interviews using Zoom.

The General Manager recruitment announcement was closed on 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 March, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council heard a presentation by EEO Manager Olivia Sanchez on Recruitment Outreach followed by questions and answers. Chief Administrative Officer, Shane Chapman, discussed governance of the Council. In addition, a DEI update on the subcommittee structure was presented.

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.

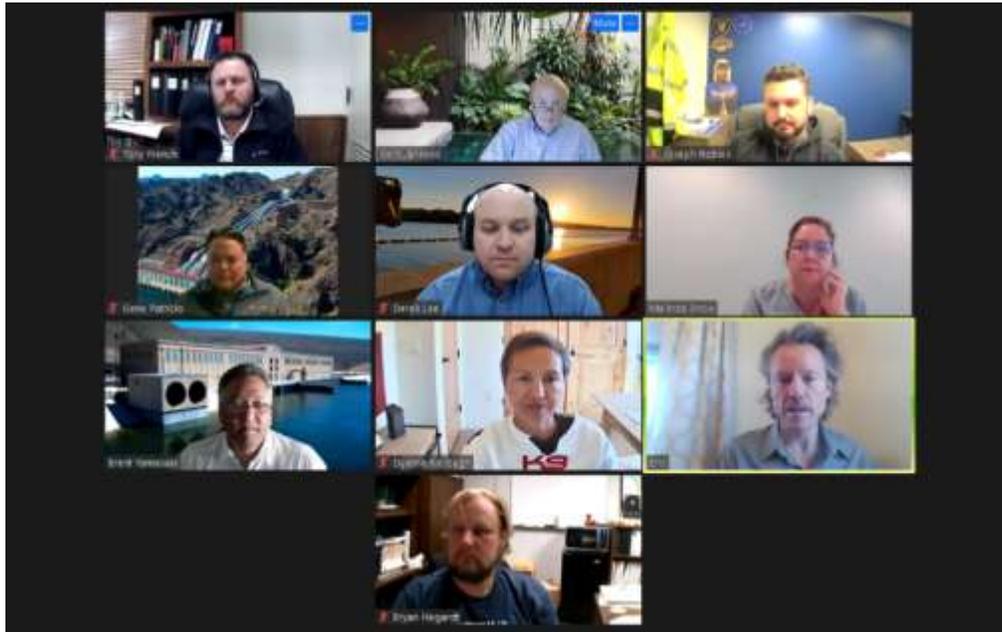
Olivia Sanchez, EEO Program Manager, participated in a Women at Metropolitan (WAM) lunch and learn with Abel Salinas, Ethics Officer, focused on answering questions about the EEO and Ethics investigation process. It was well received and will be expanded on in response to the Chairwoman's request for an education program on this topic for all employees.

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

The Organizational Development and Training Unit launched the WSO Management Specialization Training Program for 13 new Operations managers. This program is designed to provide further leadership development for new managers who have already completed Metropolitan's Met Management University program.

This new training customizes leadership content so that participants can better apply specific leadership behaviors in the Operations Group's environment and business expectations. The first session focused on effectively transitioning to management, debunking common management myths, and encouraging action planning to address actual business challenges. The program also builds the foundational knowledge of the Operations Group and fosters collaborative efforts between Operations and Engineering Services.

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*



The Organizational Development and Training Unit also facilitated a Team Building session for Legislative Affairs, which explored and discussed the team's strengths and strategic preparation for the team's future.

Human Resources (HR) staff continued to provide one-on-one coaching and mediation services for managers and employees in the developmental areas of self-awareness, strategic planning, and communication skills.

Regular meetings are also continuing with the bargaining units, as well as separate meetings with Group Managers and Department Heads, to share COVID-19–related news and developments.

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.

Staff participated in a demonstration of the HR/Timekeeping/Payroll system to begin planning for future improvement projects.

HR continued to work with Risk Management, Health and Safety, IT, and Security staff to design and test a new Incident Reporting System.

HR and IT are partnering on SharePoint solutions for improved information sharing, automation, and process improvement.

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.

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

In coordination with Empower Retirement and Financial Finesse, HR hosted four different financial education and retirement planning webinars on Tuesday, March 16, and Thursday, March 25, offered for all deferred compensation plan participants. Staff also completed the Internal Revenue Service's mandatory 1094-C Employer Report to ensure compliance with the Affordable Care Act.

In response to COVID-19, staff processed 18 leaves of absences under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

HR CORE BUSINESS: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations

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

Objective #1 Effectively administer all Human Resources policies, programs, and practices in compliance with applicable federal and state laws and Metropolitan's Administrative Code, Operating Policies, and Memorandum of Understanding.

In March, three new Workers' Compensation claims were received, and eight were resolved. Six 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 on the job.

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

- Coordinated medical surveillance exams at one facility (LaVerne). The exams included respirator exams, Department of Motor Vehicle exams, and hearing tests.
- Coordinated three random drug and alcohol tests.
- Arranged nine medical evaluations (DMV, medical surveillance).
- Addressed four accommodation issues.

| HR Metrics | June 2020 | March 2021 | Prior Month February |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|
| Headcount | | | |
| Regular Employees | 1,799 | 1,805 | 1,794 |
| Temporary Employees | 29 | 28 | 25 |
| Interns | 9 | 5 | 5 |
| Recurrents | 21 | 20 | 20 |
| Annuitants | 17 | 14 | 12 |

| | March 2021 | February 2021 |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions) | 89 | 94 |
| Number of New Staffing Requisitions | 20 | 3 |
| | March 2021 | February 2021 |
| Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress | 14 | 12 |
| Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits | 0 | 3 |
| Number of New Job Audit Requests | 2 | 1 |

HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

| Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month) | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>External Hires</u> | <u>FY 19/20 Totals</u> | <u>March 2021</u> | <u>FISCAL YTD</u> |
| Regular Employees | 127 | 10 | 58 |
| Temporary Employees | 29 | 6 | 23 |
| Interns | 18 | 0 | 3 |
| Internal Promotions | 91 | 2 | 51 |
| Management Requested Promotions | 109 | 13 | 99 |
| Retirements/Separations (regular employees) | 124 | 4 | 63 |
| Employee Requested Transfers | 15 | 2 | 18 |

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.

- Implemented a new security model for the Cognos application to enhance functionality, performance, and security structure. Key benefits include ease-of-use for administrators and roles for security permission levels providing greater visibility and tracking changes.
- Partnered with business groups to implement security protocols and enhancements. Promoted IT governance to strengthen capabilities to mitigate increasing cybersecurity threats to Metropolitan’s business systems and networks.
- Issued communication notifying staff of upcoming changes to Email Access of Unregistered Personal Mobile Devices. The purpose is to address risks associated with the changing global cybersecurity environment and the need to secure Metropolitan’s email system from security threats from unregistered personally owned mobile devices. The change will go into effect on April 23, 2021, to better safeguard Metropolitan’s digital infrastructure.
- Performed routine and critical software patching to mitigate on-going risks to Metropolitan business networks and applications. Vendors provide software patches to address fixes and vulnerabilities that have been identified.
- Continued to work with business units on the deployment of security keys to provide multi-factor authentication to enable secure access when logging on remotely. Deployment is being conducted in phases, and a security key will ultimately be issued across the enterprise. Multi-factor authentication capability will enhance Metropolitan’s cybersecurity posture once fully deployed.

