

REVISED AGENDA

WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH MET DIRECTORS
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
18700 Ward Street, Conference Room 101, Fountain Valley, California
February 5, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

Teleconference Sites:
25652 Paseo De La Paz, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
17420 Walnut Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
2800 Keller, #301, Tustin, CA 92782

This meeting will be held in person at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California, 92708 (Conference Room 101). As a convenience for the public, the meeting may also be accessed by Zoom Webinar and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as indicated below. Because this is an in-person meeting and the Zoom component is not required, but rather is being offered as a convenience, if there are any technical issues during the meeting, this meeting will continue and will not be suspended.

Computer Audio: You can join the Zoom meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/8828665300>

Telephone Audio: (669) 900 9128 fees may apply
(877) 853 5247 Toll-free
Webinar ID: 882 866 5300#

AGENDA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/COMMENTS

At this time members of the public will be given an opportunity to address the Board concerning items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Members of the public may also address the Board about a particular Agenda item at the time it is considered by the Board and before action is taken.

The Board requests, but does not require, that members of the public who want to address the Board complete a voluntary "Request to be Heard" form available from the Board Secretary prior to the meeting.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

Determine need and take action to agendize item(s), which arose subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. (ROLL CALL VOTE: Adoption of this recommendation requires a two-thirds vote of the Board members present or, if less than two-thirds of the Board members are present a unanimous vote.)

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection in the lobby of the District's business office located at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California 92708, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the District's Internet Web site, accessible at <http://www.mwdoc.com>.

NEXT RESOLUTION NO. 2154

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. PRESENTATION/UPDATE REGARDING METROPOLITAN'S CAMP4W PROCESS AND BUSINESS MODEL

Recommendation: Discuss and file the information presented.

2. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

- a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)
- b. State Legislative Report (SDA)
- c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)
- d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)
- e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix

Recommendation: Review and discuss the information presented.

3. QUESTIONS OR INPUT ON MET ISSUES FROM THE MEMBER AGENCIES/MET DIRECTOR REPORTS REGARDING MET COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Recommendation: Receive input and discuss the information presented.

ACTION ITEM

4. SB 72 (CABALLERO) – THE CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN: LONG-TERM SUPPLY TARGETS

Recommendation: Adopt a support position on SB 72 (Caballero) and join CMUA’s coalition letter and outreach efforts.

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. MET ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY (The following items are for informational purposes only – a write up on each item is included in the packet. Discussion is not necessary unless requested by a Director).

- a. MET’s Finance and Rate Issue
- b. MET’s Water Supply Condition Update
- c. MET’s Water Quality Update
- d. Colorado River Issues
- e. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

Recommendation: Review and discuss the information presented.

6. METROPOLITAN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary regarding January MET Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for MET Board and Committee Agendas

Recommendation: Review and discuss the information presented.

CLOSED SESSION ITEM

7. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California et al. v. California Department of Fish & Wildlife et al. (MWDOC is a petitioner in this lawsuit), Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2021-80003692-CU-WM-GDS.

ADJOURNMENT

Note: Accommodations for the Disabled. Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by telephoning Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary, at (714) 963-3058, or writing to Municipal Water District of Orange County at P.O. Box 20895, Fountain Valley, CA 92728. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that District staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodations should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the District to provide the requested accommodations.



DISCUSSION ITEM

February 5, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Harvey De La Torre, General Manager

Staff Contact: Melissa Baum-Haley
Alex Heide

SUBJECT: Presentation regarding Metropolitan’s CAMP4W Process and Business Model

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Directors discuss the information.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Committee recommends (To be determined at Committee Meeting)

REPORT

At the July 2024 Subcommittee on Long-term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling (Subcommittee), Board leadership established an ad hoc working group comprised of Member Agency general managers to review Metropolitan’s business model. The Subcommittee provided direction to the general managers to develop a series of “straw person” proposals for the CAMP4W Task Force to consider by March 2025. The direction from the Subcommittee also specified that the following factors and opportunities be considered:

- 1) Treated Water Cost Recovery
- 2) Metropolitan’s role in Member Agency local supply development
- 3) Potential Member Agency supply exchange program
- 4) Proportion and components of fixed and volumetric charges
- 5) Conservation program and funding source(s)

Following the direction provided by the Subcommittee, Metropolitan’s 26-member agency General Managers signed onto a letter that outlined the framework for collaboration to vet major elements of the Metropolitan business model. The established process included two

Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Budgeted amount:	Core: <input type="checkbox"/>	Choice: <input type="checkbox"/>
Action item amount:		Movement between funds: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

offsite retreats and the hiring of a professional facilitator, Ken Kirby of Evotoco LLC. The ad hoc working group's goal is to develop a report to the Subcommittee by March 31, 2025, that outlines collaborative business model recommendations that the Board could ultimately consider.

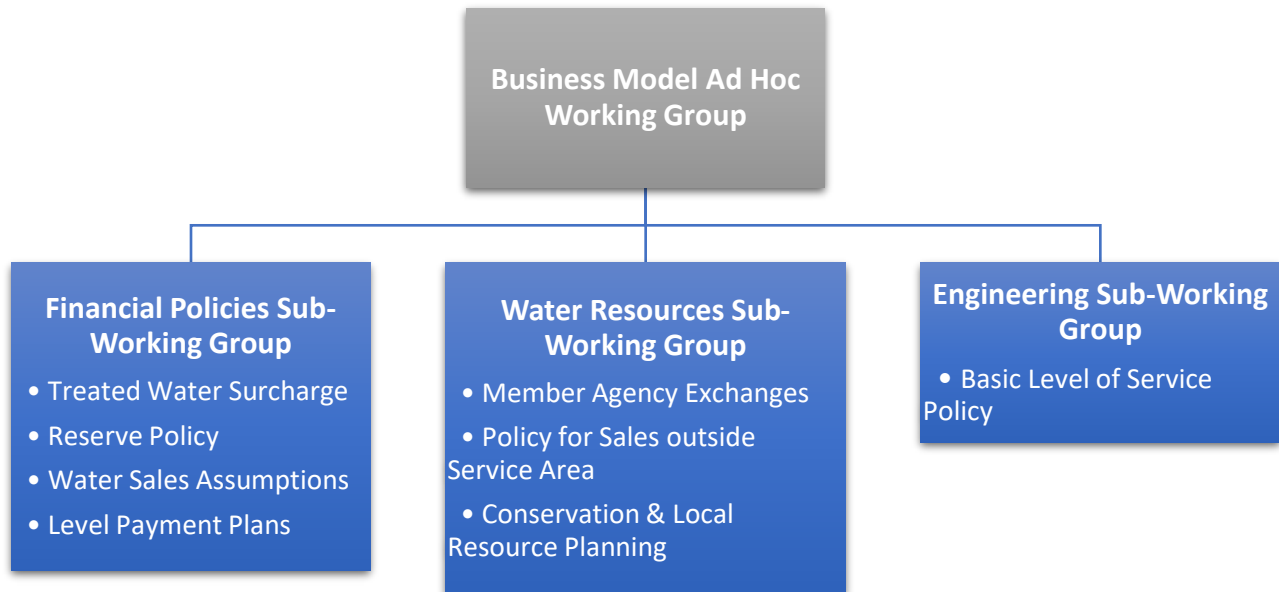
The ad hoc working group had a retreat on October 10th and 11th to discuss the approach to collaboration, define Metropolitan's current business model, and analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis) of Metropolitan's business model. The retreat served as a platform for exploring pressing issues around the agency's financial sustainability, governance, and adaptation to the region's evolving water supply challenges, particularly in the context of climate change. Understanding the need to accomplish a significant amount of work in a short timeframe, the ad hoc working group established monthly meetings.

Following the October retreat, the ad hoc working group meetings in November and December focused on reviewing the SWOT Analysis results, brainstorming potential business model refinements, and the identification of primary areas of focus for business model refinement. In order to ensure that all three primary focus areas are addressed by the March 31, 2025 deadline, sub-working groups were set up to thoroughly discuss each issue.

- **Financial Policies Business Model Support Sub-Working Group:** This sub-working group will continue to analyze the treated water surcharge, as committed in the FY2025/26 budget process, and examine revenue and reserve related policies.
- **Water Resources Business Model Support Sub-Working Group:** This sub-working group will review current business practices and make recommendations related to water conservation and water management programs.
- **Engineering Business Model Support Sub-Working Group:** This sub-working group will consider the basic level of service for all member agencies.

It is anticipated that the sub-working groups will identify both short-term solutions and longer-term issues that will require discussion beyond the March deadline.

At the January 17 ad hoc working group meeting, a charter was developed to outline the scope and responsibilities of each sub-working group. Below is a graphic outlining the scope of each sub-working group. Member Agency general managers can participate in all of the sub-working groups if they choose.



Financial Policies Sub-Working Group

The Member Agency Managers Treated Water Cost Recovery Workgroup was expanded into the Financial Policies Business Model Support Sub-Working Group to facilitate the financial policies discussion within the business model review. In addition to providing a recommendation on treated water cost recovery, this Sub-Working Group is tasked with proposing recommendations on Metropolitan’s reserve policy, generating new fixed revenues (including items such as a voluntary level pay plan), evaluating the use of a conservative assumption for water transactions in the setting of water rates, and any other finance-related topics that arise through broader discussion on the business model.

This working group has been providing Metropolitan with policy mechanisms to help create stable and predictable rates and refinements to the treated water surcharge. Discussion is currently centered on the refinements to the treated water surcharge, which is currently recovered 100% volumetrically. There are multiple proposals being analyzed, which include splitting the existing charge into a peaking charge, a standby charge, and potentially shifting some costs to the Readiness-to-Serve Charge.

Water Resources & Local Supply Exchange Sub-Working Group

The Member Agency Managers Water Supply/Revenue Management workgroup was expanded into the Water Resources and Local Supply Exchange Business Model Support Sub-Working Group. This Sub-Working Group is tasked with proposing recommendations on water resource programs and approaches to managing water supplies and increasing revenues and on Metropolitan facilitation of local supply exchanges between the member agencies. The first meeting of the Sub-Working Group focused on the Inter-agency Local Supply Exchange Program, which was previously discussed in 2024. The next Water Resources Business Model Support Sub-Working Group meeting will be scheduled for February.

Engineering Sub-Working Group

Lastly, a new Sub-Working Group will be created and is tasked with proposing recommendations that address the basic level of service provided to member agencies.

Metropolitan staff are considering how this Sub-Working Group might work on its assigned task. This Engineering Sub-Working Group will have its first meeting in February, and its work is anticipated to extend beyond March.

Next Steps

Between January and March, each sub-working group will work to thoroughly evaluate the issues outlined in their scope. These recommendations will be brought back to the Business Model ad hoc working group before being brought back to the Subcommittee for action. After the subcommittee makes a recommendation, the item will go to the Finance and Asset Management Committee for action before being acted upon by the full board.

MWDOC staff will present background on the item, an update on progress to date, and next steps for the business model refinements.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clarifying MWDOC’s mission and role; defining functions and actions. | <input type="checkbox"/> Work with member agencies to develop water supply and demand objectives. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balance support for Metropolitan’s regional mission and Orange County values and interests. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solicit input and feedback from member agencies. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen communications and coordination of messaging. | <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in workforce development and succession planning. |

List of Attachments/Links:
<i>Attachment 1: Direction from Board Leadership on Business Model Refinements</i>
<i>Attachment 2: Letter from General Managers on Business Model Process</i>
<i>Attachment 3: Draft Sub-committee Charters</i>

GUIDANCE FOR BUSINESS MODEL REVIEW AND REFINEMENT
AD HOC WORKING GROUP

TO: GENERAL MANAGERS, Metropolitan Member Agencies

FR: ADAN ORTEGA, Board Chair
GAIL GOLDBERG, Board Vice Chair for Finance and Planning
MATT PETERSEN, CAMP4W Task Force Chair

DA: July 22, 2024

Background and Composition

As part of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) Task Force, a business model review and refinement process has begun. The Task Force is working to create a Master Plan for consideration by the MWD Board that considers the impacts of climate change upon water supply and the operations of MWD. As stated in the CAMP4W charter, this necessitates a review and refinement of the MWD Business Model. Therefore, the Task Force is commissioning an ad hoc working group comprised of the general managers of Metropolitan's 26 Member Agencies that will be managed and supported by MWD staff as well as include the MWD Board Chair, Board Vice Chair, Task Force Chair, Task Force Vice Chair and MWD General Manager as ex officio members to participate as needed and available.

Outcomes, Purpose, and Process

Given the expertise of Metropolitan's Member Agency Managers and their direct experience running the day-to-day operations and finances of their respective agencies, their input into the Business Model review process is essential. While the Task Force is asking for proposals related to specific issues now, there will be opportunities for discussing additional topics later in the process.

Specifically, the Task Force requests a series of "straw person" proposals—at least two and no more than five—for Task Force consideration. Each of these proposals should be grounded in the need to (1) stabilize Metropolitan revenues and (2) embed flexibility and capacity to adapt to climate change and to address the factors noted below of opportunity for Business Model refinement. The final proposals shall be reached by consensus of the working group. If consensus for at least two proposals cannot be reached, the ex officio members will determine which proposals will be presented to the Task Force.

A short progress report will be provided on the work of the ad hoc working group at each monthly Task Force meeting. By November 13, 2024, the final two to five proposals shall be finalized and transmitted to the Task Force for discussion.

To inform the first Business Model Review ad hoc working group meeting in August 2024, MWD staff will produce Business Model Working Memo #1 for review and discussion. The memo will include a description of Metropolitan's current business model along with a draft problem statement. Staff will continue to track progress and memorialize discussions as needed.

Factors for Consideration in Final Proposals

In the final two to five "straw person" proposals, the working group shall ensure the following factors and opportunities are considered and reflected:

- 1) Treated Water Cost Recovery (workshops already underway)
- 2) Metropolitan's role in Member Agency local supply development
- 3) Potential Member Agency supply exchange program
- 4) Proportion and components of fixed and volumetric charges
- 5) Conservation program and funding source(s)

BUSINESS MODEL REVIEW AND REFINEMENT AD HOC WORKING GROUP PROCESS



August 19, 2024

Mr. Adán Ortega Jr., Board Chair
 Ms. Gail Goldberg, Board Vice Chair for Finance and Planning
 Mr. Matt Petersen, CAMP4W Task Force Chair
 Mr. Deven Upadhyay, Interim General Manager
 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
 700 North Alameda Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012-2944

Subject: BUSINESS MODEL REVIEW AND REFINEMENT AD HOC WORKING GROUP PROCESS

Dear Board Leadership and Interim General Manager Upadhyay,

Thank you for your July 22nd guidance letter regarding the development of a Business Model review and refinement Ad Hoc Working Group as we consider the impacts of climate change on Metropolitan's water supply and operations ***“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.”***

We further appreciate the Board Leadership’s foresight and recognition that as Metropolitan's Member Agency Managers, we have expertise through our direct experience running our respective agencies' day-to-day operations and finances, which offers valued input into the Business Model review and refinement process.