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

- **Desert Microwave and Two-Way Radio projects** – Upgrade desert microwave tower sites by replacing end-of-life equipment and providing sufficient capacity and reliability to Metropolitan’s wide area network in the desert region. During the period, staff continued to evaluate technologies while developing functional requirements for the project’s design and construction phase.
- **Real Property Group Business System Replacement** – Replace existing Real Property application for lease management with a new application covering both Acquisitions and Property Management. As part of the configuration and development phase, the team is currently working on integrating the system to other applications to provide data access across systems such as Oracle, GIS, and SharePoint. The new Real Property Group Business System is proceeding according to plan. It is scheduled to go live in the first quarter of the next fiscal year.



Land Parcel Imagery

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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

- IT continued to evaluate solutions and technology investment options for enterprise-wide backup requirements as part of replacing an end-of-life system. The scope is to replace the backup infrastructure with newer and faster technology and redesign the backup/restore procedures. During the period, staff continued to evaluate solutions that provide the cost-effective transformation from the current obsolete infrastructure.

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, the IT staff continued efforts to relocate Metropolitan's data centers to improve reliability and performance and enhance operational uptime of data center processing.
 - **Primary site** – The project team continued to work expeditiously on the acquisition phase while developing a comprehensive plan involving the coordination of migrating hardware, software, communication networks, and ancillary systems. Detailed logistical planning is required to execute a complex set of activities while supporting day-to-day operations and providing contingencies and methods to mitigate downtime and interruption of service during the cut-over phase.
 - **Secondary site** – The IT project team continued to install, configure, and test hardware and equipment (i.e., servers, routers, and switches) and networks. Migration of databases and relocation of equipment from the existing secondary site is currently underway. Detailed planning and execution allowed for seamless transition while selected IT staff work off-hours and weekends to minimize interruption to Metropolitan's daily operations. Relocation to the secondary site is scheduled to be complete by fiscal year-end.



Metropolitan Secondary Datacenter

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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

- Continued the Digital Asset Optimization project to remove redundant, obsolete, and trivial files from the network shared drives in preparation for the Enterprise Content Management (ECM) implementation. IT staff worked in collaboration with key stakeholders on file share clean-up by identifying and reducing duplicate and/or obsolete data (ROT). File share cleanup is important because electronic data requires storage (hardware) and back-ups, which take up valuable resources when the data is no longer needed, duplicated, or has passed its retention period. During the period, the project team continued migration efforts with WSO business units and initiated the migration process with External Affairs and Audit.
- Continued the Personal Computer Replacement Project (PCRP) by deploying new laptops and workstations in a phased approach. Replacement of aging PCs and related equipment provides Metropolitan employees with computers that have greater processing speed, disc space, and improved reliability because the existing PCs have reached end-of-life. The deployment work at Union Station, Weymouth, and Diemer is substantially complete. The PCRP project is on-schedule and will complete at the end of the fiscal year, with deployment efforts underway at the remaining Metropolitan field facilities.
- Engaged with business users on a high-priority IT initiative to replace legacy PCs reliant upon Windows 7 operating systems, which are at end-of-life. Staff continued the effort to upgrade PCs using Windows 7 with Windows 10 to maintain the currency of 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 Phase One of the IT Service Management (ITSM) system providing a centralized and modern service management tool within the Information Technology Group. ITSM is used by Metropolitan's IT Service Desk Team to manage service ticket requests generated by business users across the enterprise. The new application provides built-in processes based on industry best practices and allows IT to continuously adapt to new business requirements while lowering time to resolution.
- With the successful deployment of Phase One, the project team kicked off Phase Two. The team recently completed a series of workshops to define requirements for Configuration Management Database (CMDB) and Asset Management to simplify access to information and improve IT response capabilities to customer service requests, incidents, and operational reporting. The project is proceeding according to plan, with development sprints (Agile Methodology) underway. Development is scheduled to continue through April, followed by functional testing in May.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

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

- IT resources from cybersecurity, networks, and project management continued to partner with key stakeholders to support planning efforts related to physical security enhancements (IP cameras, infrastructure to support physical security requirements). IT architecture and infrastructure are key elements to the design and planning of physical security improvements at Headquarters.
- Provided IT services in support of the Headquarters Improvements Program. Staff collaborated with Engineering Services Group and Facility on construction-related activities requiring close coordination. Ongoing efforts include relocating the remaining high-rise floors to the wing area to facilitate construction activities and reconfiguring networks to allow for the return of staff from the wing back to the high rise.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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

- Initiated efforts to improve IT infrastructure to enhance communication capabilities. This includes upcoming work at selected sites to reduce potential single points of failure, provide for better redundancy and capabilities. This effort is being carried out through a series of O&M initiatives and minor-cap projects. These shorter-term projects integrate with larger capital projects that support Metropolitan's strategic priority to improve resiliency and reliability.



Metropolitan Communication Site

- Continued efforts to replace the end-of-life Incident Reporting tool used for compliance tracking by Risk Management, Workers Compensation, Safety and Regulatory Services, and Water System Operations. This project involves a broad group of sponsors from Finance, HR, Physical Security, Legal, WSO, and IT. By partnering with stakeholders from each business area, the project team is working to develop the functional specifications as part of the project's design phase. Upon completion of the design phase, staff will begin configuration and testing, leading to the deployment phase. The target go-live date is scheduled for September 2021.
- Conducted final preparation for the Fuel Management System Upgrade Project. Staff will seek board authority in April to proceed with the project and approval for a recommendation to award based on a competitive Request for Proposal that was conducted. Upgrading the Fuel Management System will replace the end-of-life system and enable management controls over fuel inventories, dispensing, and security to ensure operability, vendor support, and system reliability.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

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

- Continued partnership 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. Work associated with the installation of AV equipment and integration to Metropolitan's IT infrastructure is being closely coordinated with current construction activities at the headquarters building.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

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

- Conducted on-going forums with key stakeholders to ensure cohesive strategic execution of IT priorities and governance. The implementation of IT governance allows Metropolitan to leverage innovative technologies to create business values while effectively managing risks.

OBJECTIVE #5 Deploy innovative solutions to improve operations, promote collaboration, and provide business value.

- Worked with External Affairs on the mwdh2o.com web redesign project to enhance usability, provide optimized search engine capabilities, and integrate with social media and mobile functions. As a part of this effort, staff is evaluating the requirements of hosting support services for large video files, while on-going efforts continue, including content gathering and refining user-interface and navigation.
- Leveraged innovative technology by conducting UAV/Drone Missions to support various business units. Recent activities include the following:
 - Completed flight missions to cover the San Diego Canal Dewatering Event at three locations between Diamond Valley Lake and Lake Skinner. The UAV missions were flown to support various business units including ESG, WSO, and Environmental.
 - Conducted flight planning in preparation for upcoming missions in the desert to test ability and effectiveness of a vertical photogrammetry survey of the Copper Basin Reservoir Dam to support Engineering and Safety of Dams.
 - Initiated planning efforts to create autonomous flight plans for Metropolitan's solar farms so that the solar farms' periodic thermal surveys can be conducted.



Drone Footage of San Diego Canal - Dewatering

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

- IT Application staff supported the phased deployment of a new P-Card system (PaymentNet), replacing the existing end-of-life system. The P-Card is used for small dollar purchases of materials, supplies, and selected services and is used by administrative and business support staff across Metropolitan. PaymentNet offers real-time review and approval, enhanced reporting and spend analysis, and a consolidated review and approval process. IT software developers from the Enterprise Applications Team are supporting the phased rollout, which is scheduled to continue through April.
- IT Enterprise Business staff supported the Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation. The ACA requires employers with over 50 full-time employees to report annually on health coverage provided to employees.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

Form 1095-C must be generated and distributed to employees and the IRS before 02/28/2021 for the year 2020. This compliant reporting was successfully completed on time and was a collaborative effort between IT, HR, and Payroll.

- Developed a Service Connection Portal to better support external customers. The portal provides a means for member agencies and retail agencies to report service connection issues like calibration errors, billing errors, shutdown outages, high/low flow charges, etc. Historically, this was done via phone calls. The new portal replaces manual processing and automatically alerts Metropolitan via email. The Service Connection Portal allows internal and external parties to track the status and the history of the issues and resolutions.



Service Connection Portal

REAL PROPERTY

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

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

An eight-month license was granted by Golden Hill Country, LLC and Ranch Haven, LLC allowing Metropolitan's contractors to access adjacent fee property in support of the Lakeview Pipeline Improvements Project in Riverside County. Metropolitan will reline 420 feet of the steel-lined pipeline starting from the East portal of the Bernasconi Tunnel to maintain water reliability when delivering water from Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) to Mills.

Objective #2 Foster staff training and development.

Staff completed the following:

International Right of Way Association Sponsored Courses: Non-Residential Relocation Assistance and Advanced Business Relocation Assistance

External-sponsored webinars: Commercial CC&R's and Reciprocal Easement (sponsored by the Los Angeles County Bar Association)

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 five-year research agreement was initiated with California State University, Chico on November 2020. The research will contrast regenerative land management methods to current conventional fallowing practices to enhance Metropolitan's knowledge of potential water use efficiency, soil health, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and improved carbon capture. Regenerative seeding in the Palo Verde Valley was completed during the months of November and December 2020. The fall crop will be harvested, and a new summer crop will be planted in May/June 2021.

Objective #2 Provide right-of-way planning, valuation, and real property acquisition support services for the sustainability and reliability of both imported and regional water supplies, and protection of water rights.

In support of the Environmental Planning Phase of the Regional Recycled Water Program, staff will prepare property cost and feasibility studies related to the potential conveyance alignments. These studies will be included in the analysis to determine a preferred alignment for the proposed project.

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

Lewis Management Corporation was granted an Entry Permit for access purposes within the Rialto Pipeline right-of-way in Fontana. Lewis requested the permit to facilitate a commercial development project abutting Metropolitan's right-of-way. In November 2020, the Board authorized the granting of a permanent road easement to Lewis Management Corporation in connection with the same development project. The permit is a short-term use outside the boundaries of the related easement.

REAL PROPERTY *continued*

An entry permit was issued to Lake Creek Industrial, LLC to conduct a geotechnical investigation of Metropolitan's Gilman Springs surplus property in the city of Moreno Valley. The geotechnical activities are included in the purchase and sale agreement for due diligence purposes.

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

The Diamond Valley Lake Marina was host to the inaugural Southern California 2021 Wild West Bass Trail fishing tournament. Over one hundred anglers came out to try their luck at winning the \$4,250 grand prize. This was the first time the Wild West Tournament was held at Diamond Valley Lake, and it proved to be a great success. Plans are under way for the tournament to return to DVL in 2022. This is one of many annual fishing tournaments hosted at DVL that bring in anglers from many parts of California and Arizona.



Southern California 2021 Wild West Bass Trail fishing Tournament

Objective #4 District Housing Maintenance and Management.

A two-part update on the Housing Management and Housing Improvement program was presented to the RPAM Committee and to the Housing Working Group. The Housing Management update included the progress of the dedicated housing maintenance team, resources, and funding; the metrics regarding the Resident-requested workorders for the past two years; the prioritized O&M and CIP investments based on meeting regulations and providing safe and sanitary living conditions; the house preparation efforts to receive new or transfer employees; and the projected remaining efforts such as the revisions to the rental agreement, a new resident portal, and internet services.

The Desert Housing Improvement Program update included the selected housing replacement option which was a Single-Family Residence with attached two-car garage. Staff is scheduled to return to the RPAM Committee in May to request funding for technical design of all Program features.

A Resident Survey was developed to seek feedback from the Residents on the housing repair work order process. The feedback will be used to identify areas where the process is working well and identify areas of improvement.

REAL PROPERTY *continued*

Objective #5 Miscellaneous

Metropolitan's Board approved the 111th Fringe Annexation to Eastern Municipal Water District on July 14, 2020 and set terms and conditions in Resolution 9271. The terms and conditions were met to complete this annexation request.

On February 11, 2021, the county of Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission completed this annexation and recorded the completion documents with the county as document 2021-0091790. This annexation added 5.82 acres to Metropolitan's service area.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

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

Staff is working closely with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the Castaic Lake drawdown to ensure supply reliability in Metropolitan's service areas that receive primarily SWP supplies. The temporary drawdown (Summer 2021 to Spring 2022) is necessary for DWR to complete the seismic retrofit of the intake tower bridge as part of the [Castaic Dam Modernization Program](#). In addition, Metropolitan staff is closely coordinating with DWR and LADWP for a potential Castaic Lake outage in 2023 because of another rehabilitation project.

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

Following the successful launch of Metropolitan's Bard Water District Seasonal Fallowing Program last year, Metropolitan received offers of participation for the 2021 season with a total acreage of 2,947 acres, out of a maximum allowable 3,000 acres. Metropolitan will enter into agreements with the respective Bard farmers this month and will inspect the fallowed lands in the coming months. Farmers will fallow their land from April 1 to July 31, 2021. During the 2020 season, farmers fallowed 2,749 acres with an estimated water savings of 5,500 acre-feet. Fallowing in Bard Water District will reduce consumptive water use and augment Metropolitan's Colorado River supplies.

Metropolitan staff participated in the second virtual "Quantification Methods for Agricultural Water Savings in the Lower Colorado River Basin" (Ag Pilot) workshop. The Ag Pilot project is a joint effort by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), and Metropolitan. The project team reviewed water savings quantification methods assembled by the project team and possible water savings case studies to be evaluated as part of the project. Case studies will likely include Metropolitan's seasonal fallowing program with Bard Water District and an ongoing deficit irrigation project being conducted in the Palo Verde Irrigation District.

Metropolitan staff attended the annual Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) Implementation Workshop in a virtual format, hosted by Imperial Irrigation District (IID). Metropolitan, IID, San Diego County Water Authority, and Coachella Valley Water District made brief presentations to summarize water operations and conservation during calendar year 2020. USBR made a presentation on preliminary 2020 Colorado River water accounting and 2021 water supply numbers. Finally, IID's consultant made a detailed presentation on the quantitative verification of IID's System Discharge Reduction conservation program.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #2 Complete the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.

Staff continues to develop Metropolitan's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). As part of the UWMP process, Metropolitan is also developing a Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) as well as an appendix to both the 2020 UWMP and 2015 UWMP for reporting on Reduced Delta Reliance. On March 10, 2021, Metropolitan posted an updated Public Review Draft of the 2020 UWMP, WSCP, and Appendix 11 to incorporate the latest demand and local supply information from the member agencies in advance of the public hearing to be held at Metropolitan's Board Water Planning and Stewardship Committee on April 12, 2021. Comments received during the public hearing will be considered in finalizing the 2020 UWMP, WSCP, and Appendix 11 Addendum to the 2015 UWMP.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

On March 18, 2021, Metropolitan held an online UWMP Member Agency Coordination Meeting to provide status update on the UWMP process, continue coordination in developing Reduced Delta Reliance reporting, and discuss supplemental information to be provided on alternative forecasts and projections used in planning efforts including the UWMP.