Following the July 24th Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling CAMP4W Task Force Meeting, we collectively reviewed and discussed your guidance letter and the Ad Hoc Working Group process. As the 26 Metropolitan Member Agency Managers, we propose the following framework for collaboration that includes at least two facilitated “retreats” to discuss and vet major elements of the process (see attached).

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

August 19, 2024

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We look forward to embarking on a collaborative effort for review and refinement of the Business Model via the Ad Hoc Working Group and pledge our continued dedication to the success of Metropolitan's initiatives.

Sincerely,

Craig J. Parker, P.E., BCEE
Assistant General Manager, Water Services
Anaheim Public Utilities
City of Anaheim

Shana Epstein
Director of Public Works
City of Beverly Hills

Richard Howard Wilson, P.E.
Assistant General Manager – Water Systems
Burbank Water & Power

Jessica Taylor
Director of Operations
California American Water/City of San Marino

Kristine McCaffrey
General Manager
Calleguas Municipal Water District

Jose Garfias
Interim Water Department General Manager
City of Compton Water Department

Elaine Jeng, P.E.
Interim General Manager
Central Basin Municipal Water District

Joe Mouawad, P.E.
General Manager
Eastern Municipal Water District

Nina Jazmadarian
General Manager
Foothill Municipal Water District

Stephen Bise, P.E., T.E.
Director of Public Works
City of Fullerton

Chisom Obegolu, P.E.
Assistant General Manager – Water Services
Glendale Water & Power

Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E.
General Manager
Inland Empire Utilities Agency

David W. Pedersen, P.E.
General Manager
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Chris Garner
General Manager
Long Beach Utilities
City of Long Beach

Anselmo G. Collins, P.E., MBA
Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Harvey De La Torre
General Manager
Municipal Water District of Orange County

Stacie N. Takeguchi
Chief Assistant General Manager
Pasadena Water & Power

Dan Denham
General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority

Wendell E. Johnson, P.E.
Director of Public Works
City of San Fernando

Cesar E. Barrera, P.E.
Deputy Public Works Director
Water Resources Manager
City of Santa Ana

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

August 19, 2024

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Sunny Wang, P.E.
Water Resources Manager
City of Santa Monica

Andy Darlak
Water Operations Manager
City of Torrance

E.J. Caldwell
General Manager
West Basin Municipal Water District

Matthew H. Litchfield, P.E.
General Manager
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Tom Love
General Manager
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

Craig Miller
General Manager
Western Municipal Water District

DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR MWD AND MEMBER AGENCY COLLABORATION ON BUSINESS MODEL REVIEW AND REFINEMENT

August 19, 2024

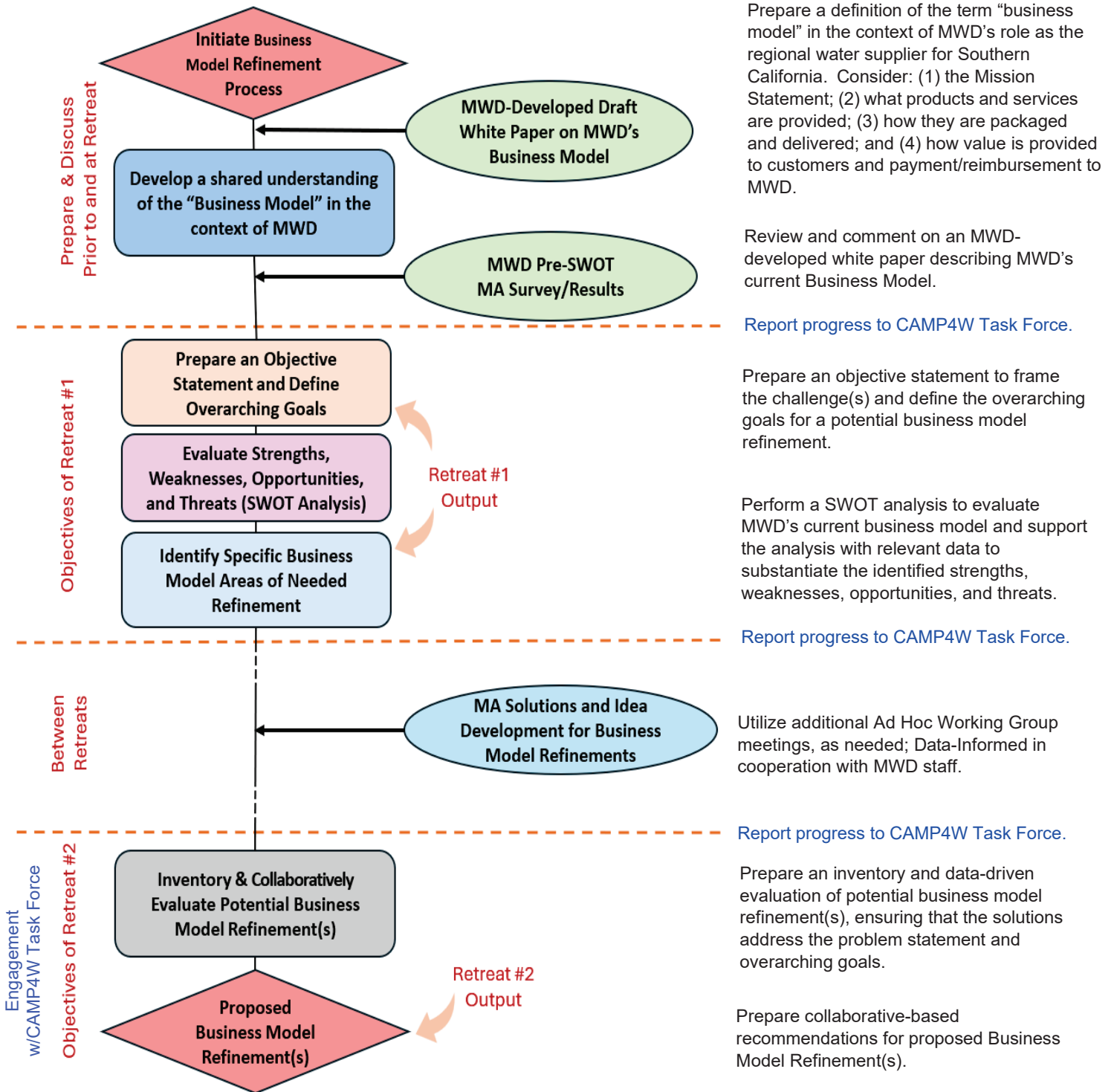
In response to the July 22nd guidance from Board Leadership, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and its Member Agencies (MAs) propose to embark on a collaborative effort to review and refine the Business Model via an Ad Hoc Working Group.

The attached flow chart describes the proposed process. Following are the initial logistics for the effort:

- MWD and MA Managers jointly “own” the process, work products, and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group.
- The Ad Hoc Working Group includes all 26 MA Managers and MWD’s General Manager.
- MWD’s General Manager will invite key MWD staff (subject matter experts) to actively participate, as needed.
- The Ad Hoc Working Group will organize at least two facilitated “retreats” to discuss and vet major elements of the process.
- To coordinate the Ad Hoc Group meetings/retreats, a MA Liaison group of MA Managers (four to six) serving on a volunteer basis will assist with the administrative elements of the process. MWD will hire a professional facilitator to support the Ad Hoc Working Group’s retreats. The MA Managers' input will be considered in the selection of the facilitator.
- In preparation for the retreats, the facilitator should have the opportunity to receive input from the MWD General Manager and MA Managers.
- Board Leadership will be provided with an opportunity to address the Ad Hoc Working Group at the onset of the retreats.
- Progress updates will be given by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling meeting and/or appropriate committee at key milestones.
- The Ad Hoc Working Group's goal is to provide and present a deliverable report to the CAMP4W Task Force by March 31, 2025, with collaborative-based recommendations that can be subsequently considered by the Board.

Proposed Process for MWD Business Model Discussion

August 19, 2024



Prepare a definition of the term "business model" in the context of MWD's role as the regional water supplier for Southern California. Consider: (1) the Mission Statement; (2) what products and services are provided; (3) how they are packaged and delivered; and (4) how value is provided to customers and payment/reimbursement to MWD.

Review and comment on an MWD-developed white paper describing MWD's current Business Model.

Report progress to CAMP4W Task Force.

Prepare an objective statement to frame the challenge(s) and define the overarching goals for a potential business model refinement.

Perform a SWOT analysis to evaluate MWD's current business model and support the analysis with relevant data to substantiate the identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Report progress to CAMP4W Task Force.

Utilize additional Ad Hoc Working Group meetings, as needed; Data-Informed in cooperation with MWD staff.

Report progress to CAMP4W Task Force.

Prepare an inventory and data-driven evaluation of potential business model refinement(s), ensuring that the solutions address the problem statement and overarching goals.

Prepare collaborative-based recommendations for proposed Business Model Refinement(s).

CHARTERS FOR SUB-WORKING GROUPS TO SUPPORT

THE BUSINESS MODEL REVIEW AND REFINEMENT AD HOC WORKING GROUP

Background

On July 22, 2024, the Climate Adaption Master Plan for Water (CAMP4Water) Task Force commissioned an ad hoc working group comprised of the general managers of Metropolitan's 26 member agencies (Ad Hoc Working Group), which since October 2024, has been meeting regularly. At its meeting in December 2024, the Ad Hoc Working Group agreed to establish Sub-Working Groups.

Purpose/Goal

The Ad Hoc Working Group established the Sub-Working Groups to propose "near term" recommendations for refinements of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California business model. Additional items have been identified by the Ad Hoc Working Group. The Ad Hoc Working Group will continue to consider those additional items throughout 2025 and, as appropriate, beyond that time.

The Ad Hoc Working Group has requested that each Sub-Working Group provide its proposed recommendation(s) on the "near term" items:

1. In a manner that ensures consistency and transparency, and
2. By March 7, 2025, to allow the Ad Hoc Working Group sufficient time to review the proposed recommendations and advance its recommendations for consideration by the CAMP4Water Taskforce at its meeting currently being planned for March 26, 2025.

Scope for Three Sub-Working Groups

The Ad Hoc Working Group identified the following eight near term items, that will be immediate focus of the Sub-Working Groups:

1. Treated Water Surcharge
2. Reserve Policy
3. Water Sales Assumptions for Budgeting Purposes
4. Potential for Level Payment Plans
5. Potential for Member Agency Exchange Program
6. Potential for Policy to Support Sales Outside of Service Area
7. Conservation and Local Resource Planning
8. Basic Level of Service Policy

The work on the eight “near term” items will be divided among three Sub-Working Group:

Financial Policies Business Model Support Sub-Working Group: This Sub-Working Group will be responsible for developing work product related to Items 1-4.

Water Resources Business Model Support Sub-Working Group: This Sub-Working Group will be responsible for developing work product related to Items 5-7, although for Item 7, it is anticipated that the Water Resources Sub-Working group will collaborate with the Finance Sub-Working Group on financial-related elements of the item.

Engineering Business Model Support Sub-Working Group: This Sub-Working Group will be responsible for developing work product related to Item 8.

Resource Requirements

Each Sub-Working Group will be comprised of staff from Metropolitan and any other(s) designated by a member agency as its representative(s).

Roles and Responsibilities

Each Sub-Working Group will be led by a Metropolitan staff member. The lead will be supported by other Metropolitan staff and the member agencies’ representatives. The Metropolitan lead for each Sub-Working Group will be responsible for presenting to the Ad Hoc Working Group the Sub-Working Group’s recommendation(s). With each recommendation, the Sub-Working Group will identify the alternatives evaluated, the benefits and drawbacks of each alternative, and the basis/bases for the recommendation. Other Metropolitan staff and member agency representatives that are part of the Sub-Working Group will be responsible for supporting the lead.

Team Operations

The lead for each Sub-Working Group will regularly consult with and rely upon the expertise of the other Metropolitan staff and the members of the Sub-Working Group. The lead will use on-line collaboration as much as is feasible and, when needed, will schedule in person a meeting(s) of the Sub-Working Group. The Sub-Working Group will be prepared to update and receive input from the Ad Hoc Working Group at each of its meetings.



To: Board of Directors, *Municipal Water District of Orange County*
From: Natural Resource Results
RE: Monthly Board Report – January 2025

Executive Orders and Presidential Memorandums

In his first few days in office, President Trump signed a flurry of Executive Orders (EOs) and Presidential Memorandums (PM), some of which deal directly with California water policy.

On Inauguration Day, President Trump signed a PM directed at the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce, titled "[Putting People Over Fish: Stopping Radical Environmentalism to Provide Water to Southern California](#)". The PM essentially directed both Secretaries to pick up where Trump left off in his first term and to "route more water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to other parts of the state for use by the people there who desperately need a reliable water supply." and didn't have much detail beyond that. However, this is a very broad directive that gives the Secretaries significant latitude to act.

Following his tour of the fire destruction in Southern California, President Trump signed an EO on January 26th, titled "[Emergency Measures to Provide Water Resources in California and Improve Disaster Response in Certain Areas](#)". This EO provides a lot more specificity than the PM as it:

- Directs both Secretaries to explore actions considered under the "No Action Alternative" in the final EIS issued November 15, 2024, by the Bureau of Reclamation on Long-term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project;
 - "No Action Alternative" is the 2019 biological opinion
- Directs the Bureau of Reclamation "to take available measures to ensure that State agencies — including the California Department of Water Resources — do not interfere with the Bureau of Reclamation's operation of the project to maximize water delivery to high-need communities or otherwise, including but not limited to the issuance of a new Record of Decision maximizing water deliveries and consistent with the 2020 Record of Decision."
 - This essentially directs Reclamation to explore how to get back to the 2019 biological opinion without going through the entire ESA consultation process, which could delay important projects. One of the actions being examined is opening up the Record of Decision for the 2024 biological opinion and making targeted changes, which would avoid ESA consultation.
- Directs Reclamation to expedite actions related to ESA exemptions for operations of the state and federal projects.

- This could mean that Reclamation will request to convene the “God Squad”, which has the authority to exempt certain actions from the ESA.
- Directs both Secretaries to identify one federal official responsible for coordinating NEPA and ESA compliance responsibilities for major water supply and storage projects.
 - This could benefit projects like Sites Reservoir that have complicated permitting pathways.

Federal Funding Freeze

On January 27th, the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) sent a memo to the heads of executive departments and agencies outlining a federal funding freeze to begin at 5pm ET on January 28th. This order has since been blocked by a federal judge who put “a brief administrative stay” on the order through February 3rd to allow further litigation to play out.

The memo states *“This memorandum requires Federal agencies to identify and review all Federal financial assistance programs and supporting activities consistent with the President’s policies and requirements.”* In practice, the Administration is attempting to align all federal spending with EOs issued by the President to date, including:

- Protecting the American People Against Invasion
- Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid
- Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements
- Unleashing American Energy
- Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing
- Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government
- Enforcing the Hyde Amendment

The memo goes on to state *“In the interim, to the extent permissible under applicable law, Federal agencies must temporarily pause all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance, and other relevant agency activities that may be implicated by the executive orders, including, but not limited to, financial assistance for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the green new deal. This temporary pause will provide the Administration time to review agency programs and determine the best uses of the funding for those programs consistent with the law and the President’s priorities.”*

Federal agencies are required to submit an analysis to OMB by February 10th, *“on any programs, projects or activities subject to this pause. Each agency must pause: (i) issuance of new awards; (ii) disbursement of Federal funds under all open awards; and (iii) other relevant agency actions that may be implicated by the executive orders, to the extent permissible by law, until OMB has reviewed and provided guidance to your agency with respect to the information submitted.”*

Additionally, agencies must, for each Federal financial assistance program: (i) assign

responsibility and oversight to a senior political appointee to ensure Federal financial assistance conforms to Administration priorities; (ii) review currently pending Federal financial assistance announcements to ensure Administration priorities are addressed, and, subject to program statutory authority, modify unpublished Federal financial assistance announcements, withdraw any announcements already published, and, to the extent permissible by law, cancel awards already awarded that are in conflict with Administration priorities.”

In practice, there is still significant uncertainty around exactly which federal programs are subject to this pause. For example, does OMB consider all spending from the IRA to be considered a part of the “Green New Deal”? We don’t know yet. Additionally, the memo states that all Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) that are currently open must be paused until OMB gives permission to move them forward.

Quite a few groups have already lined up to sue the Administration in attempt to block this freeze. Clearly, some of this uncertainty will be left up to the courts to decide.

Colorado River

On January 17th, the Bureau of Reclamation [announced](#) that it will allocate \$388 million in grants to support water projects in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Funded through the Inflation Reduction Act Bucket 2 Ecosystem program, these grants will benefit 42 ecosystem related projects to conserve water in the Upper Basin. In addition, the Bureau announced approximately \$100 million in funding for a related program in the Lower Basin, designed to support environmental projects in Arizona, Nevada, and California.

From the Bureau’s website: “Reclamation’s new funding opportunity for proposed ecosystem restoration or improvements projects in the Lower Colorado River Basin is also funded by the Inflation Reduction Act, and will consider projects that provide environmental benefits, or ecosystem and habitat restoration projects that address issues directly caused by drought in the Lower Colorado Basin Region under Phase 3 of the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program. Reclamation expects to announce projects by spring 2025 and award approximately \$100 million for planning, design, construction, and/or implementation of projects. Project and applicant eligibility information is available on the Bureau of Reclamation [website](#).”

In conjunction with these funding announcements, the Bureau also [released](#) its long-awaited report outlining five proposed alternatives for managing the Colorado River after 2026. This analysis is a key step in finalizing new management guidelines to ensure the river's sustainability in the face of ongoing challenges.

Cabinet Nominations

Cabinet nominees that will oversee agencies relevant to MWDOC’s work should soon be confirmed by the Senate. North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum (Secretary of the Interior Nominee) and Lee Zeldin (EPA Administrator Nominee) will likely have confirmation votes in the Senate within the next week. Both nominees made it through their confirmation hearings

with some degree of bipartisan support from committee members – we do not expect issues with their confirmation votes in the full Senate.



To:	MWDOC Workshop
From:	Syrus Devers
Date:	February 5th, 2025
Re:	State Legislative Report

Legislative Report

Although the deadline to introduce new legislation in the 2025 session is still three weeks away, bill introductions are a bit lower than usual at this point in the process. As of the date of the report (January 28th) only 556 bills have been introduced. That is not a dramatically lower number but it is off by a few percent. The likely explanation is hesitancy by new members to commit to proposals, and there are a lot of new members.

Preliminary bill highlights:

SB 72: Senator Anna Caballero has made good on her promise to bring back the “Solve the Water Crisis” bill, which was SB 366 last year, and CMUA is again the sponsor. SB 366 was ostensibly vetoed over costs. Taking the Newsom administration at their word, the sponsor has eliminated the role of the regional water boards, which was not a part of the original bill, and was estimated to be the greatest cost driver. Other than that, the bill is largely the same as it was at the end of the last session.

Eastern Municipal Water District is sponsoring legislation to open up the MWD Act and allow districts with only one director to appoint an official alternate. Amending the MWD Act is always cause for concern, and is typically reserved for the most serious issues, because there could be interests that would like to get their preferred changes into MWD’s authorizing legislation, and any bill dealing with the MWD Act is a potential vehicle.

The proposal has raised questions from some MWD member agencies questioning if there is an administrative alternative that does not require changing the MWD Act. A member agency can simply appoint a different representative anytime the current representative is unavailable. If this alternative imposes a significant administrative burden on the member agency or MWD due to frequency of use, perhaps appointing a different representative who is more available is in order.

Water Theft: ACWA is looking for an author for its sponsored legislation to deter water theft from fire hydrants. The bill would impose significantly higher penalties than the statutory \$1,000 in current law. ACWA voted to sponsor the bill before the Los Angeles fires and may consider amendments related to penalties for damaging or stealing a fire hydrant following accounts of fire hydrants being out of service at critical times.

Syrus Devers Advocacy

Administrative Report

The California Air Resources Control Board (CARB) has withdrawn the request for a waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency that is required to implement the Governor's Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) program. The waiver, however, was only necessary to impose the requirement to purchase Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) on private industry. The Governor can rely on his executive authority to impose regulations on public agencies, and CARB has stated that those regulations will remain in effect. The concern on the part of public agencies is that their purchasing power alone will be insufficient to drive the increases in ZEV production and infrastructure investment that is necessary for the program to work.

The Budget:

More details are coming out about how the Governor's proposed budget might be implemented. As reported last month, Newsom's budget is "balanced" by borrowing from reserves and shifting prior natural resource budget appropriations over to Proposition 4 funding. Specifically, about \$300 million in funds related to water resources originally appropriated in the budget will be shifted to Proposition 4 funding under Newsom's budget. As recently as two weeks ago, the Legislative Analyst's Office opined that there would not likely be any delays to project funding schedules as a result of the shift to Proposition 4 funding; however, the recently published the Budget Change Proposal (or "BCP") for the shift in funding indicated that Prop 4 funds would not be available until the spring or early summer of next year. This is obviously a concern for any agency with a project ready to break ground and seek funding.

Further uncertainty has been injected into the budget process simply because the Budget was submitted to the Legislature before the Los Angeles fires. Only a handful of preliminary bills and spot bills (bills that lack substantive language) related to the fires have become public, but there are many bill proposals making the rounds. With more than three weeks remaining to introduce new legislation, there is no telling how many fire related bills may be introduced, and the fiscal impact to the Budget is still undetermined.

The result of all of the above makes the Governor's Budget even more of an administrative exercise than usual, which makes the May Revise, when the Budget is revised to reflect actual revenues, the real start of the budget process this year.

ACKERMAN CONSULTING

Legal and Regulatory

February 5, 2025

1. **Plastic on Beaches:** RMIT University scientists in Australia have discovered a new tool to measure the amount of plastics on beaches around the world. Using advanced satellite imagery which measures the amount of light on objects on the beach, they have been able to expand our knowledge base in this area. As we are aware, the amount of plastic being distributed throughout the world is increasing all the time, in particular on remote areas such as the beaches in northern Australia where this study was concentrated. This new technology has been made more accurate by the use of advanced mathematical formulas for analyzing the data. The researchers believe that this information will help us in trying to control the amount of plastics being taken around the world by the oceans.
2. **Snowpack Measurement:** NASA is developing a new type of radar for more accurately measuring the amount of snow in the mountainous areas of the world. This new process, SNOWWI, Stands for snow water equivalent, wide swath, interferometer, and scatterometer. The radar signals are two KU band radar signals, one at high frequency and the other at low frequency to measure the exact amount of snow on the ground. Measurements are made by a twin-engine aircraft flying at 2 1/2 miles altitude. The more accurate data of snow depth and density will be useful for water managers in predicting the amount of water being produced each year.
3. **Better Filters:** Scientists from a team in Wuhan University, China (Yes. The same city that had the Wuhan lab) have come up with an improvement in water filtration. This new filter is composed of products from squid bones and cotton, both of which are abundant, cheap, and sustainable. This filter is aimed at microplastics and PFAS, but it is also effective and works well with other pollutants in the water such as bacteria. The reuse rate of the filter is over 95% effective. This filter is now going into commercial feasibility tests.
4. **Nutria Update:** We have previously reported that this South American beaver like rodent has invaded the Delta area. In spite of great attempts by the government to control or eliminate the species, the nutria is winning the battle. The word nutria translates into mouse beaver. Known as the giant swamp rat, this animal is possibly going to destroy the delta if it remains unchecked. The nutria reproduces very often. A female can bear over 200 offspring per year. It is primarily a plant eating animal and tends to eat a lot of the wetland plants that hold the wetlands infrastructure together. The result of this is opening up water and creating an entirely different ecosystem in the area. Its natural predators in South America are jaguars, alligators and certain types of snakes. However, none of these predators exist in the Delta. The Department of Fish and Game has not said that they are losing the battle, but the numbers clearly show that they are. If their total numbers increase much more than they are, we will reach the point of no return in our ability to control or eliminate them. This would have very serious ramifications for the entire Delta area and other areas where they are spreading.

5. **Palisades Fire:** Recent fires in Los Angeles County have brought a number of important water issues to light. One of the issues is to what level municipal water systems are designed. Most experts agree that they were not designed to fight enormous wildfire situations. Discussions are taking place right now as to whether or not this design level should be increased. With the advent of high-tech air fighting capabilities and the past history of great cooperation via mutual aid, many of our systems will probably be determined to be adequate. However, in areas of increased fire risk, the prediction is that additional design criteria will be considered. A study of some of the fire prone areas has shown that many of these water systems have been over designed by as much as 40% to allow for the prospect of wildfires. In fact, in the Pacific Palisades area, additional reservoirs were constructed, particularly aimed at fighting wildfire possibilities. Unfortunately, as you probably read, the Santa Inez Reservoir had been down for over a year and was empty at the beginning of the wildfire on January 7th. Many homeowners actually bought in this area knowing that they had substantial backup in the event of a wildfire. A real review of the history of as to why this reservoir was not repaired will make your blood boil. The bureaucratic delays has already produced a number of lawsuits. The issue of climate change has also been raised. Some groups are claiming that the fire was a result of climate change. However, many fire experts claim that climate change had nothing to do with the magnitude and destruction of the fire. The role of electric vehicles has been raised also. As the magnitude of a wildfire increases, utilities are more apt to cut off electricity to the impacted areas and the surrounding areas. Many residents in the Palisades abandoned their EVs because they were not sure they would have enough power to last out the evacuation time. Since California is trying to eliminate fossil fuel, there will be a renewed discussion as to how emergency vehicles and generators will be powered in the future. Other issues that have begun to be discussed are overall forest management, water policy, insurance regulations, and power distribution. Hopefully, the destruction caused by this fire can produce some good policy for the state of California. All of these issues brought to the forefront by the fires need to be resolved in order for the State of California to be successful in the future.
6. **Arrowhead Water:** This water saga continues. The US Forest Service has declined to renew a permit for Arrowhead water. Blue Triton, the successor to Arrowhead Water, has filed an injunction to stop the enforceability of their non-renewal. The current status is that Arrowhead cannot sell to the general public but can sell to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. This dichotomy has raised a few eyebrows. The federal government has also alleged that Arrowhead has been wasting water. This seems a little unusual in that they are in the business of selling water for a profit and would have little incentive to waste it.
7. **Floating Solar Panels:** A recent study from the federal government has claimed that if solar panels are floated on many of the reservoirs currently in the United States that we could produce enough power to supply electricity to 100 million homes per year. This report is somewhat hypothetical and does not consider many things which they claim they will consider in the future. Some of those limitations include the following: human and wildlife activities, shipping lanes, temperature of the water, depth of the water, connection to power grid and overall cost benefit analysis. Their one positive claim is that this system will reduce evaporation and therefore conserve more water.
8. **Full Reservoirs:** Many reservoirs in California which have been historically dry are now staging a comeback. Lake Casitas near Santa Barbara has been historically low. As a result of the recent rains, it is near capacity and has had

to let water flow out. The future for this lake is now being predicted to be favorable. Lake Sonoma in Northern California has increased by over 12 feet. Lake Oroville has reached full capacity for the second year in a row. Even Lake Mead has increased by 16 feet.

9. **Groundwater Status:** While the status of groundwater in California has generally been negative, there are a few bright spots. We are all aware of some serious topographical situations in the Central Valley. The Sacramento Valley is doing much better. Generally, the water used by people and farmers is replenished by the seasonal rainfall. The Coachella Valley aquifers are also doing much better. Their low point in 2010 has shown constant improvement afterwards. They owe it to better management and pricing strategies. This report also mentions other plans used in Arva Valley, Arizona. They have constructed artificial lakes over their aquifer. Enabling the water to percolate more easily. Groundwater levels in this area have begun to rise after almost a century of decline. At this point, they are cautiously optimistic of what the impact of the SGMA will be here in California.



WHITTINGHAM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISORS

February 5, 2025

TO: MWDOC Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Whittingham

SUBJECT: February 2025 Report

The month of January was unfortunately dominated by high winds and the subsequent wildfires in Los Angeles County, which raised significant concerns and scrutiny regarding water pressure and availability, especially related to Palisades Fire. Following are a few of the more notable developments and issues of the month:

- Newly elected officials were seated at a number of MWDOC cities and agencies, including the Cities of Buena Park, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, La Habra, Newport Beach, San Clemente, Seal Beach, and Tustin, and East Orange County, El Toro, Irvine Ranch, Serrano, Trabuco Canyon, and Yorba Linda Water Districts.
- Former state Senator Janet Nguyen held a public swearing-in ceremony as the new Orange County 1st District Supervisor. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to appoint 4th District Supervisor Doug Chaffee as Chair and 5th District Supervisor Katrina Foley as Vice Chair of the Board for 2025.
- Orange County's Interim CEO Michelle Aguirre and CFO Kim Engleby have instructed all County departments to implement a variety of cost-cutting measures, including a "hard freeze" on vacant positions, restrictions on discretionary spending and reductions in service levels and non-mandated services. The memo to all departments cited forecasts showing national, state and local economies being below trend growth, with the County already experiencing this trend in fiscal year 2024-25, which began last July 1. Of the \$9.5 billion in appropriations for the County's 2024-25 budget, 39%, or \$3.7 billion, comes from state or federal allocations or grants to administer specific programs, much of which is likely to be impacted by State resources being strained by wildfire recovery.