Objective #8 Implement Regional Conservation Program.

Staff hosted the third session of the Water Efficient Landscaper Dual Certification Program in partnership with the California Landscape Contractors Association. The workshop series includes six classes that focus on water-efficient landscape practices. Approximately fifty landscape contractors who attended the workshop series will receive Water Managers and Qualified Water Efficient Landscapers Certification at the end of the series.

Staff led a California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) Landscape Task Force meeting with approximately 50 attendees. Discussion topics at the meeting included conservation implementation guidelines, resources available from the [Calscape Nursery Program](#), as well as toolkits developed by CalWEP to help improve water conservation in landscaping. Metropolitan hosts these meetings to encourage and promote regional conservation.

Staff represented Metropolitan in a National Geographic documentary called “The Last Drop.” The documentary discusses the need for water efficiency in Southern California and provides tips and tricks for conserving water in and around the home. Participation in the documentary strengthens Metropolitan efforts to encourage regional water conservation.

Metropolitan staff hosted a virtual water efficiency Program Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting with member and retail agency representatives. The PAC considers potential new devices and technologies for inclusion in Metropolitan’s rebate and incentive programs and recommends potential changes. Items discussed at the March PAC meeting included allowing rebates for add-on devices to existing weather-based irrigation controllers; the upcoming Leak Detection pilot incentive program; large landscape survey incentives; the Multi-Family Toilet Retrofit Program status; and potential standardized incentives for technologies that have demonstrated water savings via Metropolitan’s Water Savings Incentive Program.

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 as a judge for the 7th Annual Los Angeles Better Building Challenge (LABBC) Innovation Awards. LABBC supports the City of Los Angeles Sustainability Plan and the national Department of Energy-led initiatives. LABBC collaborates with Los Angeles’s top 25 percent better buildings (best buildings) to showcase and support their energy and water reductions. The LABBC Innovation Awards categories included Energy Performance, Water Performance, Affordable Multi-Family Performance, Industry Leadership, and Hometown Hero. Some of the contestants included Cal State Northridge, L.A. Unified School District, Jonathan Rose Companies, Kilroy, Invesco, and Barings. Participation in this annual award helps highlight leadership in water and energy conservation.

Staff continued its focused engagement with local agencies to refine local supply assumptions for the 2020 IRP. Metropolitan held nine of these technical meetings with groundwater basin managers and local water agencies during the month of March.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

Staff presented at a webinar on local salinity management activities hosted by the Orange County Water District (OCWD). Staff's presentation highlighted the regional activities and studies of the Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC). The webinar also featured presentations on the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) and OCWD's own salinity management activities.

Staff also participated in a board meeting of the SCWC. During the meeting, the SCWC funded two studies, including a study of Flow-Reversal Reverse Osmosis and its potential for decreasing brine discharges from desalters. The second study will evaluate the potential benefits and costs for implementing a brine line in Los Angeles county's Central and West Basin areas. Metropolitan is a founding member of the SCWC and currently holds the chair position of its board.

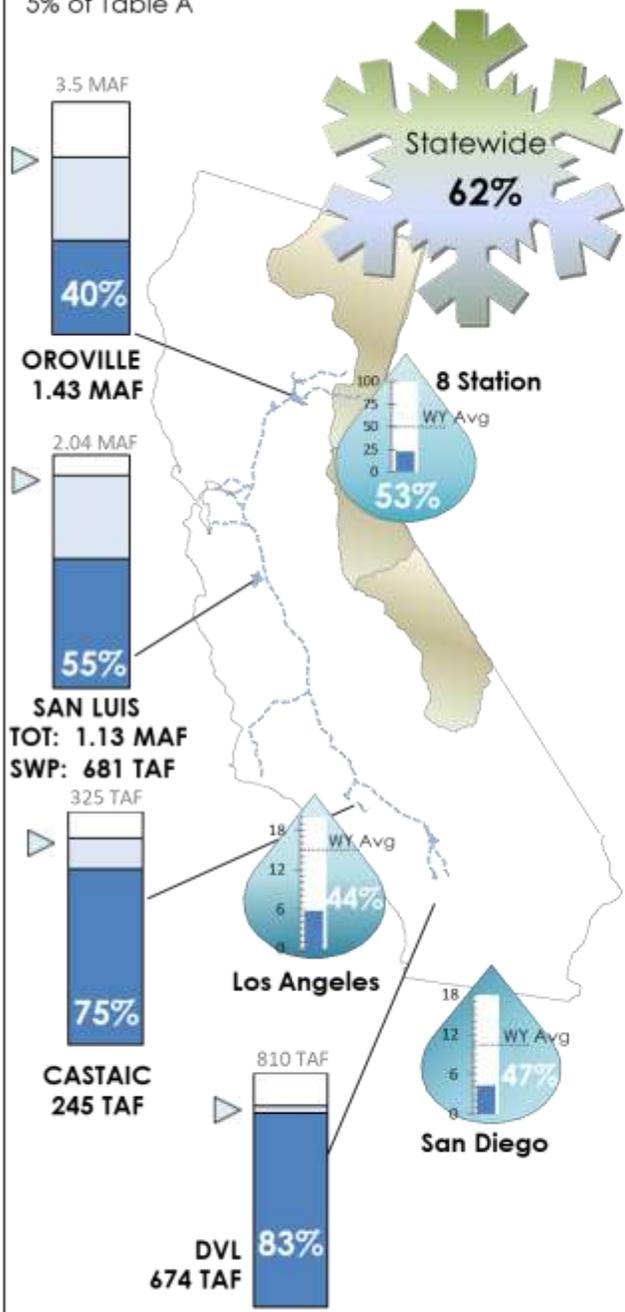
Objective #3 Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Staff attended an Orange County Water District (OCWD) online webinar, "Reverse Osmosis: Getting the Credit it Deserves" on January 27, 2021, where OCWD presented the preliminary findings of a Metropolitan co-funded Future Supply Actions Funding (FSA) study. OCWD is conducting the study in partnership with the City of Fullerton. The webinar presented the study's initial findings on reverse osmosis (RO) integrity monitoring approaches at the OCWD Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) facility. The goals of the study are to receive increased regulatory credits for virus removal in the GWRS facility and for RO in general. Final results will be documented in a report to be completed in the Fall of 2021.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