- In the wake of the Palisades and Eaton fires, numerous cities and water districts in high fire areas shared updates on both their water supplies and backup power available in the event of emergency. Since the 1993 Laguna Canyon Fire, the Laguna Beach County Water District has added two reservoirs, bringing its total number to 21 with a combined storage capacity of 33.5 million gallons. In addition, numerous pumps equipped with generators have been incorporated into the system to ensure water transport in an emergency. Two heli-hydrants, facilities set up in remote areas so water-dropping aircraft can resupply faster, have also been created near Laguna Canyon.
- A stretch of beaches in Laguna Beach were closed for up to ten days after a broken sewer line near Laguna Niguel Regional Park released roughly 600,000 gallons of sewage. Approximately 130,000 gallons were recovered before reaching the Sulphur Creek and Aliso Creek confluence, and about one million gallons of creek water were removed by Moulton Niguel Water District, owner of the main line.

It is a pleasure to work with you and to represent the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Whittingham".

Peter Whittingham

MWDOC Workshop

Prepared by SDA Government Relations
February, 2025

A. High

[AB 259 \(Rubio, Blanca, D\)](#) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use teleconferencing, as specified, and requires a legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing to comply with specified requirements, including that the local agency post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public. Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda that is open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, and the legislative body complies with prescribed requirements. Current law requires a member to satisfy specified requirements to participate in a meeting remotely pursuant to these alternative teleconferencing provisions, including that specified circumstances apply. Current law establishes limits on the number of meetings a member may participate in solely by teleconference from a remote location pursuant to these alternative teleconferencing provisions, including prohibiting such participation for more than 2 meetings per year if the legislative body regularly meets once per month or less. This bill would remove the January 1, 2026, date from those provisions, thereby extending the alternative teleconferencing procedures indefinitely. (Based on 01/16/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: A. High

[SB 31 \(McNerney, D\)](#) Water quality: water recycling facilities: state policy.

Summary: Current law states the intention of the Legislature that the state undertake all possible steps to encourage development of water recycling facilities so that recycled water may be made available to help meet the growing water requirements of the state. This bill would make a nonsubstantive change to that statement. (Based on 12/02/2024 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: A. High

Notes:

Sponsored by WateReuse

[SB 72 \(Caballero, D\)](#) The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Water Resources to update every 5 years the plan for the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, and use of the water resources of the state, which is known as "The California Water Plan." Current law requires the department to include a discussion of various strategies in the plan update, including, but not limited to, strategies relating to the development of new water storage facilities, water conservation, water recycling, desalination, conjunctive use, and water transfers, that may be pursued in order to meet the future needs of the state. Current law requires the department to establish an advisory committee to assist the department in updating the plan. This bill would revise and recast certain provisions regarding The California Water Plan to, among other things, require the department to expand the membership of the advisory committee to include tribes, labor, and environmental justice interests. The bill would require the department, as part of the 2033 update to the plan, to update the interim planning target for 2050, as provided. The bill would require the target to consider the identified and future water needs for a sustainable urban sector, agricultural sector, and environment, and ensure safe drinking water for all Californians, among other things. (Based on 01/15/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: A. High

Notes:

CMUA sponsored follow up to SB 366 (Caballero). Planned for March agenda.

B. Watch

[AB 93](#) ([Papan, D](#)) **Water resources: demands: artificial intelligence.**

Summary: Would express the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that would maintain water and energy efficiency to the extent that new technology, including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence, increases the demands on already limited resources. (Based on 01/07/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: B. Watch

[AB 267](#) ([Macedo, R](#)) **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: high-speed rail: water infrastructure and wildfire prevention.**

Summary: Would suspend the appropriation to the High-Speed Rail Authority for the 2026–27 and 2027–28 fiscal years and would instead require those amounts from moneys collected by the State Air Resources Board to be transferred to the General Fund. The bill would specify that the transferred amounts shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to augment funding for water infrastructure and wildfire prevention. (Based on 01/17/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: B. Watch

[AB 293](#) ([Bennett, D](#)) **Groundwater sustainability agency: transparency.**

Summary: Current law requires a groundwater sustainability plan to be developed and implemented for each medium- or high-priority basin by a groundwater sustainability agency. Current law authorizes any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin, as provided. Current law requires members of the board of directors and the executive, as defined, of a groundwater sustainability agency to file statements of economic interests with the Fair Political Practices Commission using the commission's online system for filing statements of economic interests. This bill would require each groundwater sustainability agency to publish the membership of its board of directors on its internet website, or on the local agency's internet website, as provided. The bill would also require each groundwater sustainability agency to publish a link on its internet website or its local agency's internet website to the location on the Fair Political Practices Commission's internet website where the statements of economic interests, filed by the members of the board and executives of the agency, can be viewed. (Based on 01/22/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: B. Watch

[AB 295](#) ([Macedo, R](#)) **California Environmental Quality Act: environmental leadership development projects: water storage, water conveyance, and groundwater recharge projects: streamlined review.**

Summary: The Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2021 authorizes the Governor, until January 1, 2032, to certify environmental leadership development projects that meet specified requirements for certain streamlining benefits related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The act, among other things, requires a lead agency to prepare the record of proceedings for an environmental leadership development project, as provided, and to provide a specified notice within 10 days of the Governor certifying the project. The act is repealed by its own term on January 1, 2034. This bill would extend the application of the act to water storage projects, water conveyance projects, and groundwater recharge projects that provide public benefits and drought preparedness. Because a lead agency would be required to prepare the record of proceedings for water storage projects, water conveyance projects, and groundwater recharge projects pursuant to the act, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. (Based on 01/23/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: B. Watch

[AB 307](#) ([Petrie-Norris, D](#)) **Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: fire camera mapping system.**

Summary: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 authorized the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands, park creation and outdoor access, and clean air programs. Of these funds, the act makes

available \$1,500,000,000, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for wildfire prevention, including, among other things, by making \$25,000,000 available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for technologies that improve detection and assessment of new fire ignitions. This bill would require, of the \$25,000,000 made available to the department, \$10,000,000 be allocated for purposes of the ALERTCalifornia fire camera mapping system. (Based on 01/23/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: B. Watch

SB 90 (Seyarto, R) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: grants: improvements to public evacuation routes: mobile rigid water storage.

Summary: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 makes \$135,000,000 available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Office of Emergency Services for a wildfire mitigation grant program to provide, among other things, loans, direct assistance, and matching funds for projects that prevent wildfires, increase resilience, maintain existing wildfire risk reduction projects, reduce the risk of wildfires to communities, or increase home or community hardening. The act provides that eligible projects include, but are not limited to, grants to local agencies, state agencies, joint powers authorities, tribes, resource conservation districts, fire safe councils, and nonprofit organizations for structure hardening of critical community infrastructure, wildfire smoke mitigation, evacuation centers, including community clean air centers, structure hardening projects that reduce the risk of wildfire for entire neighborhoods and communities, water delivery system improvements for fire suppression purposes for communities in very high or high fire hazard areas, wildfire buffers, and incentives to remove structures that significantly increase hazard risk. This bill would include in the list of eligible projects grants to the above-mentioned entities for improvements to public evacuation routes in very high and high fire hazard severity zones, mobile rigid dip tanks, as defined, to support firefighting efforts, prepositioned mobile rigid water storage, as defined, and improvements to the response and effectiveness of fire engines and helicopters. (Based on 01/22/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: B. Watch

SB 224 (Hurtado, D) Department of Water Resources: water supply forecasting.

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Water Resources to gather and correlate information and data pertinent to an annual forecast of seasonal water crop. Current law also requires the department to update every 5 years the plan for the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, and use of the water resources of the state, which is known as "The California Water Plan." This bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2027, to adopt a new water supply forecasting model and procedures that better address the effects of climate change and implement a formal policy and procedures for documenting the department's operational plans and the department's rationale for its operating procedures, including the department's rationale for water releases from reservoirs. (Based on 01/27/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: B. Watch

Total Measures: 10

Total Tracking Forms: 10



ACTION ITEM
February 5, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Harvey De La Torre
General Manager

Staff Contact: Heather Baez

SUBJECT: SB 72 (CABALLERO) – THE CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN: LONG-TERM SUPPLY TARGETS

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors vote to adopt a support position on SB 72 (Caballero) and join CMUA’s coalition letter and outreach efforts.

BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 72 would require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in coordination with the California Water Commission, the State Water Resources Control Board, other state and federal agencies as appropriate, and the stakeholder advisory committee to develop a comprehensive plan for addressing the state’s water needs and reforming the California Water Plan to identify and support a development target of 15 million acre-feet of new water supply by 2050, with an interim target of 10 million acre-feet by 2040.

The bill would require the plan to provide recommendations and strategies to ensure enough water supply for all beneficial uses, and to include specified components, including an economic analysis and a long-term financing plan. In addition, it would require DWR to develop the long-term financing plan to meet the water supply targets and include the final financing plan as part of each update.

This measure is nearly identical to SB 366 (Caballero, 2023) which was vetoed by Governor Newsom due to some fiscal concerns. Those issues have been addressed in SB 72 and are outlined below.

NEED FOR THIS PROPOSAL

Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Budgeted amount:	Core: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choice: <input type="checkbox"/>
Action item amount:		Movement between funds: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

California is in a race to adjust to significantly changing hydrology associated with climate change. Pressured by multi-year droughts, floods and other intensifying climate events, California's aging water infrastructure and facilities are unable to keep pace, leaving groundwater basins over-drafted, loss of groundwater production, water quality degraded, land fallowed, and severe cutbacks to the State's water delivery systems and local supplies. Every sector in California is affected and bold changes are necessary to address deficiencies and adequately serve the state's population along with environmental, agricultural and business needs.

Recently, the State has taken steps to move California toward sustainability including a major investment of over \$8 billion in the past two years for water projects. The Newsom Administration's recently released "Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future," outlines multiple steps and goals for ensuring the State has sufficient water in the future to meet our needs. But this plan is not in statute and is not financed. More is needed.

NEW FOR 2025

As you recall, the MWDOC Board of Directors adopted a support position on SB 366 (Caballero, 2023) on April 3, 2023. Unfortunately, it was vetoed by Governor Newsom citing fiscal concerns related to language specific to the State Water Resources Control Board. To address these concerns, the sponsors have made the following changes to the measure:

- Slight revisions to the language to address costs associated with State Water Board actions. The State Water Board projected cost was tied to needing to define "beneficial uses." That language has been stricken from SB 72 to reduce overall cost.
- To help alleviate the statewide budget concerns, Senator Caballero has submitted a budget request to cover the Department of Water Resources' projected costs.
- A cost of inaction study has been commissioned by the bill sponsors that will likely show that SB 72 will be less costly. This will help the argument that SB 72 is the right solution.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT

SB 72 would revise and recast the California Water Plan statute, updating its provisions to address the extreme climate impacts of the 21st century. As part of this modernization, the bill would establish long-term water supply targets for the State to achieve, require a financing plan, and would update the requirement that state agencies develop a plan to achieve those targets, in consultation with local water agencies, wastewater service providers, irrigation districts, and other stakeholders recognizing the state's diverse regional needs. The targets of 15 million acre-feet of new water supply by 2050 and 10 million acre-feet by 2040 would complement and amplify Governor Newsom's Water Supply Strategy, and ensure the State establishes and maintains these water supply targets beyond any single Administration.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

None on file.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions. | <input type="checkbox"/> Work with member agencies to develop water supply and demand objectives. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and Orange County values and interests. | <input type="checkbox"/> Solicit input and feedback from member agencies. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen communications and coordination of messaging. | <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in workforce development and succession planning. |

BOARD OPTIONS

Option #1: Adopt a Support position on SB 72 (Caballero) and join CMUA's coalition letter and outreach efforts.

Fiscal Impact: None

Option #2: Take no action

Fiscal Impact: None

List of Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: SB 72 Full Text

**Introduced by Senator Caballero
(Coauthor: Senator Rubio)**

January 15, 2025

An act to amend Sections 10004.5 and 10004.6 of, to repeal Section 10013 of, and to repeal and add Section 10004 of, the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 72, as introduced, Caballero. The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.

Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources to update every 5 years the plan for the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, and use of the water resources of the state, which is known as "The California Water Plan." Existing law requires the department to include a discussion of various strategies in the plan update, including, but not limited to, strategies relating to the development of new water storage facilities, water conservation, water recycling, desalination, conjunctive use, and water transfers, that may be pursued in order to meet the future needs of the state. Existing law requires the department to establish an advisory committee to assist the department in updating the plan.

This bill would revise and recast certain provisions regarding The California Water Plan to, among other things, require the department to expand the membership of the advisory committee to include tribes, labor, and environmental justice interests. The bill would require the department, as part of the 2033 update to the plan, to update the interim planning target for 2050, as provided. The bill would require the target to consider the identified and future water needs for a sustainable urban sector, agricultural sector, and environment, and ensure safe drinking

water for all Californians, among other things. The bill would require the plan to include specified components, including a discussion of the estimated costs and benefits of any project type or action that is recommended by the department within the plan that could help achieve the water supply targets. The bill would require the department to report to the Legislature the amendments, supplements, and additions included in the updates of the plan, together with a summary of the department's conclusions and recommendations, in the session in which the updated plan is issued. The bill would also require the department to conduct public workshops to give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the plan.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:
- 3 (a) To thrive as a state, California needs a reliable supply of
4 water for urban, agricultural, and environmental uses that is
5 resilient to climate change.
- 6 (b) California's existing water usage is highly reliant on
7 capturing snow melt on an annual basis. That water is stored in
8 lakes, reservoirs, and groundwater basins and is then transported
9 around the state for environmental, residential, business, and
10 agricultural use when needed.
- 11 (c) California has the most intricate and elaborate system of
12 water conveyance in the world.
- 13 (d) Dependent on the extent of drought or flood conditions, the
14 Department of Water Resources has calculated that the volume of
15 water used by people in California for agricultural, urban, and
16 environmental purposes ranges from 60,000,000 acre-feet per year
17 to 90,000,000 acre-feet per year.
- 18 (e) Per capita water use has declined over time, thanks to a
19 conservation ethic encouraged by water agencies and other
20 stakeholders, water-saving indoor plumbing fixtures and
21 appliances, better leak detection, and efforts to reduce outdoor
22 water use.

- 1 (f) California is experiencing significant impacts of a changing
2 climate on our water supply systems and environment, including
3 fisheries and ecosystems.
- 4 (g) According to the Department of Water Resources, hotter
5 and drier weather is estimated to diminish our existing water supply
6 even further and likely by 10 percent.
- 7 (h) A 10-percent loss could mean the disappearance of about
8 6,000,000 acre-feet to 9,000,000 acre-feet of water supply.
- 9 (i) Many rivers, lakes, and estuaries are being impacted by
10 declining water quality, including increases in harmful algal
11 blooms.
- 12 (j) The California central valley has a groundwater overdraft of
13 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 acre-feet of water.
- 14 (k) Following more than two decades of “megadrought” in the
15 Colorado Basin, reservoir levels are so low that supply cuts are
16 likely.
- 17 (l) California’s precipitation is changing from seasonal snow
18 in the Sierra to periods of substantial rainfall, including from
19 atmospheric rivers.
- 20 (m) The shift to drier dry years and wetter wet years makes it
21 imperative that the state of California develop comprehensive wet
22 year strategies that take full advantage of times of abundance,
23 while also ensuring public safety from floods.
- 24 (n) California is the nation’s agricultural powerhouse, accounting
25 for 12 percent of agricultural production in 2021, including more
26 than 70 percent of the nation’s fruits and nuts.
- 27 (o) The agricultural sector produces annual revenues of more
28 than \$50 billion, employs more than 420,000 people, and supports
29 large food and beverage processing industries.
- 30 (p) The Department of Water Resources describes a statewide
31 capacity in groundwater basins in the range of 1,000,000,000
32 acre-feet or approximately 20 times the total surface water storage
33 capacity statewide.
- 34 (q) California is the home to cutting-edge job-creating industries,
35 such as those in Silicon Valley and southern California’s biotech
36 industry.
- 37 (r) Local and regional water suppliers are at the forefront of
38 implementing projects to build resiliency, but need additional
39 support from the state and federal governments through funding

1 and regulatory frameworks that are adapted for the new climate
2 reality.

3 (s) It is essential for our economy, environment, and well-being
4 that California increases the resilience of the state’s water supplies.

5 (t) The implementation of projects to increase the resilience of
6 the state’s water supplies can also create good jobs for California
7 workers.

8 (u) Governor Gavin Newsom released “California’s Water
9 Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future” in August
10 2022 that began to outline strategies for increasing California’s
11 water supply and streamlining approvals, but California must make
12 a historic change in the state’s comprehensive water plan and how
13 water is provided for environmental, residential, business, and
14 agricultural uses.

15 (v) The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009
16 establishes a state policy to meet California’s future water needs
17 through the coequal goals for the Delta of increased water supply
18 reliability and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem
19 restoration.

20 (w) The State Water Resources Control Board and other
21 authorities estimate that over one million Californians lack access
22 to safe and affordable drinking water.

23 SEC. 2. Section 10004 of the Water Code is repealed.

24 ~~10004. (a) The plan for the orderly and coordinated control,~~
25 ~~protection, conservation, development, and utilization of the water~~
26 ~~resources of the state which is set forth and described in Bulletin~~
27 ~~No. 1 of the State Water Resources Control Board entitled “Water~~
28 ~~Resources of California,” Bulletin No. 2 of the State Water~~
29 ~~Resources Control Board entitled, “Water Utilization and~~
30 ~~Requirements of California,” and Bulletin No. 3 of the department~~
31 ~~entitled, “The California Water Plan,” with any necessary~~
32 ~~amendments, supplements, and additions to the plan, shall be~~
33 ~~known as “The California Water Plan.”~~

34 ~~(b) (1) The department shall update The California Water Plan~~
35 ~~on or before December 31, 2003, and every five years thereafter.~~
36 ~~The department shall report the amendments, supplements, and~~
37 ~~additions included in the updates of The California Water Plan,~~
38 ~~together with a summary of the department’s conclusions and~~
39 ~~recommendations, to the Legislature in the session in which the~~
40 ~~updated plan is issued.~~

1 ~~(2) (A) The department shall establish an advisory committee,~~
2 ~~comprised of representatives of agricultural and urban water~~
3 ~~suppliers, local government, business, production agriculture, and~~
4 ~~environmental interests, and other interested parties, to assist the~~
5 ~~department in the updating of The California Water Plan. The~~
6 ~~department shall consult with the advisory committee in carrying~~
7 ~~out this section. The department shall provide written notice of~~
8 ~~meetings of the advisory committee to any interested person or~~
9 ~~entity that request the notice. The meetings shall be open to the~~
10 ~~public.~~

11 ~~(B) The department may add members to the advisory committee~~
12 ~~to carry out the purposes of Section 10004.7. Additional advisory~~
13 ~~committee members may include those from environmental justice~~
14 ~~sectors, local water supply agencies, and researchers and experts~~
15 ~~on climate science, climate science solutions, water storage, water~~
16 ~~conveyance, and environmental protection.~~

17 ~~(3) The department shall release a preliminary draft of The~~
18 ~~California Water Plan, as updated, upon request, to interested~~
19 ~~persons and entities throughout the state for their review and~~
20 ~~comments. The department shall provide these persons and entities~~
21 ~~an opportunity to present written or oral comments on the~~
22 ~~preliminary draft. The department shall consider these comments~~
23 ~~in the preparation of the final publication of The California Water~~
24 ~~Plan, as updated.~~

25 SEC. 3. Section 10004 is added to the Water Code, to read:

26 10004. (a) The department shall develop a comprehensive,
27 strategic plan for the sustainable management and stewardship of
28 California’s water resources. This plan shall be known as “The
29 California Water Plan” and shall provide an update on the status
30 and trends of California’s water-dependent natural resources, water
31 supplies, and its agricultural, urban, and environmental water
32 demands for a range of plausible future scenarios. The plan also
33 shall include long-term water supply targets and strategies to meet
34 those targets as outlined in this chapter.

35 (b) The department shall update The California Water Plan on
36 or before December 31, 2028, and every five years thereafter.

37 (c) To develop the plan, the department, in consultation with
38 the California Water Commission, shall establish an advisory
39 committee, composed of representatives of agricultural and urban
40 water suppliers, local government, business, agriculture, tribes,

1 labor representatives from building and construction trades,
2 environmental justice interests, environmental interests, and other
3 interested parties, to assist and provide input to the department in
4 the updating of The California Water Plan. The department shall
5 consult with the advisory committee and consider recommendations
6 in carrying out this chapter. The department shall provide written
7 notice of meetings of the advisory committee to any interested
8 person or entity that requests the notice. The meetings shall be
9 open to the public.

10 (d) The department may add members to the advisory committee
11 to carry out the purposes of Section 10004.7. Additional advisory
12 committee members may include those from environmental justice
13 sectors, local water supply agencies, and researchers and experts
14 on climate science, climate science solutions, water storage, water
15 conveyance, and environmental protection.

16 (e) The department shall release a preliminary draft of The
17 California Water Plan, as updated, upon request, to interested
18 persons and entities throughout the state for their review and
19 comments. The department shall provide these persons and entities
20 an opportunity to present written or oral comments on the
21 preliminary draft. The department shall consider these comments
22 in the preparation of the final publication of The California Water
23 Plan, as updated.

24 (f) The department shall coordinate with the California Water
25 Commission, the board, other state and federal agencies as
26 appropriate, and the advisory committee to develop the plan.

27 SEC. 4. Section 10004.5 of the Water Code is amended to read:

28 10004.5. (a) As part of the requirement of the department to
29 update The California Water Plan pursuant to subdivision (b) of
30 Section 10004, the department shall include in the plan a discussion
31 of various strategies, including, but not limited to, those relating
32 to the development of new water storage facilities, water
33 conservation, *groundwater recharge*, water recycling, desalination,
34 conjunctive use, *conveyance*, *stormwater capture*, *water transfers*,
35 and ~~water transfers~~ *demand management activities* that may be
36 pursued in order to meet the future water needs of the ~~state~~. *state*
37 *and the water supply targets developed by the department*. The
38 department shall also include a discussion of the potential for
39 alternative water pricing policies to change current and projected
40 uses. The department shall include in the plan a discussion of the

1 potential advantages and disadvantages of each strategy and an
2 identification of all federal and state permits, approvals, or
3 entitlements that are anticipated to be required in order to
4 implement the various components of the strategy.

5 *(b) In preparing any update of The California Water Plan, the*
6 *department shall conduct a series of public workshops to give*
7 *interested parties an opportunity to comment on the plan. The*
8 *department shall select workshop locations to maximize geographic*
9 *distribution, to ensure that regions of the state that have been*
10 *impacted the most by drought and other weather extremes are*
11 *included, and to ensure the workshops are accessible to*
12 *communities with minority populations, communities with*
13 *low-income populations, or both.*

14 *(c) Each update of the plan shall include, at a minimum, all of*
15 *the following components:*

16 *(1) A discussion of environmental needs. The department's*
17 *discussion shall rely on the best available peer-reviewed scientific*
18 *information.*

19 *(2) A discussion of urban sector water needs.*

20 *(3) A discussion of agricultural water needs.*

21 *(4) A summary of sources that could finance project types or*
22 *actions within the various strategies.*

23 *(5) A discussion of the estimated costs and benefits of any*
24 *project type or action that is recommended by the department*
25 *within the plan that could help achieve the water supply targets.*
26 *The department shall also consider and incorporate into the*
27 *discussion, if appropriate, existing studies or planning documents*
28 *that quantify the costs and impacts to the state if there are*
29 *inadequate water supplies to meet sustainable demands for all*
30 *sectors.*

31 *(6) A report on the development of regional and local water*
32 *projects within each hydrologic region of the state undertaken to*
33 *improve water supplies to meet municipal, agricultural, and*
34 *environmental water needs and minimize the need to import water*
35 *from other hydrologic regions.*

36 *(d) Notwithstanding Section 10231.5 of the Government Code,*
37 *the department shall report the amendments, supplements, and*
38 *additions included in the updates of The California Water Plan,*
39 *together with a summary of the department's conclusions and*
40 *recommendations, to the Legislature, in compliance with Section*

1 9795 of the Government Code, in the session in which the updated
2 plan is issued.

3 SEC. 5. Section 10004.6 of the Water Code is amended to read:

4 10004.6. (a) (1) As part of updating The California Water
5 Plan every five years pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 10004,
6 the department shall conduct a study to determine the amount of
7 additional water needed to meet the state's future water needs and
8 to recommend programs, policies, and facilities to meet those
9 needs.

10 (2) As part of the 2033 update to The California Water Plan,
11 the department shall update the required planning target pursuant
12 to subdivision (f) for 2050. Subsequent updates of the plan shall
13 include a range of water supply targets that consider future
14 scenarios with a 50-year planning horizon at a watershed scale.
15 The target shall consider the identified and future water needs for
16 a sustainable urban sector, agricultural sector, and environment,
17 recognize the impacts of climate change on the state's water
18 resources, ensure safe drinking water for all Californians, and
19 reflect statewide, regional, and local planning efforts. In
20 establishing the long-term supply target, the department shall
21 analyze current and future water needs trends, including identifying
22 additional water necessary to sustain public trust resources.

23 (b) The department shall consult with the advisory committee
24 established pursuant to subdivision ~~(b)~~ (c) of Section 10004 in
25 carrying out this ~~section~~ chapter.

26 (c) On or before ~~January 1, 2002~~, December 31, 2027, and one
27 year prior to issuing each successive update to The California
28 Water Plan, the department shall release a preliminary draft of the
29 assumptions and other estimates upon which the study will be
30 based, to interested persons and entities throughout the state for
31 their review and comments. The department shall provide these
32 persons and entities an opportunity to present written or oral
33 comments on the preliminary draft. The department shall consider
34 these documents when adopting the final assumptions and estimates
35 for the study. For the purpose of carrying out this subdivision, the
36 department shall release, at a minimum, assumptions and other
37 estimates relating to all of the following:

38 (1) Basin hydrology, including annual rainfall, estimated
39 unimpaired streamflow, depletions, and consumptive uses.

- 1 (2) Groundwater supplies, including estimates of sustainable
2 yield, supplies necessary to recover overdraft basins, and supplies
3 lost due to pollution and other groundwater contaminants.
- 4 (3) Current and projected land use patterns, including the mix
5 of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and undeveloped
6 lands.
- 7 (4) Environmental water needs, including regulatory instream
8 flow requirements, nonregulated instream uses, and water needs
9 by wetlands, preserves, refuges, and other managed and unmanaged
10 natural resource lands.
- 11 (5) Current and projected population.
- 12 (6) Current and projected water use for all of the following:
 - 13 (A) Interior uses in a single-family dwelling.
 - 14 (B) Exterior uses in a single-family dwelling.
 - 15 (C) All uses in a multifamily dwelling.
 - 16 (D) Commercial uses.
 - 17 (E) Industrial uses.
 - 18 (F) Parks and open spaces.
 - 19 (G) Agricultural water diversion and use.
- 20 (7) *Opportunities for demand management.*
- 21 ~~(7)~~
- 22 (8) Evapotranspiration rates for major crop types, including
23 estimates of evaporative losses by irrigation practice and the extent
24 to which evaporation reduces transpiration.
- 25 ~~(8)~~
- 26 (9) Current and projected adoption of urban and agricultural
27 conservation practices.
- 28 ~~(9)~~
- 29 (10) Current and projected supplies of water provided by water
30 recycling and reuse.
- 31 (11) *Current and projected water and infrastructure needs of*
32 *disadvantaged communities, as defined in Section 79505.5, served*
33 *by public water systems, state small water systems, and individual*
34 *domestic wells, including, but not limited to, access to safe and*
35 *affordable drinking water and sanitation, water quality, and water*
36 *supply. The department may incorporate by reference the State*
37 *Water Resources Control Board's Drinking Water Needs*
38 *Assessment or other available relevant assessments or reports.*

1 (12) *Climate change impacts by region and resulting water*
2 *supply trends, including changes in timing and intensity of*
3 *snowmelt runoff.*

4 (d) The department shall include a discussion of the potential
5 for alternative water pricing policies to change current and
6 projected water uses identified pursuant to paragraph (6) of
7 subdivision (c).