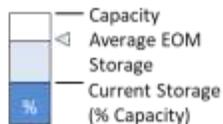
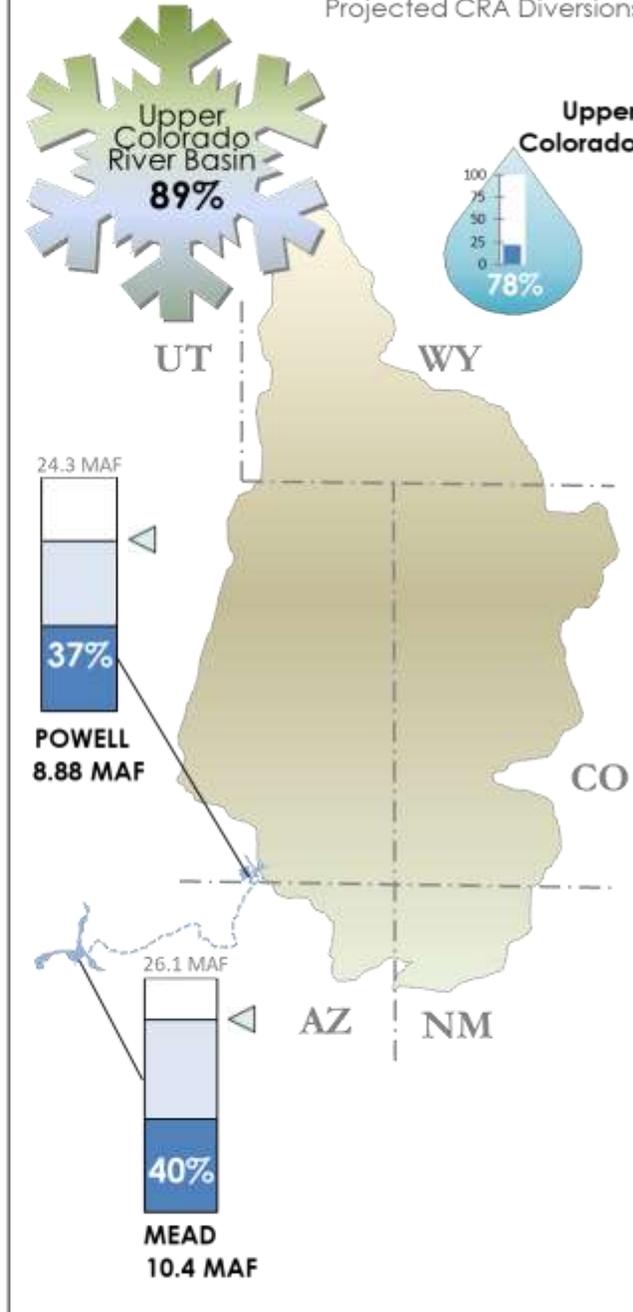
2021 SWP Allocation

95,575 AF
5% of Table A



2021 Colorado River

1,069,000 AF
Projected CRA Diversions



As of March 29, 2021

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Provide Reliable Water Deliveries.

Metropolitan delivered approximately 112,127 acre-feet (AF) of water to member agencies in March. Deliveries averaged approximately 3,617 AF per day in March, which was 494 AF per day higher than February's deliveries. Treated water deliveries for March totaled 59,075 AF or 53 percent of total deliveries for the month. This was an increase of about 12,592 AF from February's treated water deliveries. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) was returned to service on March 1 following the annual shutdown. The CRA maintained a seven-pump flow after ramping back up to that level after the shutdown. A total of 96,872 AF was pumped on the CRA for the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,550 AF per day, totaling about 48,050 AF for the month, which accounted for about 43 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. The target SWP blend remained at zero percent for the Skinner plant. The Weymouth and Diemer plants transitioned from 100 percent to zero percent SWP blends following the completion of the Lake Mathews facility shutdown.

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

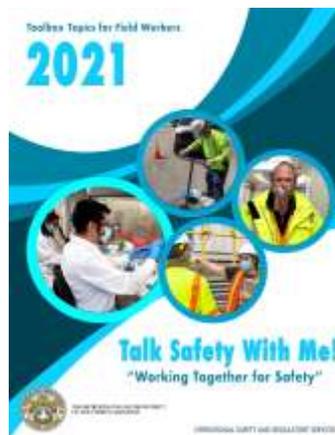
Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during February 2021.

Staff completed the Annual Water Quality Report to Member Agencies. This report provides comprehensive water quality monitoring results for Metropolitan's source waters, treatment plants, and distribution system.

Staff participated in a forklift survey conducted by the Southern California Association of Publicly Owned Treatment Works. The information collected will help assess the impact of current California Air Resources Board (CARB) rulemaking efforts to develop a Zero-Emission Forklift Regulation. In addition to staff's one-on-one efforts to discuss the rulemaking with CARB, participation in these water/wastewater industry efforts is an effective means of communicating potential operational impacts to CARB.

Staff submitted the 2020 usage report for Metropolitan's 14 portable low-use Tier 1 diesel engines to CARB. Compliance with the ≤ 200 hours per year low-use limit allows the Tier 1 diesel engines to be used past the original January 2019 mandatory phase-out date.

Staff published the 2021 *Talk Safety With Me!* book. The Safety Talk book contains 52 toolbox topics reflecting Metropolitan Health and Safety policies and procedures—one topic for each week of the year. Thirteen new topics were added this year. The Safety Talk book is also posted on the Metropolitan's IntraMet for all employees to access.



2021 *Talk Safety With Me!* book

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

This month, staff published and posted various Safety Talks on the IntraMet to inform and promote employee safety during on-the-job activities and emergencies. Topics include Earthquake Safety, Work Zone and Traffic Safety, Portable Power Tool Safety, and several other key safety resources.

MWD Safety Talk
Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Earthquake Safety



MWD Safety Talk
Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for General Safe Work Practices



What are Safe Work Practices?

MWD Safety Talk
Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Hand Tool Safety

Most tools at Metropolitan require the use of hands and there are a variety of hand hazards that can occur, depending on the tool performed. Hand tools can lack handles, but they can cause serious injuries, including the loss of fingers or fingertips. Workers should follow general tool safety guidelines to reduce injury incidents while at work.

Hand Tool Hazards
Physical injuries can include:

- Eye injuries
- Broken bones or fractures
- Cuts, abrasions, punctures or amputations
- Repetitive motion injuries

General Safety Tips

- Use the right tool for the job. If you do not know how to use the tool, ask your manager or co-worker(s) for help.
- Keep tools clean and cutting tools sharp.
- Examine all tools for damage before each use. DO NOT use damaged tools. Take damaged tools out of service and report the condition to your manager. Tag damaged or defective tools with "DANGER UNSAFE DO NOT USE" (3040-01-000-2022) label.
- Operate tools according to the manufacturer's instruction.
- Do not carry tools in your hand when climbing ladders, use a tool belt or use canvas tool bags to lower or lift tools.
- Do not throw tools from one location to another or from one employee to another.
- Direct the sharp end & cutting edge away from you when handing a tool to another person.



MWD Safety Talk
Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Work Zone and Traffic Safety



MWD Safety Talk
Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Emergency Action Plans



Emergency Preparedness
There are many kinds of emergency situations that can occur in a workplace. Depending on factors, such as the type of emergency, work being performed, weather setup, the facility location, different emergencies will call for different emergency procedures.

MWD Emergency Action Plans (EAP)
Metropolitan's Emergency Action Plan provides employees with information and guidelines on the actions to be taken to ensure employee safety from the site after emergencies. Emergencies covered in the plan include:

- Occurrence of Controlling Circumstances
- Hazardous Chemical Releases
- Earthquake
- Medical Emergencies
- Bomb Threat
- Power Outage
- Workplace Violence
- Active Shooter
- Nuclear Incident

Every plan on site specific and should include information on the following:

- Evacuation procedures and facility maps
- Evacuation assembly areas
- Management contact information
- Shelter-in-place procedures
- Rescue and Medical plans for employees
- Local Hospital and other emergency services information

Emergency Response
Depending on the emergency, safety response can be different. Knowing what to do in an emergency is just as important as knowing how to prevent them from happening in the first place. All low alert facilities are made aware when individuals are at prepared for the bad things that can happen. Reviews and drills are performed with emergency procedures, and know your emergency exits and evacuation assembly areas. Keeping calm and knowing how to respond to an emergency may save your life or those around you one day.



MWD Safety Talk
Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Power Tool Safety



MWD Safety Talk
Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Active Shooter



MWD Safety Talk
Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Worksite Housekeeping



Purpose of Housekeeping
Housekeeping is the number one problem on accidents. Many work-related incidents can be traced back to poor housekeeping, such as:

- Tripping over loose objects or boxes, stairs and obstacles.
- Slipping on falling objects.
- Clipping or getting hit or dillyed by objects.
- Lifting objects improperly, poorly stacked boxes or equipment.
- Cutting, puncturing, or burning the skin or hands in other parts of the body (unshielded tools, pins or steel coupling).

Elements of Housekeeping
Inspect work areas on the start and completion of each shift to ensure that the work area is representative and as clear as possible. Clearing and organizing work areas must be done regularly, not just at the end of the project. Therefore, good housekeeping is "continuous" not "spontaneous" and it should address the following elements:

Good and Safe Work Area

- Remove dust and dirt from the area and surrounding of when available.
- Do not rely on anyone else to clean up what you have done.
- Always use spill control methods on spill-producing activities.
- Discourage accumulation of materials that can create a fire hazard or have obstructions, electrical conduits, or any other work-impeding activity.
- Never use compressed gas to blow dust off of surfaces.

Employee Facilities

- Keep shops, classrooms, personnel service rooms, and classrooms clean, orderly and in a sanitary condition.
- Store and maintain the electrical, plumbing and other equipment of buildings to remove the dust and debris.
- Keep entry floor, walkways, personnel service rooms and passageways free from protruding nails, splinters, loose boards, and unsecured ladders and equipment.
- Perform up and down stairs regularly to keep the path clear.
- Clean and sweep to a standard up to maintain safety and other adverse consequences that can be harmful to others.



Safety Talks published and posted to Metropolitan's IntraMet

During the first two weeks of March, staff collected samples and tested for the presence of quagga mussel veligers to support shutdown and dewatering efforts for the Upper and Lower Feeders.



Staff checking for quagga mussel veligers (larvae) using a cross-polarized microscope

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Objective #4 Optimize Maintenance.

Staff installed a new flow meter on the delivery lines at Eagle Mountain pumping plant to increase the flow metering system's accuracy. This project involved removing an obsolete flow meter system and installing new conduit, wire, and associated instrumentation.



Staff fabricating an electrical enclosure for a flow meter at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

Each Desert facility has a microfiltration and granular activated carbon system, which provides domestic water for the pumping plants and villages. Staff performs daily water quality tests to ensure the water meets regulatory requirements and the Metropolitan's rigorous standards.



Staff performing daily water quality testing and analysis for the Desert facilities

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

The 2021 Colorado River Aqueduct shutdown has been successfully completed, but hospitality work for the Desert Guest Services Team continues. The pumping, operations, and maintenance facilities required to operate the CRA are remote. Depending on the location, food, lodging, and other basic services can be several hours' drive, which can complicate work from Metropolitan staff dispatched from more centrally located facilities, as well as outside vendors. Guest Services staff help to overcome these challenges by operating small lodges and kitchens in these remote locations.



Staff preparing lunches in support of CRA projects

The CRA pumping plants are prepared for emergencies. To plan for potential regional power outages, the pump plants maintain large 130-volt battery packs to ensure safety equipment continues to function if outside electric service is lost. These battery packs were scheduled to be replaced during the 2021 CRA shutdown, but the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the supply chain, causing significant delays. Staff across the organization worked closely with vendors to ensure that this equipment was received and installed.



New 130-volt backup battery system for the Hinds pumping plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

During the Upper Feeder shutdown, staff decommissioned the CB-01 service connection and replaced a leaking 24-inch butterfly valve with a 24-inch flange and 8-inch lubricated plug valve. The custom-fit replacement equipment was manufactured at the La Verne Shops. The flange and valve stopped a minor leak at the service connection and provided dewatering and access options for repairs. The project was challenging, as the Upper Feeder was not previously able to be shut down because of system demands when the minor leak was initially discovered several months ago. To address the leaking valve, staff injected a sand, gravel, and bentonite clay slurry to seal the valve temporarily and keep the feeder in service for nearly six months. Replacement of the leaking valve also presented challenges due to the interconnection of multiple feeders and the need to maintain hydraulic grades for operations at the Weymouth plant. By reconfiguring the conveyance system and creating a static (no-flow) condition on the Upper Feeder, staff divers were able to flood the CB-01 structure and safely replace the leaking valve with the new valve/flange arrangement while the Weymouth plant remained in service. Throughout the project, safety remained a primary focus and involved collaboration and innovation between WSO and Engineering Services groups to successfully complete a challenging project.



A crane removing the original CB-01 valve and pipe assembly during the Upper Feeder shutdown



Blind flange prepped for welding (left) and plate flange after machining (right) for the CB-01 service connection

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Adapter flange assembly completed (left) and adapter flange coated with corrosion resistant epoxy coating (right) for the CB-01 service connection



Divers preparing to enter the CB-01 service connection structure



New adapter flange with valve installed during the Upper Feeder shutdown

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

The La Verne Shops provided fabrication services to South Coast Water District (SCWD), a Municipal Water District of Orange County member agency. Staff fabricated butt straps, spacer rings and provided the necessary hardware for SCWD to complete a pipeline repair. Services were provided under the California Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (CALWARN). CALWARN is a recognized mutual assistance group in California where member agencies, such as Metropolitan and SCWD, agree to aid each other for emergency and non-emergency requests. The La Verne Shops fabricated the pipe repair materials in two days and shipped them to SCWD for installation.



Butt strap fabrication in the process (left) and butt strap set, spacer rings, and hardware (right) ready for shipment to SCWD



SCWD installing the fabricated butt strap on their pipeline

Shutdowns of the Lake Mathews forebay and Upper and Lower Feeder pipelines were completed during the first half of March. The work included critical maintenance and inspections, including decommissioning of service connection WR-22, an inspection of gates and penstocks, testing of concrete at the headworks structure, maintenance of slide gates at the forebay outlet tower, installation of cathodic protection anodes, installation of stainless-steel balance piping at the Corona HEP, and replacement of various valves in the distribution system. During an inspection of the four slide gates on the outlet tower, a horizontal crack on one of the two large cast iron gates that regulate flow to the Upper Feeder was discovered. Because of the limited shutdown window and repair options, temporary repairs were performed to reinforce the damaged area and allow the gate to be put back into limited service. The repair design involved drilling through the webbing on the gate panel and placing moderately tensioned threaded studs and couplings across the compromised area.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

A 3-D laser survey of the gate was performed to expedite fabrication and replacement during a future shutdown. The temporary repairs will allow the gate to be operated if needed. The adjacent gate can handle full flow to the Upper Feeder and will not impede operations. Despite the unexpected cracked gate challenge, staff collaborated across the organization to complete the shutdown on schedule.