8 (e) ~~Nothing in this~~ *This section requires does not require the*
9 *department to update, or prohibits prohibit the department from*
10 ~~updating~~ *updating, any data necessary to update The California*
11 *Water Plan pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 10004.*

12 (f) *As part of the 2028 update to the plan, the department shall*
13 *include an interim planning target of 9,000,000 acre-feet of*
14 *additional water, water conservation, or water storage capacity*
15 *to be achieved by 2040. This target may be achieved through the*
16 *development of new or expanded surface or groundwater storage,*
17 *conservation efforts, or the development of stormwater capture,*
18 *graywater, recycled water, or other water supplies.*

19 SEC. 6. Section 10013 of the Water Code is repealed.

20 ~~10013. The department, as a part of the preparation of the~~
21 ~~department’s Bulletin 160-03, shall include in the California Water~~
22 ~~Plan a report on the development of regional and local water~~
23 ~~projects within each hydrologic region of the state, as described~~
24 ~~in the department’s Bulletin 160-98, to improve water supplies to~~
25 ~~meet municipal, agricultural, and environmental water needs and~~
26 ~~minimize the need to import water from other hydrologic regions.~~
27 ~~The report shall include, but is not limited to, regional and local~~
28 ~~water projects that use technologies for desalting brackish~~
29 ~~groundwater and ocean water, reclaiming water for use within the~~
30 ~~community generating the water to be reclaimed, the construction~~
31 ~~of improved potable water treatment facilities so that water from~~
32 ~~sources determined to be unsuitable can be used, and the~~
33 ~~construction of dual water systems and brine lines, particularly in~~
34 ~~connection with new developments and when replacing water~~
35 ~~pipng in developed or redeveloped areas.~~

O



DISCUSSION ITEM

February 5, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

**FROM: Harvey De La Torre,
General Manager**

Staff Contact: Melissa Baum-Haley
Alex Heide
Kevin Hostert

SUBJECT: METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT (MET) ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors to review and discuss this information.

DETAILED REPORT

This report provides a brief update on the current status of the following key MET issues that may affect Orange County:

- a. MET's Finance and Rate Issues
- b. Water Supply Condition Update
- c. Water Quality Update
- d. Colorado River Issues
- e. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

ISSUE BRIEF #A**SUBJECT: MET Finance and Rate Issues****RECENT ACTIVITY**

Water Transactions for December 2024 (for water delivered in October 2024) totaled 118.3 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 5.6 TAF lower than the budget of 123.9 TAF and translates to \$125.4 million in receipts for December 2024, which were \$3.2 million lower than the budget of \$128.6 million.

FY24-25 Cash Water Transactions and Revenues Budget vs Actual (Preliminary, subject to change)

Month		Acre-Feet (AF) ²		Variance		Revenue (\$) ¹		Variance	
Delivered/ Billed In	To be Collected in	Budget	Actual	AF	%	Budget	Actual	\$	%
May	July	111,381	93,988	(17,393)	-16%	115,411,844	111,844,425	(3,567,419)	-3%
June	August	119,830	101,259	(18,570)	-15%	142,766,424	100,440,378	(42,326,046)	-30%
July	September	133,150	113,715	(19,435)	-15%	141,775,001	121,901,017	(19,873,983)	-14%
August	October	136,454	116,650	(19,804)	-15%	145,410,622	129,047,328	(16,363,293)	-11%
September	November	127,137	115,902	(11,235)	-9%	133,836,426	125,914,754	(7,921,673)	-6%
October	December	123,989	118,330	(5,659)	-5%	128,665,932	125,400,378	(3,265,554)	-3%
YTD Total		751,939	659,844	(92,096)	-12%	807,866,249	714,548,281	(93,317,968)	-12%
November	January	124,881	-	-	0%	125,782,252	-	-	0%
December	February	104,337	-	-	0%	103,324,010	-	-	0%
January	March	88,988	-	-	0%	95,074,177	-	-	0%
February	April	77,291	-	-	0%	81,911,825	-	-	0%
March	May	82,757	-	-	0%	88,153,603	-	-	0%
April	June	107,565	-	-	0%	116,431,176	-	-	0%
FY Total		1,337,760	659,844	N/A	N/A	1,418,543,293	714,548,281	N/A	N/A

¹ Includes Water Sales, Exchanges, and Wheeling for member agency and non-member agency.

² AF reflected does not include non-member agency transactions.

ISSUE BRIEF #B

SUBJECT: MET's Supply Condition Update

RECENT ACTIVITY

The 2024-25 Water Year (2024-25 WY) officially started on October 1, 2024. Thus far, Northern California accumulated precipitation (8-Station Index) reported **26.5 inches or 103% of normal** as of January 27th. The Northern Sierra Snow Water Equivalent is at **14.7 inches as of January 27th**, which is **87% of normal** for that day. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has increased the State Water Project (SWP) **"Table A" allocation to 15% as of December 2024.**

The Upper Colorado River Basin accumulated precipitation is reporting **9.4 inches or 89% of normal as of January 27th**. On the Colorado River system, snowpack is measured across four states in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The Upper Colorado River Basin Snow Water Equivalent was at **7.7 inches as of January 27th**, which is **85% of normal** for that day. Due to the below average inflows into Lake Powell over the past several years, the United States Bureau of Reclamation **declared a shortage at Lake Mead that has been ongoing since January 1st, 2022 (Below 1,075 feet storage level)**. As of January 2025, **there is a 93% chance of shortage continuing in CY 2026, a 83% chance in CY 2027 and a 80% chance in CY 2028. In addition, there is a 7% chance of a California (Below 1,045 feet storage level) shortage in 2027.**

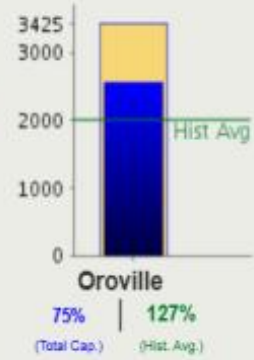
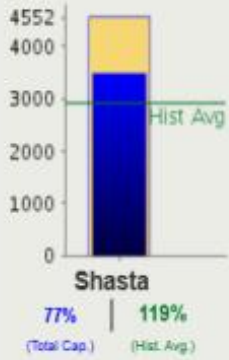
As of January 26th Lake Oroville storage is at **75% of total capacity and 127% of normal**. As of January 26th San Luis Reservoir has a current volume of **75% of the reservoir's total capacity and is 102% of normal**.

With CY 2025 estimated total demands and losses of 1.46 million acre-feet (MAF) and with a 15% SWP Table A Allocation, Metropolitan is projecting that demands will exceed supply levels in Calendar Year (CY) 2025. Based on this, estimated total dry-year storage for Metropolitan at the end of **CY 2025 will increase to approximately 3.5 MAF.**

A projected dry-year storage supply of **3.5 MAF would be approximately 2.5 MAF from a typical level where Metropolitan's goes into Water Supply Allocations**. A large factor in maintaining a high water storage level are lower than expected water demands. We are seeing regional water demands reaching a 40-year low. **However, with a majority of MWD's water supplies stored in Lake Mead and with still a 5-year shortage projection at Lake Mead, there remains a lot of uncertainty to where supply balances will be in the future. In addition, Colorado River Basin States have been meeting for months to negotiate new post 2026 operations at Glen Canyon Dam at Lake Powell and Hoover Dam at Lake Mead.**

CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS: 26-JAN-2025

Data as of Midnight: 26-Jan-2025



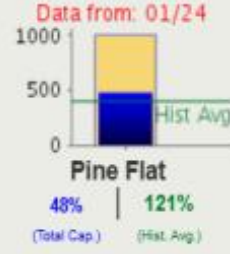
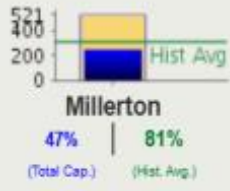
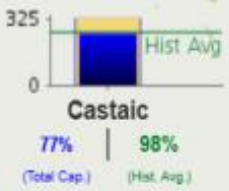
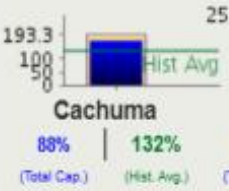
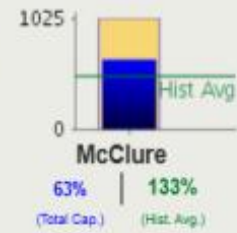
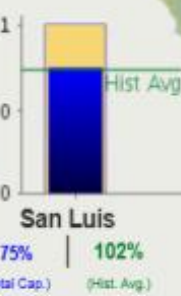
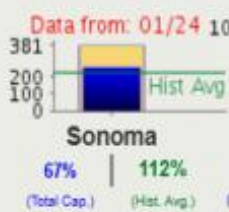
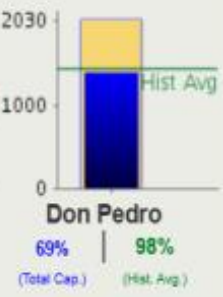
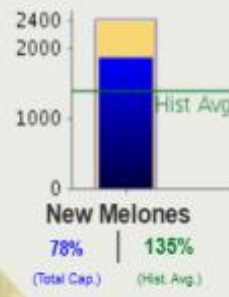
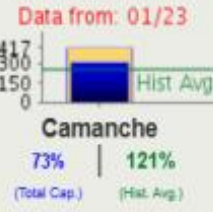
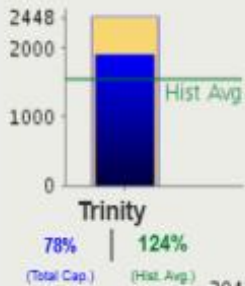
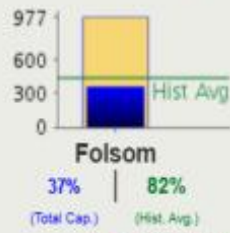
Change Date: 26-Jan-2025

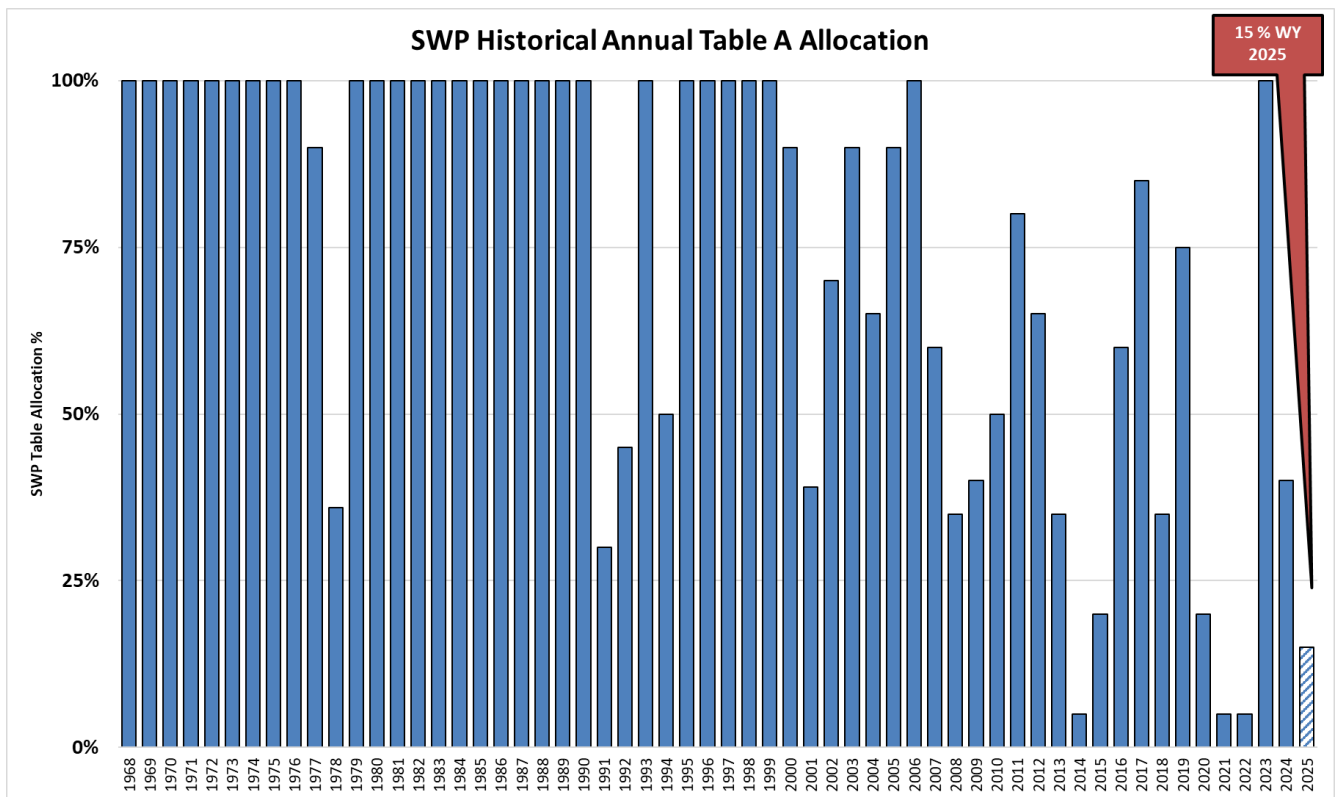
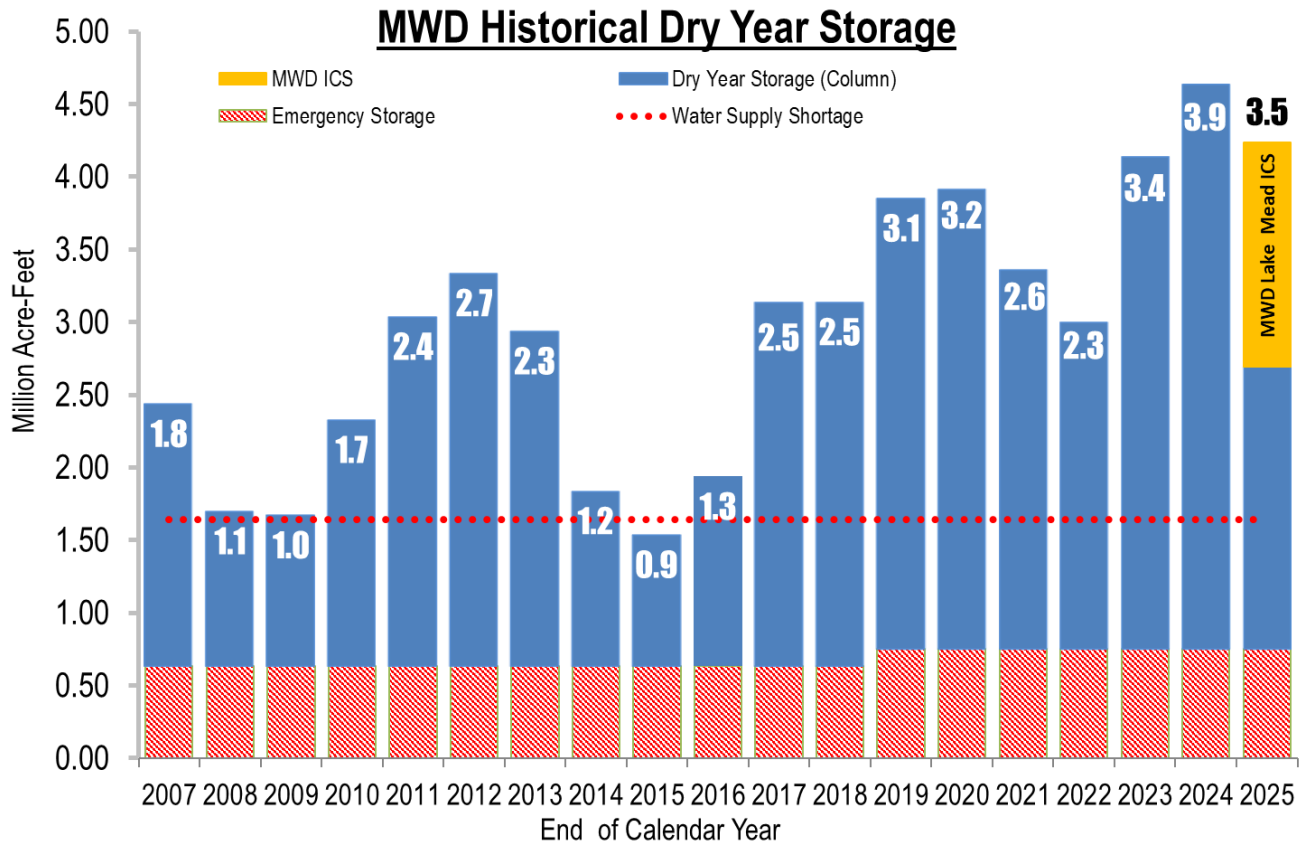
LEGEND

- Blue Bar: Storage level for date
- Gold Bar: Total reservoir capacity
- Green Line: Historic level for date.