Removal of WR-22 service connection piping before installation of a blind flange



Staff removing WR-22 service connection in the Lake Mathews Forebay

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff performing maintenance on the slide gates at Lake Mathews Forebay Outlet Tower



Stainless steel balance line piping installed at the Corona HEP facility

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Temporary reinforcement of horizontal crack on the Upper Feeder gate



Concrete repair in-process at Lake Mathews headworks deck

Staff completed testing and successful commissioning of a pump at the Perris Pumpback facility. A contractor recently refurbished this pump, and staff performed the site installation. Testing of the pump was performed during pumping operations from Lake Perris to the Mills plant because of DWR's scheduled shutdown of the Santa Ana Valley Pipeline.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Testing and commissioning of a pump at Perris Pumpback facility

During the CRA shutdown, staff cleaned San Diego Canal siphons and sand traps to remove silt and debris at various locations along the aqueduct and multiple sand traps from the Casa Loma Canal turnout to the Bachelor Mountain South Siphon.



Staff cleaning sand traps with excavator along the San Diego Canal

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff removing silt and debris using skid steer loaders and 100-ton crane from the Skinner Forebay

Staff supported high-voltage electrical maintenance and testing at Hinds pumping plant. The work was performed to ensure the 230 kV switchyard equipment's safety and reliability, including transformers and circuit breakers, that provide power to the pumping plant operations.



Staff testing current transformers on 230kV circuit breaker at Hinds pumping plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff testing station service power transformer at Hinds pumping plant

Staff performed troubleshooting on an emergency generator that provides backup power to the Diemer plant's firewater system. The plant electric service normally powers the fire water system. In the event of loss of normal power during a public safety power shut off, the emergency generator will provide power to the pumps that provide fire water for protection of the plant. Staff discovered the fault was the result of damaged wires caused by vermin. The generator was returned to service within a few hours, and the facility was sealed to prevent future damage.



Staff troubleshoot wiring for an emergency generator at the Diemer plant

Staff is performing electrical annual preventive maintenance work on machinery at the LaVerne Shops. Work includes testing, cleaning, and inspecting the electrical components of the machines. The work is coordinated with local facility staff to prevent any interruption to existing manufacturing/machining work and projects. Any corrective issues that are encountered are also repaired. This work is necessary to maintain the equipment's reliability and prevent the potential of electrical arc-flash events that could cause injuries or equipment damage.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Staff performing tests on de-energized components (left) and checking the condition of starter contacts (right) in an electrical cabinet at the Weymouth plant

Objective #5 Manage the Power System.

On February 10, Metropolitan participated in a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation meeting to discuss a revision to the federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Parker Dam budget. The revised budget was modified to replace a 1980s era 161 kV circuit breaker that has become unreliable and expensive to maintain.

Objective #6 Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response.

During February and March, over 50 staff assigned to Metropolitan's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) completed a refresher course in EOC operations. Approximately one year ago, many of these staff worked in the Metropolitan EOC during the initial COVID-19 response. This refresher training is just the beginning of an overall exercise program that will follow the Department of Homeland Security principles and will run through the rest of the year. This training will also include field staff and representatives from various member agencies.

Objective #7 Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution.

The State Project Water (SPW) target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants transitioned incrementally from 100 percent to zero percent in March 2021 following the completion of the Lake Mathews shut down in mid-March. The SPW target entering Lake Skinner decreased from 100 percent to zero percent in March 2021 following the completion of the Colorado River Aqueduct outage in early March.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from November 2019 through November 2020 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of SPW and CRA water were 564, 554, and 465 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Chlorine is used during filter backwashes at Metropolitan's treatment plants to manage biological growth. Staff discovered inadequate mixing and dispersion of chlorine throughout a filter at the Mills plant, with "hot spots" (uneven

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

residual values) closest to the chlorine injection point. Currently, a stainless-steel pipe with a 45-degree angle disperses chlorine during backwash. Plant staff, with the assistance of ESG, developed a new injection lance that has a longer stainless-steel pipe with six cone spray nozzles. This change has allowed for greater dispersion and stable chlorine residuals. Staff will continue to monitor performance and plan to modify additional filters to achieve better mixing during backwash chlorination.



Existing stainless-steel pipe with 45-degree end at the Mills plant



New stainless-steel pipe with six nozzles at the Mills plant (tested with water)

Staff upgraded the level analyzers on the dry polymer mix tanks at the Jensen plant. The obsolete analyzers were removed and replaced with new units. Staff also installed a local panel meter display for the operators. The new level sensors increase the performance and require less maintenance. All five mix tanks now have new level sensors installed, which improves reliability.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



New level sensor on the dry polymer mix tank (left) and the local operator panel display (right) at the Jensen plant

Staff repaired the flow valve in a chemical injection building at the Skinner plant. Carrier water used to feed chlorine during normal operations flows through this valve. While the Skinner plant was undergoing an ozone equipment upgrade, chlorine was fed at a different location, allowing an opportunity for maintenance and repairs to be done on these valves.



Staff repairing a flow valve at the Skinner plant

Staff installed new stem gate covers for the ozone contactor slide gates at the Skinner plant. The original covers made of PVC plastic had degraded in the sun and started to become brittle and cracked. The new covers were coated to improve their longevity and should last many more years while protecting the slide gate stems from rainwater and dirt.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Installed stem gate covers for the ozone contactor slide gates at the Skinner plant

Staff is in the process of performing preventive maintenance in a sedimentation basin by replacing flocculator paddle boards at the Weymouth plant. As part of the annual maintenance, the sedimentation basin is removed from service, cleaned and then all equipment and components are inspected by staff. During an inspection, it was determined that several paddle boards needed to be replaced. The paddle boards provide uniform mixing of coagulant chemicals that allow particles in the water to settle in the sedimentation basin.



Staff removing worn flocculator paddle boards at the Weymouth plant

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff is in the process of removing and rebuilding a failed caustic soda feed pump at the Weymouth plant. The pump is used to inject caustic soda into the finished water, which adjusts the pH to the correct level before entering the distribution system. Journey-level mechanics demonstrated to two apprentices the proper use of personal protective equipment for close contact work and chemical protection and how to safely and properly repair the pump. This on-the-job training is a requirement for apprentices to graduate from Metropolitan's Apprenticeship Program.



Journey-level staff working with apprentices to repair a caustic soda feed pump at the Weymouth plant

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 5 percent SWP allocation. The SWP allocation was reduced to 5 percent in late March, which matches 2014 as the lowest allocation in history. 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 continued in March to conserve SWP use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs began on March 1. Metropolitan's record high storage levels at the end of 2020 provide significant water supply reliability in 2021.

Objective #10 Manage Vacancies.

WSO filled nine vacant positions in February 2021.

Objective #11 Prepare Employees for New Opportunities.

The Water System Operations Apprentice and Technical Training Programs develop and train personnel to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, the Class of 2021 mechanical and electrical apprentices will complete their water treatment course online through Santiago Canyon College. All apprentices participate in the water treatment course during their seventh period of instruction. After completing the course, apprentices will have the basic understanding of operating principles, techniques, and requirements of the conventional surface water treatment process.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #1 Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation.

On March 5, the SWRCB issued notification and response levels for perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS—one type of PFAS) at 0.5 parts per billion (ppb) and of 5 ppb, respectively. Notification and response levels are nonregulatory, health-based advisory levels established for contaminants in drinking water for which maximum contaminant levels have not been established. To date, PFBS has not been detected in southern California drinking water sources at levels that would trigger either the notification or response level.

Staff finalized Metropolitan’s 2020 monitoring data report for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Seven source water and five treatment plant effluent samples were collected in October 2020 and analyzed for 18 PFAS. Seventeen of 18 PFAS were not detected. Similar to the 2019 monitoring results, the only PFAS detected was perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) at 6 of 12 locations, slightly above the minimum reporting level of 2.0 nanograms per liter (ng/L) but below the Consumer Confidence Report Detection Level of 4.0 ng/L established by DDW. The three PFAS with California NLs and RLs—PFOA, PFOS, and PFBS—were not detected in any samples since Metropolitan’s PFAS monitoring began in 2013.

On March 2, SWRCB posted its draft Cross Connection Control Policy Handbook for public review and comment. The handbook provides standards for backflow protection and cross-connection control. AB 1671 (2017) required the SWRCB to update its standards by January 1, 2020, and AB 1180 (2018) required the “swivel ell” to be allowed for water reuse applications. Staff are currently reviewing the draft Cross Connection Control Policy Handbook.

On March 3, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) published its final Regulatory Determination to regulate perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)—two of the most commonly detected PFAS in groundwater. Metropolitan has not detected either PFAS in any of its drinking water samples. USEPA has up to three and a half years to finalize the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for these compounds. As part of the final Regulatory Determination, the USEPA chose not to regulate 1,1-dichloroethane, acetochlor, methyl bromide (bromomethane), metolachlor, nitrobenzene, and RDX. Staff will evaluate whether to comment on the proposed MCLs for PFOS and PFOA once they become available.

On March 11, the USEPA published its proposed Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5). The rule was delayed during the transition to the Biden administration. Of note, the UCMR5 proposes quarterly monitoring between 2023 and 2025 for 29 PFAS and lithium. The EPA is proposing that PFAS would be measured using EPA Methods 533 and 537.1. Public comments are due May 10, 2021. Staff are evaluating whether to comment on the proposed UCMR5.

Objective #3 Support the Regional Recycled Water Program

In March, staff continued testing, operations, monitoring, and maintenance at the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center demonstration facility. Staff continued the second phase of challenge testing following successful completion of the first phase in January. Staff inspected and removed a significant mineral buildup at the caustic injection location on the inlet to the plant, improving plant reliability and operational flexibility. Staff continued protozoa, virus, and indicator organism sampling and analyses to evaluate pathogen removal through the intentionally compromised membrane bioreactor (MBR). Staff also continued routine sample collection to demonstrate water quality performance through the treatment process, as well as overall treatment system performance monitoring.

Staff prepared responses to the final report from the fourth Independent Science Advisory Panel workshop and continued to develop the testing and monitoring plan (TMP) for the next phase of demonstration facility testing, treating primary effluent with a secondary MBR. Staff also prepared an addendum for the current TMP for treating secondary effluent with a tertiary MBR. Staff participated in the 36th Annual WaterReuse Symposium, presenting with LACSD on demonstration testing, microbial results, and RO concentrate management. During the symposium, staff

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

engaged in live discussion with experts in potable reuse and collaborated with outside agencies involved in MBR projects and regulators in the recycled water industry.

A variety of onsite projects were completed to improve ease of operation, including completing grading within the chemical tote bays to enable drainage during rain events, fabrication of chemical manifolds, and electrical conduit routing to support onsite tools and equipment storage.



Staff collaborating on a new chemical manifold configuration at the demonstration facility



Staff coating interior surfaces of new drainage cores at the demonstration facility

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Mineral deposits in the plant influent line before (left) and after removal (right) at the demonstration facility

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

Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of 13 megawatts, or over 8,700 megawatt-hours and approximately \$577,460 in revenue, for the month of February 2021. Metropolitan's solar facilities totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated about 690 megawatt-hours in February 2021.

Objective #6 Protect Source Water Quality.

On March 10, staff participated in a workgroup meeting for the Topock Chromium-6 Groundwater Remediation Project. The Department of Toxic Substances Control and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) discussed stakeholder recommendations to improve the groundwater model used for monitoring the efficacy of the interim and long-term remedies. PG&E is approaching a critical phase of construction, underway since 2018, and plans to stop the interim remedy system and begin initial operation of the long-term remedy in September 2021. Construction of the long-term remedy is expected to be completed in 2025. Once completed, it will help ensure continued water quality protection of Colorado River supplies.

GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

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

On March 16, staff provided an update on cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins to Santa Margarita Water District, a member agency of the Municipal Water District of Orange County. Metropolitan has had a comprehensive cyanotoxin monitoring program for over 10 years, conducted applied research to improve analytical detection methods, and been proactive to stay at the forefront of this water quality issue as it emerged over the last decade. In February 2021, the State Water Resources Control Board initiated the regulatory process to develop notification levels for cyanotoxins in drinking water.

Objective #3 Advance Education and Outreach Initiatives.

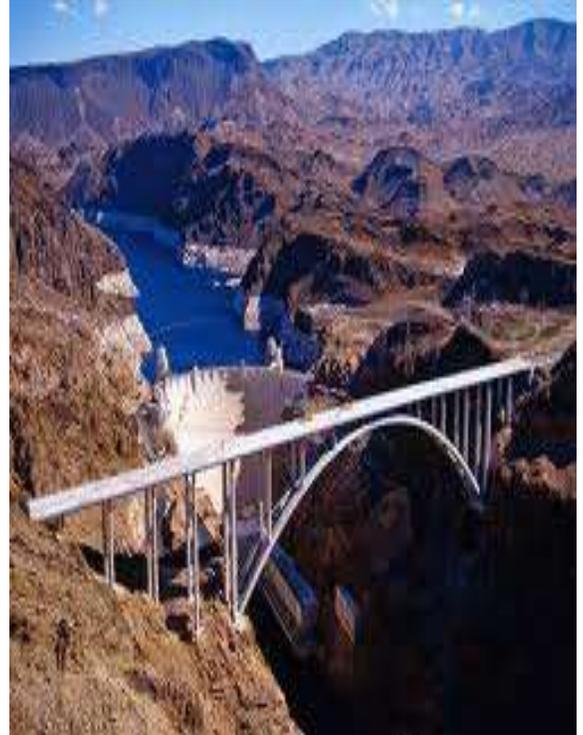
Staff participated in the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Women's Day Conference. In continuing the tradition of promoting women in water, AWWA provided a virtual event for International Women's Day to welcome women professionals and their advocates. The conference provided the latest research on women in the engineering, STEM, and water fields. The conference's focus was a discussion with global leaders regarding the causes and challenges of gender disparity to search for solutions to close the gender gap. Staff learned the latest findings from global organizations including World Bank's Equal Aqua and the Society of Women Engineers.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Monthly Update as of:

3/31/2021

| <u>Reservoir</u> | <u>Current Storage</u> | <u>Percent of Capacity</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Colorado River Basin</i> | | |
| Lake Powell | 8,877,000 | 37% |
| Lake Mead | 10,399,000 | 40% |
| <i>DWR</i> | | |
| Lake Oroville | 1,409,553 | 40% |
| Shasta Lake | 2,369,638 | 52% |
| San Luis Total | 1,139,608 | 56% |
| San Luis CDWR | 692,352 | 65% |
| Castaic Lake | 248,003 | 77% |
| Silverwood Lake | 68,076 | 91% |
| Lake Perris | 119,161 | 91% |
| <i>MWD</i> | | |
| DVL | 673,882 | 83% |
| Lake Mathews | 129,960 | 71% |
| Lake Skinner | 35,734 | 81% |



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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