Capacity (TAF) | Historical Avg Mark

% of Capacity | % Hist. Avg.
(Click res. 3 char. code for details)





2024 WSDM Storage Detail

WSDM Storage	1/1/2024 Estimated Storage Levels	Net Projected Storage Action Put (+) / Take (-) ¹	Projected End of Year 2024 Balance ²	2024 Total Storage Capacity
Colorado River Aqueduct Delivery System	1,544,000	67,000	1,611,000	1,622,000
Lake Mead ICS	1,544,000 ³	67,000	1,611,000	1,622,000 ⁴
State Water Project System	1,033,000	134,000	1,167,000	2,255,000
MWD & DVCV Carryover	297,000	103,000	400,000	446,000 ⁵
MWD Articles 14(b) and 12(e)	28,000 ⁶	-28,000	0	0
Castaic and Perris DWR Flex Storage	219,000	0	219,000	219,000
Arvin-Edison Storage Program	100,000	0 ⁷	100,000	350,000
Semitropic Storage Program	190,000	27,000	217,000	350,000
Kern Delta Storage Program	141,000	0	141,000	250,000
Mojave Storage Program	19,000	0	19,000	330,000
AVEK Storage Program	27,000	0	27,000	30,000
AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program	11,000	32,000	43,000	280,000 ⁸
In-Region Supplies and WSDM Actions	1,016,000	47,000	1,063,000	1,246,000
Diamond Valley Lake	753,000	47,000	800,000	810,000
Lake Mathews and Lake Skinner	207,000	-27,000	180,000	226,000
Conjunctive Use Programs (CUP)	56,000	27,000	83,000	210,000 ⁹
Other Programs	586,000	206,000	792,000	1,181,000
Other Emergency Storage	381,000	0	381,000	381,000
DVCV Advanced Delivery Account	205,000	206,000	411,000	800,000
Total	4,180,000	454,000	4,634,000	6,304,000
Emergency	750,000	0	750,000	750,000
Total WSDM Storage (AF) ¹⁰	3,430,000	454,000	3,884,000	5,554,000

¹ Storage program losses included where applicable.

² Preliminary end of year balances, subject to DWR adjustments and USBR final accounting in May 2025.

³ Reflects USBR's final accounting for 2023, released May 2024. This amount is net of the water Metropolitan stored for IID in Lake Mead in an ICS sub-account.

⁴ This storage capacity is net of the water Metropolitan stored for IID in Lake Mead in an ICS sub-account.

⁵ Total storage capacity varies year-to-year as the contractual annual storage limit combines with the remaining balance from the previous year. There is a potential risk that Metropolitan's stored water be converted to SWP contractor water if San Luis Reservoir approaches full capacity.

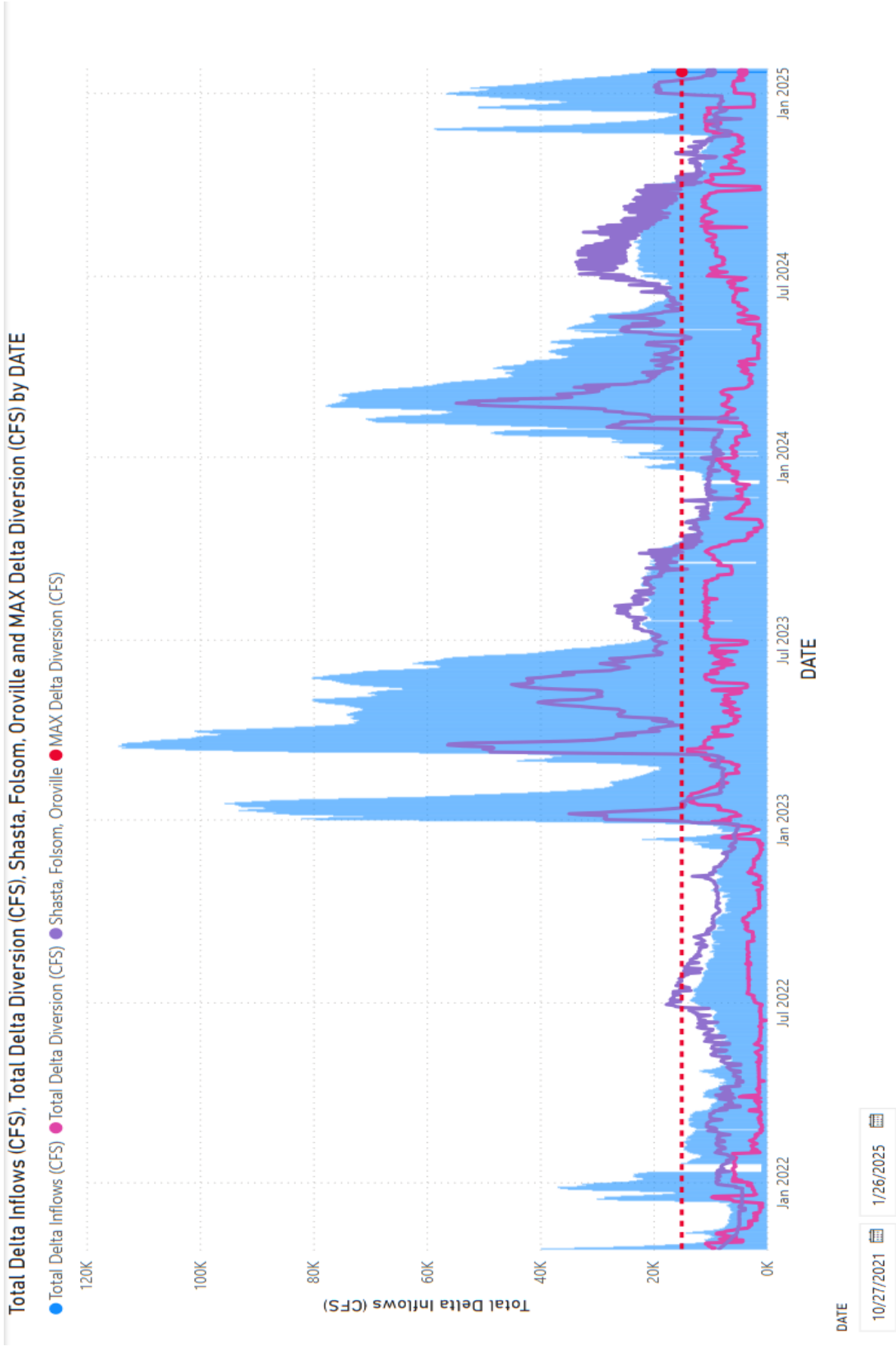
⁶ Approved carryover supplies under Articles 14 (b) and 12 (e) of the State Water Project Contract for delivery in 2024.

⁷ Puts are limited due to water quality considerations.

⁸ This reflects the full storage capacity of the AVEK High Desert Water Bank because the construction of the recharge basins have been completed. Full recharge and recovery operation anticipated by 2027.

⁹ Total of all CUP programs including IEUA/TVMWD (Chino Basin); Long Beach (Central Basin); Long Beach (Lakewood); Foothill (Raymond and Monk Hill); MWDOC (Orange County Basin); Three Valleys (Live Oak); Three Valleys (Upper Claremont); and Western.

¹⁰ Total WSDM Storage level subject to change based on accounting adjustments. Total may not sum due to rounding.



ISSUE BRIEF #C**SUBJECT: MET's Water Quality Update****RECENT ACTIVITY**

Water System Operations

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 134,200 acre-feet (AF) for December with an average of 4,300 AF per day, which was about 400 AF per day higher than in November. Metropolitan continued delivering water to the Cyclic and Conjunctive Use Programs through the end of the calendar year. Treated water deliveries were 1,000 AF lower than November for a total of 57,400 AF, or 43 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) pumped a total of 100,000 AF in December. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 2,200 AF per day, totaling about 68,500 AF for the month. The target SWP blend is 0 percent for Skinner, Weymouth, and Diemer plants.

Metropolitan has sufficient SWP and Colorado River supplies to meet demands in 2024. Water continues to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles and operational objectives with an emphasis to position SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP-dependent area. Metropolitan ramped down deliveries to Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District in early December. The California Department of Water Resources made an initial 5 percent State Water Project Allocation for 2025 and it was recently increased to 15 percent. Metropolitan is continuing to minimize the use of Table A supplies this year to improve SWP carryover storage for next year. Metropolitan is targeting around 400,000 AF in carryover storage and a nearly full Diamond Valley Lake at the end of 2025.

Water Treatment and Distribution

The State Water Project (SWP) target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants increased from 25 percent to 50 percent before decreasing to zero percent in November. The SWP blend entering Lake Skinner decreased from 25 percent to zero percent. Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from September 2023 through August 2024 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the CRA were 497, 571, and 508 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

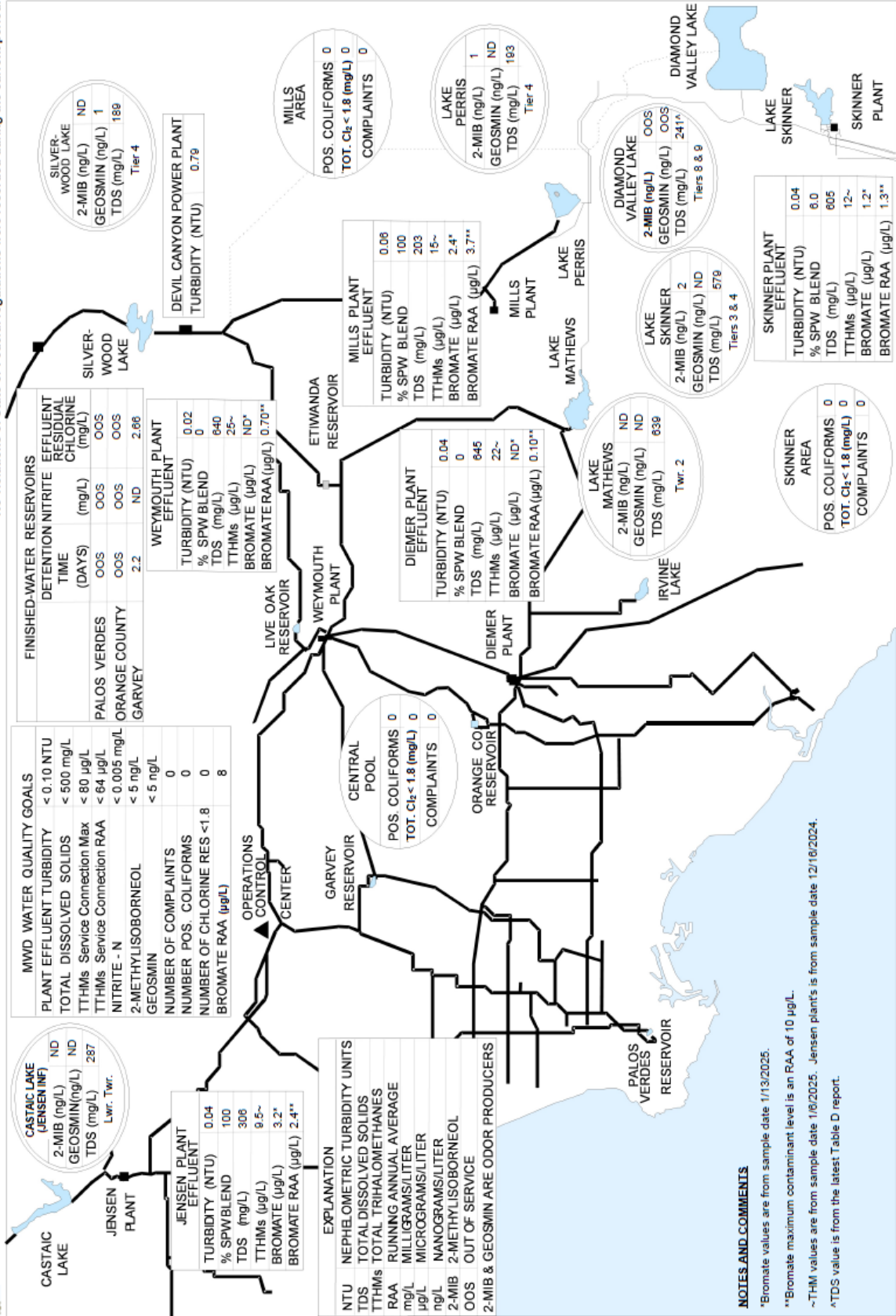
Weekly Water Quality System Status

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Generated On: 1/22/2025 11:55:17 AM

No violations of State or Federal regulations were recorded during the current period.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Weekly Operations Plan

For additional information, please contact James Bodnar at (213) 217-6099

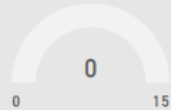
01/23/2025 - 01/30/2025

Colorado River Aqueduct:
4-pump flow

Total System Demands
2,980 AF/Day

Forecast
January
Deliveries

Hydroelectric Generation:
0.0 MW
0 plant(s) in operation



Change in Total System Demands*
▲ 60 AF/Day

90 TAF

East Branch SPW Imports

Rialto Pipeline	160 AF/day	▶
Santa Ana Valley Pipeline	140 AF/day	▲
Inland Feeder	50 AF/day	▶

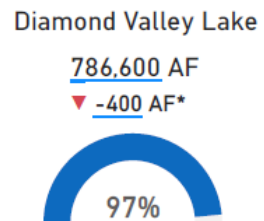
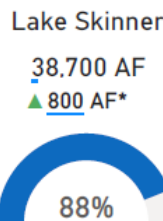
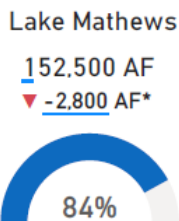
Water Quality

Plant Name	Targeted Blend (% SPW)	TDS (mg/L)	TTHMs (µg/L)
	As of 1/22/2025	As of 1/22/2025	As of 12/16/2024
Weymouth	0	640	25
Diemer	0	645	22
Skinner	0	605	12
Jensen	100	306	9.5
Mills	100	203	15

West Branch SPW Imports

Castaic Lake	920 AF/day	▲
SCVWA (formerly CLWA)	160 AF/day	▲

Terminal Reservoirs as of 1/22/2025



* = data from 1/16/2025

ISSUE BRIEF #D

SUBJECT: Colorado River Issues

RECENT ACTIVITY

2024-26 California Forbearance Agreement Executed

Following board authorization on August 20, 2024, staff moved forward with executing a California Forbearance agreement that covers system conservation projects in California in 2024, 2025, and 2026. Under this forbearance agreement, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Imperial Irrigation District (IID), Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID), the City of Needles, and Metropolitan all agreed to not take delivery of water conserved pursuant to System Conservation Implementation Agreements with Reclamation and to leave that water in Lake Mead as system water. System Conservation agreements covered under this forbearance agreement include conservation activities in PVID, Bard Water District, Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe, CVWD, and IID and will cover approximately 1.1 million acre-feet (maf) of conserved water added to Lake Mead, or approximately 14 feet. This forbearance agreement was signed on November 13.

Post-2026 Operational Guidelines Alternatives

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) released four proposed action alternatives to be analyzed as part of the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Lower Basin Alternative was not identified as one of the alternatives to be analyzed, instead Reclamation combined elements of the Lower Basin Alternative, Upper Division States Alternative, and Tribal alternatives into the Basin Hybrid Alternative. Reclamation also plans to analyze two federal alternatives and the Cooperative Conservation Alternative that incorporate elements of an alternative submitted by a group of non-governmental organizations. Lake Powell releases included in the various alternatives range from 5 - 12. maf , with Reclamation reserving the right to further reduce releases if necessary to protect Glen Canyon Dam infrastructure and make releases from specified reservoirs above Lake Powell to protect Glen Canyon Dam infrastructure. Lower Basin shortages up to 4 maf will be modeled, along with Upper Basin conservation that may serve as a contribution, although details have yet to be provided on how this would be implemented. New conservation and storage in both Lake Powell and Lake Mead will be analyzed in the Basin Hybrid Alternative. Reclamation plans to provide additional details about the alternatives at the Colorado River Water Users Association Conference in Early December 2024.

ISSUE BRIEF #E

SUBJECT: Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

RECENT ACTIVITY

Delta Conveyance

On October 8, 2024, the Department of Water Resources submitted a draft certification of consistency with the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan for geotechnical activities planned for 2024 through 2026. Four appeals, representing about eighteen local agencies, conservation groups and Tribes, were filed by the appellant deadline of November 7, 2024. On November 18, 2024, Metropolitan held a joint One Water and Stewardship Committee and Board of Director's Workshop. The meeting included a workshop with two panels and a roundtable discussion on the Delta Conveyance Project. The goal of the workshop was to ensure the Board heard from a diverse range of leaders and voices ahead of the decision on additional funding for preconstruction activities related to the Delta Conveyance Project.

Sites Reservoir

On October 22, 2024, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife issued Sites Project Authority Incidental Take Permits for permits for construction and operations of the project on October 22, 2024. Issuance of these key permits allow the Sites Project Authority authorization to build and operate the project in compliance with the state's comprehensive endangered species laws.

Science Activities

Metropolitan staff presented an overview of the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Science Plan as part of a multi-agency panel to the State Water Resources Control Board during the November 22, 2024, workshop on the draft updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed. The Reorienting to Recovery (R2R) Project submitted a final report summarizing Phase 3 to the Delta Science Program as the final deliverable associated with their funding to support the project. Phase 3 applied a structured decision-making approach that engaged a diverse group of decision makers, interested parties, and technical experts in the Central Valley to identify a preferred recovery scenario that advances Salmonid recovery, balances other socioeconomic interests, and achieves a critical mass of support.

Delta Island Activities

On October 22, 2024, Metropolitan staff held a Webb Tract design optimization workshop. Surface elevation data was received for Webb Tract. Sixty-five percent (65%) design drawings are expected in December 2024. Metropolitan staff visited several restoration projects in the south Delta. An article highlighting Metropolitan's work on floating wetlands, and their potential benefit to the Delta, was published in Maven's Notebook.

**Summary Report for
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Board Meeting
January 14, 2025**

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

Approved Commendatory Resolution for Director Timothy Smith representing San Diego County Water Authority. **(Agenda Item 6B)**

Approved waiver of Administrative Code to extend the term of Nonofficer members of the Executive Committee through the end of March 2025. **(Agenda Item 6C)**

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

Authorized an increase of \$5.55 million to an agreement with Arcadis U.S. Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$7.55 million for final design to rehabilitate the finished water reservoirs at the Henry J. Mills and Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plants. **(Agenda Item 7-1)**

Authorized the General Manager to enter into a funding agreement for the Disadvantaged Communities Leak Detection and Repair Program with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to implement phase two of the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program. **(Agenda Item 7-2)**

Authorized: (a) renewal of the Municipal Water Quality Investigations Agreement between the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Contractors, and participating urban State Water Project Contractors; and (b) renewal of the Municipal Water Quality Investigations Program Specific Project Agreement between the State Water Contractors and participating urban State Water Project Contractors. **(Agenda Item 7-3)**

Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action related to the following program was previously addressed in various CEQA documents and related actions, and authorized the General Manager to enter into an agreement for Reclamation to fund the generation of up to 36,066 AF of conserved Colorado River system water between August 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026. **(Agenda Item 7-4)**

Authorized an increase of \$150,000, to an amount not to exceed \$450,000 for an existing contract with GeoPentech, Inc. for consulting services. **(Agenda Item 7-5)**

Authorized increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP for Darren A. Reese v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in the amount of \$150,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$900,000. **(Agenda Item 7-6)**

Authorized the General Counsel to increase the amount payable under its agreement with Olson Remcho LLP by \$200,000 to a maximum amount payable of \$600,000. **(Agenda Item 7-7)**

OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

Adopt a resolution to support a grant application selected to receive United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART: Applied Sciences Program funding for fiscal year 2023 for an amount totaling \$390,000; authorized Metropolitan's non-federal cost share of \$130,000; and authorized the General Manager to enter a contract with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, subject to General Counsel approval.
(Agenda Item 8-1)

Authorized increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of \$250,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$500,000.
(Agenda Item 8-2)

Authorized an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with BDG Law Group, APLC, in the amount of \$250,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$500,000.
(Agenda Item 8-3)

Discussed and conferred with legal counsel in closed session and provided direction to staff and approved staff recommendation provided in closed session. **(Agenda Item 8-5)**

THIS INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING.

All current month materials, and materials after July 1, 2021 are available on the public website here: <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

This database contains archives from the year 1928 to June 30, 2021:
<https://bda.mwdh2o.com/Pages/Default.aspx>

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Agenda

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California 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.

Board of Directors - Final

February 11, 2025

1:00 PM

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 Meeting Schedule
08:30 a.m. LEGAL 09:30 a.m. FAM 12:30 p.m. Break 01:00 p.m. BOD

Agendas, live streaming, meeting schedules, and other board materials are available here: <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. Written public comments received by 5:00 p.m. the business days before the meeting is scheduled will be posted under the Submitted Items and Responses tab available here: <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>.

If you have technical difficulties with the live streaming page, a listen-only phone line is available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 891 1613 4145.

Members of the public may present their comments to the Board on matters within their jurisdiction as listed on the agenda via teleconference. To participate via teleconference 1-833-548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 815 2066 4276 or to join by computer [click here](#).

MWD Headquarters Building • 700 N. Alameda Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

1. Call to Order

- a. Invocation: Director Tana McCoy, City of Compton
- b. Pledge of Allegiance: Director Garry E. Bryant, Foothill Municipal Water District

2. Roll Call

3. Determination of a Quorum

4. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction. (As required by Gov. Code §54954.3(a))

5. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

- A. Chair's Second Term Priorities

[21-4261](#)

- B. Report on Directors' Events Attended at Metropolitan's Expense [21-4186](#)
- C. Chair's Monthly Activity Report [21-4187](#)
- D. Interim General Manager's summary of activities [21-4188](#)
- E. General Counsel's summary of activities [21-4189](#)
- F. General Auditor's summary of activities [21-4190](#)
- G. Ethics Officer's summary of activities [21-4191](#)
- H. Presentation of 10-year Service Pin to Director Marsha Ramos, City of Burbank [21-4255](#)
- I. Presentation Commendatory Resolution for Director Timothy Smith representing San Diego County Water Authority [21-4192](#)

**** CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION ****

6. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors for January 11, 2025 and Board of Directors Meeting for January 14, 2025 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions) [21-4193](#)

Attachments: [02112025 BOD 6A \(01112025\) Minutes](#)
- B. Chair and Vice Chair of standing committee appointments for the term commencing on February 11, 2025. [21-4254](#)
- C. Approve Committee Assignments

7. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

- 7-1** Award a \$2,556,478.19 construction contract to MasTec Network Solutions LLC for upgrades to the Desert microwave communications system; award a \$1,531,044 procurement contract to Logicalis Inc. for communications sites network equipment; authorize an increase of \$591,000 to an existing agreement with Nokia of America Corporation, for a new not to exceed amount of \$5,888,000 for network materials and manufacturer's field services; and authorize an increase of \$680,000 to an existing agreement with Hatfield & Dawson Consulting Engineers LLC, for a new not to exceed amount of \$1,410,000 to provide technical support during construction; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) [21-4194](#)
- 7-2** Award a \$1,931,217 contract to Fencecorp Inc. for perimeter fencing at the housing and playground areas and playground area shade improvements at four Colorado River Aqueduct Pumping Plant villages; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) [21-4195](#)
- 7-3** Authorize an agreement with Computer Aid, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$5.75 million for co-managed support services for the operation and maintenance of the Metropolitan Cybersecurity Operations Center; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) [21-4196](#)
- Attachments:** [02112025 EOT 7-3 B-L](#)
- 7-4** Authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Palo Verde Irrigation District to jointly fund community investment in Palo Verde Irrigation District's service area; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (OWS) [21-4198](#)
- 7-5** Authorize the General Manager to approve a new three-year agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program, for a total agreement not to exceed \$200,000/year; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (OWS) [21-4200](#)

- 7-6** Authorize the General Manager to expand the Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program and amend the System Conservation Implementation Agreement for Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program to increase its program size from 3,000 acres to 6,000 acres for the years 2025 and 2026; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (OWS) [21-4247](#)

- 7-7** Review and consider the Lead Agency’s certified Final Environmental Impact Report and Initial Study and take related CEQA actions, and adopt resolution for 117th Fringe Area Annexation to Eastern Municipal Water District and Metropolitan (FAM) [21-4206](#)

Attachments: [02112025 EOT 7-7 B-L](#)

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ****

8. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

- 8-1** Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the adopted 2020 Environmental Impact Report and related CEQA actions; and authorize developing State Water Project water management actions to meet multiple objectives of managing dry year and wet year water supplies and generating new revenues (OWS) [21-4199](#)

- 8-2** Authorize the execution of lease amendments with existing tenants, D&L Farms, Inc., Dinelli Farms and Sierra Cattle Company, to extend the term up to two years for Dinelli Farms and Sierra Cattle and provide D&L Farms with up to a one-year, move-out period while adjusting the rent for all three tenants, thereby allowing the existing tenants to continue farming on Metropolitan's fee-owned property in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, with temporary tenant replacement and land preservation procedures in the event of tenant default or surrender of land; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with real property negotiators; properties totaling approximately 5,603 gross acres in the area commonly known as Bacon Island, also identified as San Joaquin County Assessor Parcel Nos. 129-050-01, 129-050-02; 129-050-03; 129-050-04; 129-050-05; 129-050-06; 129-050-07; 129-050-08; 129-050-09; 129-050-11; 129-050-12; 129-050-13; 129-050-14; 129-050-15; 129-050-16; 129-050-17; 129-050-18; 129-050-19; 129-050-24; 129-050-25; 129-050-26; 129-050-27; 129-050-28; 129-050-52; 129-050-54; 129-050-55; 129-050-56; 129-050-60; approximately 3,103 gross acres in the area commonly known as Bouldin Island West, also identified as San Joaquin County Assessor Parcel Nos. 069-030-35, 069-030-36, 069-030-37, 069-030-38, 069-030-39, 069-100-02; approximately 2,728 gross acres in the area commonly known as Bouldin Island East, also identified as San Joaquin County Assessor Parcel Nos. 069-100-01; 069-100-02; 069-030-39; agency negotiators: Kevin Webb, and Kieran Callanan; negotiating parties: Leisha Robertson dba D&L Farms; Robert Hilarides dba Sierra Cattle Company; Steve Dinelli dba Dinelli Farms; under negotiation: price and terms; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8] (FAM) [21-4205](#)
- 8-3** Report on litigation in Ryan Tiegs v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Riverside County Superior Court Case No. CVPS2306176, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of \$TBD for a total amount not to exceed \$TBD; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with legal counsel – existing litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] (LC) [21-4275](#)

9. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

- 9-1** Report on Conservation Program [21-4248](#)

- 9-2 Information on proposed agreements with the City of San Buena Ventura and Calleguas Municipal Water District for wheeling and emergency delivery of State Water Project water (OWS) [21-4201](#)

- 9-3 Update on treatment approaches, contingencies, and amendments to the High Desert Water Bank Program agreement (OWS) [21-4202](#)

10. OTHER MATTERS

NONE

11. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Each agenda item with a committee designation will be considered and a recommendation may be made by one or more committees prior to consideration and final action by the full Board of Directors. The committee designation appears in parenthesis at the end of the description of the agenda item, e.g. (EOT). Board agendas may be obtained on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Writings relating to open session agenda items distributed to Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting are available for public inspection at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building and on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Requests for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Board Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation.