

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  
January 3, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

**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

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### 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. 2145

### PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

**1. PRESENTATION REGARDING PRESTRESSED CONCRETE CYLINDER PIPE (PCCP) REHABILITATION FOR PORTIONS OF THE ALLEN-MCCOLLOCH PIPELINE (AMP)**

*Recommendation: Review and discuss 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)

*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.*

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**4. 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.*

**5. METROPOLITAN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

*Recommendation: Review and discuss the information presented.*

**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**  
January 3, 2024

**TO:** Board of Directors

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

Staff Contact: Charles Busslinger  
Melissa Baum-Haley

**SUBJECT: PRESENTATION REGARDING PRESTRESSED CONCRETE CYLINDER PIPE (PCCP) REHABILITATION FOR PORTIONS OF THE ALLEN-MCCOLLOCH PIPELINE (AMP)**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends the Board of Directors discuss and file this information.

**REPORT**

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MWDOC staff have invited John Bednarski, Chief Engineer/Group Manager, Engineering Services Group from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, to provide an update on the Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Rehabilitation Program for portions of the Allen-McColloch Pipeline (AMP).

This PCCP Rehabilitation Program was established to enhance the reliability of Metropolitan's water distribution system and to reduce the risk of costly emergency repairs of PCCP. The priority pipelines included in the program are the Second Lower Feeder, Sepulveda Feeder, Calabasas Feeder, Rialto Pipeline, and the AMP. A total of 100 miles of PCCP pipelines will be refurbished under this 20-year program.

<b>Budgeted (Y/N):</b> N/A	Budgeted amount: None	Core <u>X</u>	Choice <u>  </u>
<b>Action item amount:</b> N/A		Line item:	
<b>Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):</b>			

In September 2011, Metropolitan's Board authorized the PCCP Rehabilitation Program to develop a comprehensive, long-term plan for replacement or relining of Metropolitan's five at-risk PCCP lines. The strategy for maintaining PCCP reliability consists of four coordinated elements: (1) continued assessment and monitoring of PCCP lines; (2) monitoring of stray currents and installation of cathodic protection; (3) near-term repair of PCCP segments; and (4) long-term rehabilitation.

A strategic element of Metropolitan's PCCP Rehabilitation Program is to aggressively inspect all PCCP lines. Metropolitan utilizes the inspection reports to identify distressed pipe segments with significantly increased prestressing wire breaks. Metropolitan staff evaluates the potential risks due to the prestressing wire breaks and considers appropriate timing of when distressed PCCP segments need to be relined.

Within Metropolitan's 2022/23 and 2023/24 Biennial Budget Capital Investment Plan, the planned AMP PCCP rehabilitation work involves lining the existing PCCP segments with steel liner pipe designed as a stand-alone pipeline which can accommodate full internal and external pressures on the line. The project includes restoring the AMP to "As Like New Conditions" as possible. This would include relocation of all air release and vacuum valves (AR/VV) that have not already been relocated above ground and evaluating and possible replacement of sectionalizing, service connection turnout, pumpwell, AR/VV, shutoff, and blowoff valves, etc. In addition, the AMP work would include procurement of any needed permanent or temporary right of way and evaluation and possible replacement or modification of all pressure control structures, master meters, and meter structures.

In preparation for the planned PCCP rehabilitation work on the AMP, Metropolitan conducted the assessment and monitoring of the PCCP lines within the AMP; several sections were reported to have an increased number of prestressing wire breaks. Therefore, Metropolitan staff have indicated a need to expedite remedial actions.

To mitigate the immediate risks, the operating pressure along the portion of the pipeline was immediately lowered. The reduced operating criteria will be in effect until the distressed portion of pipeline is relined.

MWDOC staff is coordinating with Metropolitan Engineering and Operations staff, as well as all local agencies along the impacted sections of the AMP, throughout the repair and rehabilitation process and will provide ongoing status updates to the Board.



**To:** Board of Directors, *Municipal Water District of Orange County*  
**From:** Natural Resource Results  
**RE:** Monthly Board Report – December 2023

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### **EPA Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI)**

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the EPA opened the 60-day public comment period for its proposed LCRI. The LCRI aims to build on the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) finalized in 2021. The proposed LCRI includes critical components such as: achieving 100% lead service line replacement within ten years, locating legacy lead service lines and galvanized steel pipe requiring replacement (GRR), updating tap sampling procedures, lowering the lead action level, and updating public notification requirements.

For California water providers, these improvements pose both challenges and opportunities. The requirement for 100% replacement of lead service lines within ten years will require significant planning, resources, and coordination. California water systems are already required to monitor lead and copper levels at consumers' taps under the California Lead and Copper Rule (CA LCR), which aligns with the US EPA's LCR. The proposed improvements will likely necessitate an update to these monitoring processes and potentially require installation or modifications to corrosion control treatment if action levels for lead or copper are exceeded.

Additionally, the requirement to locate legacy lead service lines will require water systems to conduct thorough inventories and maintain accurate records. This process may involve using existing templates or developing new methods for inventory.

Moreover, lowering the lead action level from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb will mean that water agencies must adhere to stricter standards, necessitating potentially more rigorous testing and treatment methods and additional public outreach and notification requirements.

Of note, MWDOC staff has been reviewing the proposal and it appears to transfer the responsibility for replacing the private property side of the service line to the water provider which could violate the prohibition on the 'gift of public funds.' Because of this ambiguity, and because there are two major federal holidays that fall within the public comment period, we are seeking a 30-day extension of the comment period to allow for rigorous review of the proposal.

We are working with Rep. Kim (R-CA) on letter to EPA requesting an extension of the comment period and will hopefully have the entire MWDOC congressional delegation sign the letter. Additionally, ACWA and CMUA have sent a letter to EPA requesting an extension (attached).

## **Colorado River**

On December 13 at the Colorado Water Users Association annual conference in Las Vegas, several California water agencies signed agreements with the Bureau of Reclamation to conserve up to 643,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead through 2025. These agreements include approximately \$295 million in new investments from the Inflation Reduction Act will fund projects for water conservation, water efficiency, and protection of critical environmental resources in the Colorado River System.

The agreements include a new contract with the Coachella Valley Water District to save up to 105,000 acre-feet of water through 2025, an agreement with the Quechan Indian Tribe to save up to 39,000 acre-feet through 2025, and an agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District to conserve approximately 100,000 acre-feet of water in 2023. Additional system conservation agreements were signed with the Palo Verde Irrigation District, Bard Water District in cooperation with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and a second agreement with the Coachella Valley Water District which is expected to be finalized early next year.



December 15, 2023

Submitted via email to: [LCRI@epa.gov](mailto:LCRI@epa.gov)

Michael Goldberg  
Standards and Risk Management Division, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460

**Subject: USEPA Lead and Copper Rule Improvements EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0801 – Request for Extension of Public Comment Period**

Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water,

The California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) respectfully request the public comment deadline for the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) be extended by an additional 15 days. CMUA represents over 50 public water agencies that deliver water to over 75% of Californians. ACWA's more than 470 public water agency members supply over 90% of the water delivered in California for residential, agricultural, and business uses. Our public water agency members are committed to advancing the Nation's goals of removing lead and protecting public health.

The LCRI was released on December 5, 2023 with a 60-day public comment period closing on February 5, 2024. In addition, a public hearing is scheduled for January 16, 2024. The release of the LCRI between two major U.S. holidays is problematic for review purposes. Many Americans take additional vacation during December, with some offices closing the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Those who may be on vacation or otherwise out of the office during this time include technical staff crucial for public water agencies' ability to review the technical components of the LCRI. If essential staff is out of office during this period, the time for review to prepare for the January 16 public hearing is extremely limited.

**We respectfully request a 15-day extension of the public comment period to February 20, 2024 to account for the holiday period.** Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions about this request, contact Andrea Abergel at [aabergel@cmua.org](mailto:aabergel@cmua.org) or Madeline Voitier at [madelinev@acwa.com](mailto:madelinev@acwa.com).

Sincerely,

Andrea Abergel  
Manager of Water Policy  
California Municipal Utilities Association

Madeline Voitier  
Federal Relations Representative  
Association of California Water Agencies





To:	Municipal Water District of Orange County
From:	Syrus Devers Advocacy LLC
Date:	January 3rd, 2024
Re:	Monthly Report

### **Legislature**

The Capitol community is anticipating the change in Senate leadership when Mike McGuire takes over as Pro Tem from Toni Atkins. Even absent a change in leadership, committee assignments were due for a shakeup as a result of Senators being termed out in 2024 or running for higher office. For that reason, there is an air of uncertainty in the halls regarding what 2024 is going to look like. The transition is planned for February 5th.

Pro Tem Designee McGuire (apparently that is a real title) will have the unpleasant task of dealing with a massive budget deficit in 2024. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) projected a \$68 billion deficit back on December 8th, but this projection is a bit different from past projections.

Briefly, extending the income tax deadline to November injected a degree of uncertainty into the 2023 budget process. Recent data shows that revenues were about \$26 billion less in 2023 than assumed. Instead of the LAO projecting an economic downturn resulting in declining revenues, which is speculative at best, it is saying that California had \$26 billion less than it thought it did when spending decisions were made last summer. That does not leave much room for hope.

### **Administration**

The major news out of Sacramento is the certification of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Delta Conveyance. The final EIR was published on Dec. 8th and the Department of Water Resources certified the EIR on the 21st. By this action, DWR is claiming that they have responded to comments and mitigated impacts to the extent feasible, and that the proposed route—the Bethany Reservoir Alignment—is the final design.

The certification paves the way for further design, engineering, and permitting, but it also opens the door to new lines of legal attacks. Here are some comments from likely litigants.

*Restore the Delta:*

“We and our broad coalition of partners will engage in all necessary processes, and when necessary, litigation, to stop the Delta Conveyance Project once and for all.”

*Delta Counties Coalition:*

“Tunnel proponents also must stop using false statements that the Tunnel would protect water supplies in the event of an earthquake, when there has been no evidence that past earthquakes have caused damage to existing water infrastructure.”

*(You might want to read that a second time. There's a lot of stupidity there and you may have missed some.)*

Presumably, DWR is used to getting sued by now. On December 20th, the Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the River, and several other groups filed a CEQA lawsuit against Sites Reservoir. The suit alleges harm to the fisheries in the Sacramento River.

In case you missed it:

The San Diego County Water Authority dropped its lawsuit to prevent Rainbow and Fallbrook water districts from joining the Eastern Municipal Water District. Both districts agreed to pay \$25 million to offset stranded costs. If any other districts want to follow suit, it will have to be approved by a vote of the entire county thanks to legislation taking effect on January 1st.

# ACKERMAN CONSULTING

## Legal and Regulatory

January 3, 2024

1. **Paradise Update:** We all remember the fire that devastated the city of Paradise some five years ago. The fire also shut down their water department entirely. A recent interview with Mickey Rich the district assistant manager set forth some interesting facts to be considered in future such disasters. The main cause of the shutdown was the vacuum caused by lack of water in the system which allowed toxic remains from the fire to leach into the water system. This condition made the water dangerous for human consumption and required a shutdown of the entire system. The challenge to the water district was to attempt to get water service to remaining customers who still lived in the city. The battle began very quickly with the city having to debate with county state and federal agencies as to what to do and how to proceed. The water districts' early attempt at increasing testing at the home sites proved to be critical. The main lines in the system were OK and the problem was with the connecting lines to individual houses. Getting quick funding to pay for all the repairs and improvements was a big challenge. They received early assistance from FEMA after accelerated testing showed that over 50% of the service lines need to be replaced. They also received substantial money from PG&E as a result of the fire settlement. The next good decision they made was to attempt to get existing homeowners and citizens hooked up safely as soon as possible before attempting to do a citywide rebuild. They are now in the process of testing site by site when new building permits are submitted in the city. This process is now being considered in Lahaina as a result of their fire and hopefully they will have learned some things from the Paradise situation.
2. **PVC Ban??:** The US Environmental Protection Agency is currently reviewing PVC plastic production which could lead to a ban of PVC water lines. Vinyl chloride which is used in producing PVC was classified as a human carcinogen in 1974. However, it is still widely used in PVC pipes product packaging and siding panels for houses. The EPA is being quite aggressive in this area which could lead to a future ban. The industry is pushing back stating that they are producing safe products and question the cost benefit of this decision.
3. **South County Helopad:** We have all followed the success of the Yorba Linda Heli-Hydrants in firefighting in north county. Now a similar effort is taking place in South County. The Orange County Fire Authority in conjunction with Santa Margarita Water District has completed a Helo pad in San Juan Capistrano near Ortega highway. This helopad is set up to service Chinook helicopters CH-47 which can carry up to 3000 gallons of water. This helopad was installed and funded by the Santa Margarita Water District and can be operated automatically. Whenever a helicopter comes by to pick up water it will automatically refill itself at the rate of 850 gallons per minute. It is anticipated that this facility will be as helpful to South County in fighting fires as is its Yorba Linda sisters are.

4. **Biodegradable Plastics Harm Fish:** When the PFAS situation came to light, a popular solution was to convert to biodegradable plastics as opposed to the forever plastics. However, a study by the University of Otago in New Zealand has shown that might not be the case. Testing these biodegradable plastics on fish has shown that this may not be the long-term solution. Fish that have ingested these products have shown that it impacts their swimming performance and metabolism. While biodegradable plastics are certainly not as harmful as the PFAS it appears that it still has a significant negative impact on them. The result of the research is a further study of the raw materials used in these products to see how they can be controlled or modified.
5. **Snowfall Disappearing:** NOAA has been studying the snowfall trend because of climate change around the world. Climate change is causing a reduction in snowfall and an increase in rainfall in many areas. It is particularly observed in the northern hemisphere which would include us. The decline in snowfall since 1973 has been approximately 2.7%. It is anticipated that these losses will continue in the future. This clearly will impact water supplies to areas such as California and the Mediterranean as the trend lines show that the decline in snowpack could be more than 90% overtime. Another part of the study explores the water content in the snow. A heavy snow with high water content can make a lot of difference compared to a lighter snow with low water content.
6. **Beer Threatened by Climate Change:** Climate change could negatively impact beer consumption worldwide. Production of hops in Europe and the United States is being noticeably lessened by changes in climate. Hops and in particular the alpha content of hops has already started to impact beer production. The estimated reduction in hops is 4 to 18% while the alpha content, which is more important, could drop by as much as 31% in the next few years. Hops are water intensive and reactionary to high temperatures. Hops is a form of flower which can survive some heat but not when it gets to the higher levels. The Pacific Northwest including Idaho Washington, Oregon, and Montana produce about 90% of all the hops in the United States.
7. **Arctic Microplastics:** The University of Exeter in England has been exploring the quantity of micro plastics near the Barents Sea and the Arctic region. The increase in microplastics in the area is being attributed to tourism, inadequate waste infrastructure shipping activities and fishing. Also, the currents in the ocean are responsible for sending more microplastics to this area which is generally somewhat isolated. The impact on the food chain in the area could be severe. The zooplankton in the area have been determined to have increased quantities of micro plastics in their systems. This zooplankton is the bottom of the food chain of other fish, animals including humans in the area.
8. **Groundwater Saltier:** Last month we reported on some saltwater intrusion in various areas such as New Orleans. The US Geological Survey is studying the quantities of salt found in groundwater systems throughout the United States. They have been examining 82 systems around the US for over 10 years. The increase in salt like materials over this time has been significant. One of the areas in the northwest and upper Midwest regions of the US has been particularly involved. The main culprit in this area has been road salt which is still used extensively during the winter. Other areas of high impact, particularly in the southwest, are caused by high salinity in the soils and irrigation due to agricultural uses. These salt conditions can also negatively impact infrastructure as the water gets into general circulation.

9. **Beavers Not Always Good:** While Beavers generally enjoy a good reputation when it comes to the environment and natural habitat, that reputation is now being challenged. While their dam building and other activities can generally recharge areas and be useful to habitat there is a negative side. In watersheds and other areas that have already been altered by human activity they can be a large negative. In these areas they tend to build up their dam environment but then leave because of lack of food or other environmental situations. When they leave their dams behind unattended, they tend to significantly interfere with normal fish activity. This has been particularly evident in some areas in Nevada where the trout population has been seriously reduced due to the high number of beaver dams which have been left by the beavers. The interesting situation is that when politicians attempt to limit beaver activity by reducing the number of beavers there is a large pushback by the environmental groups and the general population. The bottom line is the beavers can be useful in their natural habitat but generally are negative in areas that have already been significantly changed by human activity.
10. **Algae Used for Water Treatment:** While algae and its various strains are generally a negative when it comes to water there are some exceptions. It has been discovered that certain algal strains that have phosphorus accumulation possibilities can help in treatment of wastewater. Generally, phosphorus is a major contributor to harmful algae blooms in lakes and other water bodies. However, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory has discovered a revolving algal biofilm which can help in the treatment of wastewater. This system uses a revolving belt which has phosphorus laden algae in the wastewater. This belt can collect algal biomass which can be used for fertilizer and feedstock and other useful products. This process is a normal process in nature but can be harnessed by the water world to help in the treatment of wastewater. An interesting factoid is that this alga can take up higher levels of phosphorus than its immediate nutritional needs. This allows it to be highly effective taking the bad stuff out of the water.
11. **State Power Grab:** As we have seen lately, the state has been extremely aggressive and attempting to control water rights in the state. This trend is now being seen in the energy world. Shasta county has been told that they must acquiesce in the building of 48 giant wind turbines in their area. Normally this is a decision made at the local level and not coming as a state mandate. This project is approximately 35 miles east of Redding. The county has filed suit to try and stop it and is joined by various tribes in the region. This will be an interesting case to follow as it gives jurisdiction for these matters to the California Energy Commission. Stay tuned.





## Item 2d

January 3, 2024

TO: MWDOC Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Whittingham

SUBJECT: December 2024 Report

Despite the typical holiday slowdown toward the end of the month, December saw numerous developments throughout Orange County. Following are a few of the more notable developments and issues of the month:

- Longtime Santa Margarita Water District General Manager Dan Ferons announced his retirement at the agency's December 22 Board of Directors meeting. Ferons, who has served at the District for 38 years, will transition in January to serve as a Project Advisor to the Board through June, 2024. The SMWD Board of Directors has retained a search firm and will be interviewing prospective candidates in Q1 of 2024 to succeed Ferons.
- The Voice of OC web site chronicled the top water- and wastewater-related stories of the year, including rate increases at numerous agencies. The full story may be read here - <https://voiceofoc.org/2023/12/2023-the-year-of-orange-county-water-woes/>.
- The City of Garden Grove voted in favor of a five-year increase in water rates for residents and businesses in the City, citing aging infrastructure and rising costs of water. The vote by the Garden Grove City Council followed similar actions by a number of water districts, especially in south Orange County.
- A Trabuco Canyon Water District ratepayer has initiated a fundraising and signature gathering effort targeting seeking to recall three TCWD Board members in the wake of rate increases adopted by the Board earlier this year.
- The Tustin City Council adopted a 9% annual increase in water rates over the next five year for the 14,000 customers of the city's water district. The city has found PFAS in the city's groundwater and has shut off five of the city's wells, forcing them to import nearly half the city's water.
- SMWD Board President Sandra Jacobs, Orange County Fifth District Supervisor Katrina Foley, and representatives of the Orange County Fire Authority and Quest

Whittingham PAA, LLC

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(949) 280-9181 ▪ [peter@whittinghampaa.com](mailto:peter@whittinghampaa.com)

Diagnostics presided at the unveiling of a new “HeloPod,” installed and funded by SMWD. Situated off Ortega Highway on Quest Diagnostic’s San Juan Capistrano property, the HeloPod is a high-capacity helicopter water dip source that will assist in firefighting efforts throughout south Orange County.

- Many Orange County water districts, especially those in south Orange County, celebrated the State Department of Water Resources Board December 19 action to adopt new regulations for Direct Potable Reuse. The technology is viewed as a potential means for many districts which are currently heavily reliant on imported water to dramatically increase local supplies using recycled water.
- The Orange County Water District’s (OCWD) Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) was recognized as an outstanding groundwater supply project by the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). The GWRS, a joint project between OCWD and the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San), is the world’s largest water purification system for indirect potable reuse, recycling 100% of OC San’s reclaimable wastewater flows and produces 130 million gallons of high-quality water every day. Online since 2008, the GWRS has produced more than 420 billion gallons of water since its inception.
- OCWD Board member Kelly Rowe passed away suddenly earlier in December. Director Rowe was a water resources technical professional with more than 40 years of experience specializing in the design, construction and management of groundwater wells and basin operational facilities, including working at OCWD as a technical consultant addressing local groundwater conditions. Director Rowe was the founder and president of American Water Resources Association, Southern California Section and active in many industry organizations. In 2020, he was appointed commissioner to represent OCWD on the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. The OCWD Board of Directors will consider applicants for appointment to Director Rowe’s seat in early 2024.

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

Sincerely,



Peter Whittingham





**DISCUSSION ITEM**

January 3, 2024

**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**

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

**DETAILED REPORT**

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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**

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Water Transactions for October 2023 (for water delivered in August 2023) totaled 115.1 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 36.2 TAF lower than the budget of 151.3 TAF and translate to \$113.9 million in receipts for October 2023, which was \$39.6 million lower than budget of \$153.5 million.

Year-to-date water transactions through October 2023 (for water delivered in May 2023 through August 2023) were 411.7 TAF, which was 145.2 TAF lower than the budget of 556.9 TAF. Year-to-date water receipts through October 2023 were \$422.7 million, which was \$150.9 million lower than the budget of \$573.6 million

## ISSUE BRIEF #B

**SUBJECT: MET's Supply Condition Update**

### **RECENT ACTIVITY**

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The 2023-24 Water Year (2023-24 WY) officially started on October 1, 2023. Thus far, Northern California accumulated precipitation (8-Station Index) reported **9.3 inches or 56% of normal** as of December 26th. The Northern Sierra Snow Water Equivalent was **2.4 inches on December 26<sup>th</sup>**, which is **25% of normal** for that day. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has set the State Water Project (SWP) initial **"Table A" allocation for WY 2023-24 at 10% which provides MWD with approximately 191,150 Acre Feet of SWP supply.**

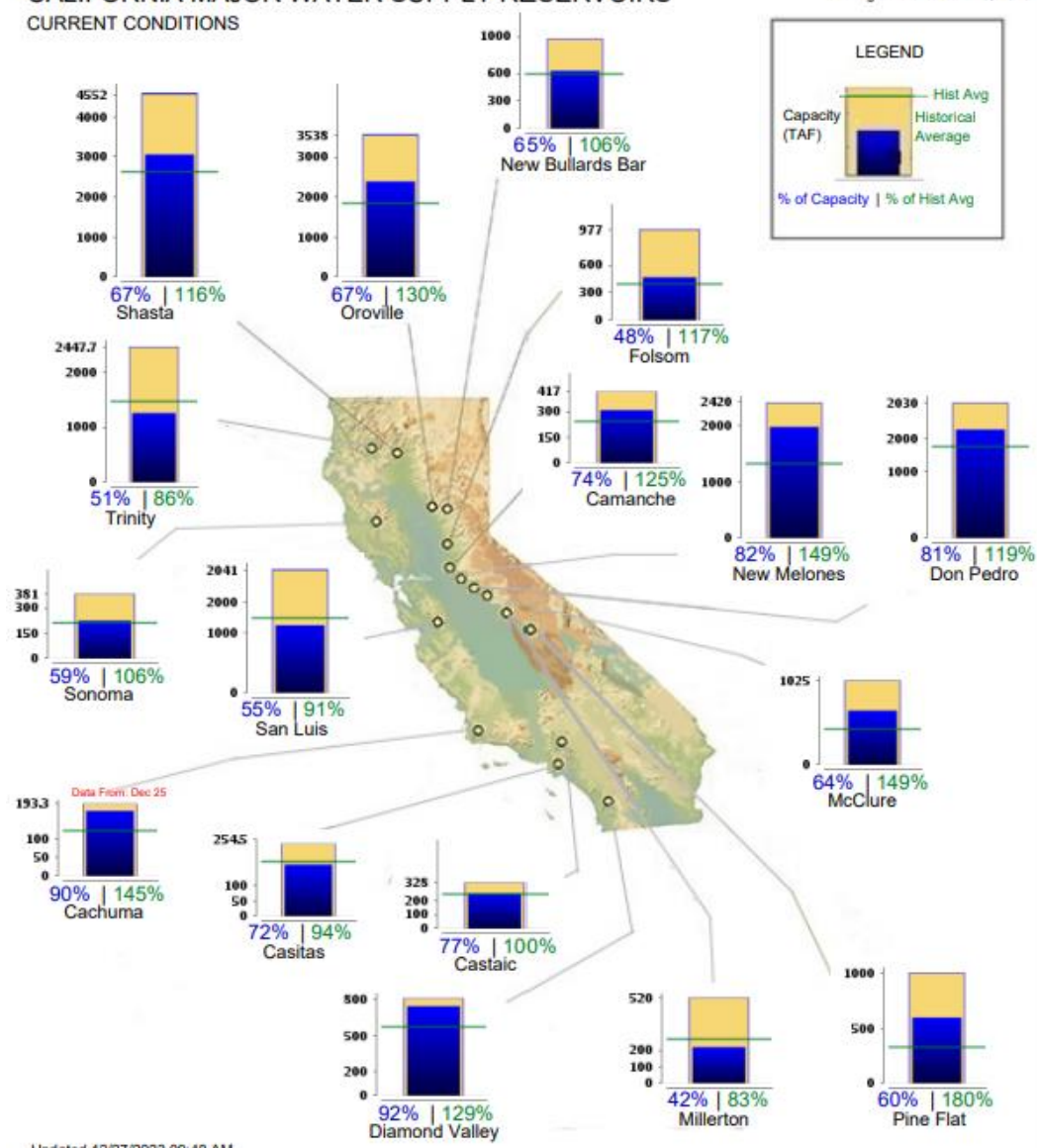
The Upper Colorado River Basin accumulated precipitation is reporting **5.8 inches or 76% of normal as of December 26<sup>th</sup>**. On the Colorado River system, snowpack is measured across four states in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The Upper Colorado River Basin Snow Water Equivalent was **4.2 inches as of December 26<sup>th</sup>**, which is **54% 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.** As of December 2023, **there is a 100% chance of shortage continuing in Calendar Year (CY) 2024, a 93% chance in CY 2025 and a 77% chance in CY 2026.**

As of December 26<sup>th</sup>, Lake Oroville storage is at **67% of total capacity and 130% of normal.** As of December 26<sup>th</sup>, San Luis Reservoir storage is at **55% of total capacity and is 91% of normal.**

## CALIFORNIA MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS

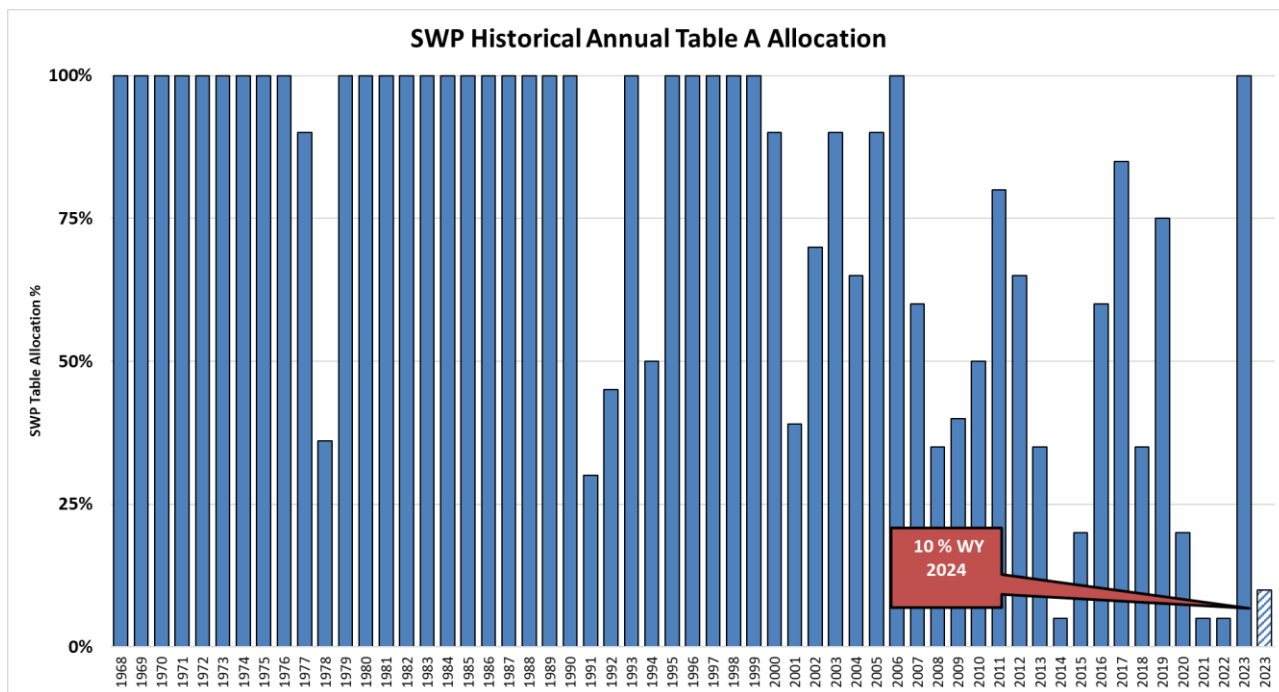
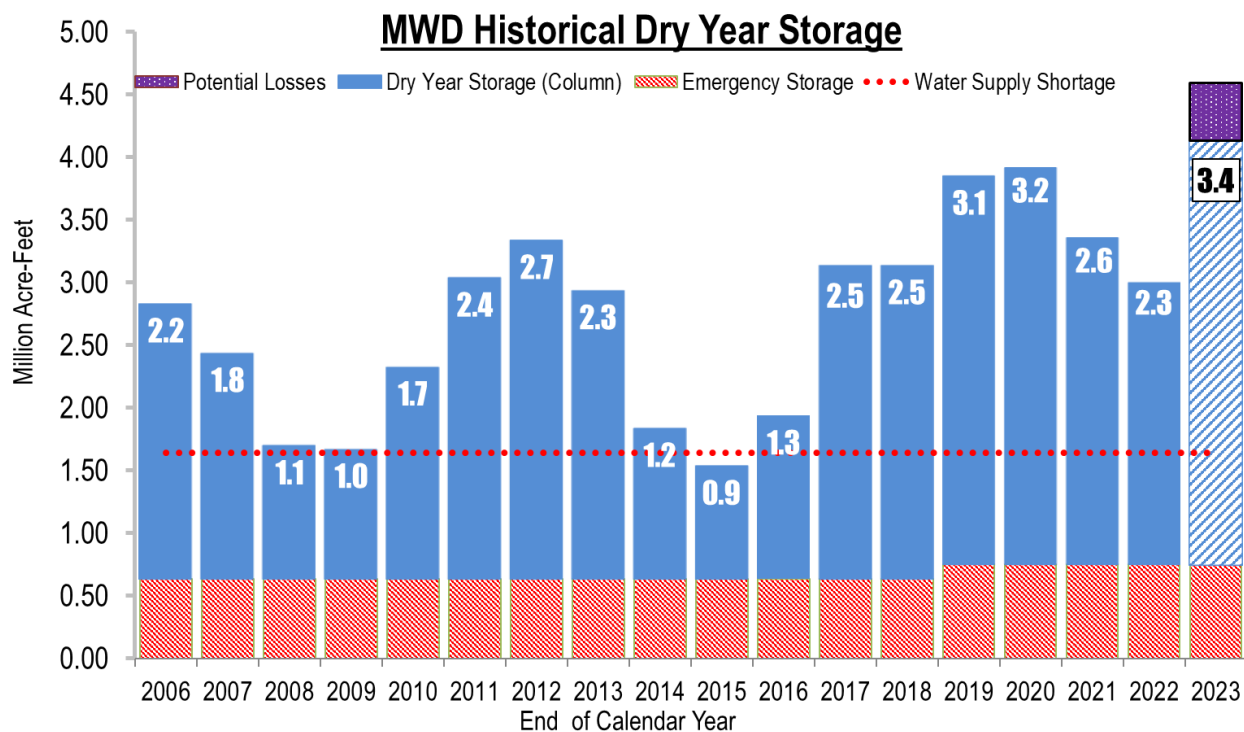
CURRENT CONDITIONS

Midnight - December 26, 2023



With CY 2023 estimated total demands and losses of 1.52 million acre-feet (MAF) and with a 100% SWP Table A Allocation, MWD is projecting that supplies will exceed demands levels in CY 2023. Based on this, estimated total dry-year storage for Metropolitan at the end of **CY 2023 will increase to approximately 3.4 MAF.**

A projected dry-year storage supply of **3.4 MAF would be the highest level in MWD History. Unfortunately, due to the 100% SWP Table A Allocation, MWD will not be able to store approximately 563 TAF.** In addition to a high water supply, a large factor in maintaining high water storage levels rely on 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 still a 5-year shortage projection at Lake Mead, there remains a lot of uncertainty to where supply balances will be in the future.**



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

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**Water System Operations**

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 104,700 acre-feet (AF) for November with an average of 3,500 AF per day, which was about 900 AF per day lower than in October. In addition, Metropolitan delivered 12,300 AF to Cyclic and Conjunctive Use Programs. Treated water deliveries were 4,400 AF lower than in October for a total of 60,900 AF, or 58 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) pumped a total of 57,000 AF in November. Metropolitan maintained a four-pump flow along the CRA for most of the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 4,300 AF per day, totaling about 127,500 AF for the month. The target SWP blend is around 80 percent for the Weymouth Plant, 35 percent for the Diemer Plant, and 50 percent for the Skinner Plant.

The 100 percent State Water Project (SWP) allocation when combined with Colorado River supplies provides the region with more water than demands. 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 continues deliveries to Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District. With the higher SWP Allocation and low regional demands, Metropolitan is working to maximize its use of Table A supplies this year. Metropolitan staff is working with member agencies to manage supplies through the Cyclic and Cyclic Cost Offset Program.

**Water Treatment and Distribution**

The SWP target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants in November was 80 percent and 35 percent, respectively. The SWP target entering Lake Skinner was 50 percent in November. The Skinner plant and raw water San Diego Pipeline No. 5 were on lake bypass during the shutdown of San Diego Pipeline Nos. 3 and 6 from November 1 to 14. The SWP target blend for the San Diego Canal was 50 percent for the Skinner plant and Pipeline No. 5 while on lake bypass.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from September 2022 through August 2023 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 474, 479, and 557 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

The status of nitrification in the distribution system was significantly improved in November with nitrite concentrations below action levels in most samples. Limited flushing is still being conducted at a few sites in the west side of the system.

### **Future Legislation and Regulation**

On November 6, Metropolitan submitted a second joint comment letter with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts on the proposed direct potable reuse (DPR) regulations. While some of Metropolitan's earlier comments (e.g., the need for greater flexibility in achieving pathogen log-removal credits) were incorporated, the November letter reiterated the previous requests to establish a Science Advisory Panel for constituents of emerging concern, standardize on-line monitoring requirements, and to provide enhanced flexibility for the governance structure of DPR projects. Final regulations expected to be adopted by SWRCB by December 31, 2023, with an estimated effective date of April 1, 2024. Metropolitan staff will continue to track the DPR rulemaking process.

On November 7, CARB released a 45-day rulemaking package for its Zero-Emission Forklift Regulation. The regulation prohibits fleet operators from purchasing new propane or gasoline-fueled Class IV and Class V forklifts with a rated capacity of up to 12,000 pounds starting in 2026. Metropolitan staff is reviewing the changes for any potential comments by the December 26, 2023, comment deadline. CARB has set the adoption hearing for this regulation on June 27, 2024.

On November 9, EPA released the second of twelve sets of PFAS data collected under the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). The monitoring data on 29 PFAS and lithium will help EPA make determinations about future regulatory actions (e.g., MCL setting or CERCLA designations). The remaining data will be released in batches through 2026. Metropolitan staff is evaluating these data for PFAS occurrence within our service area.

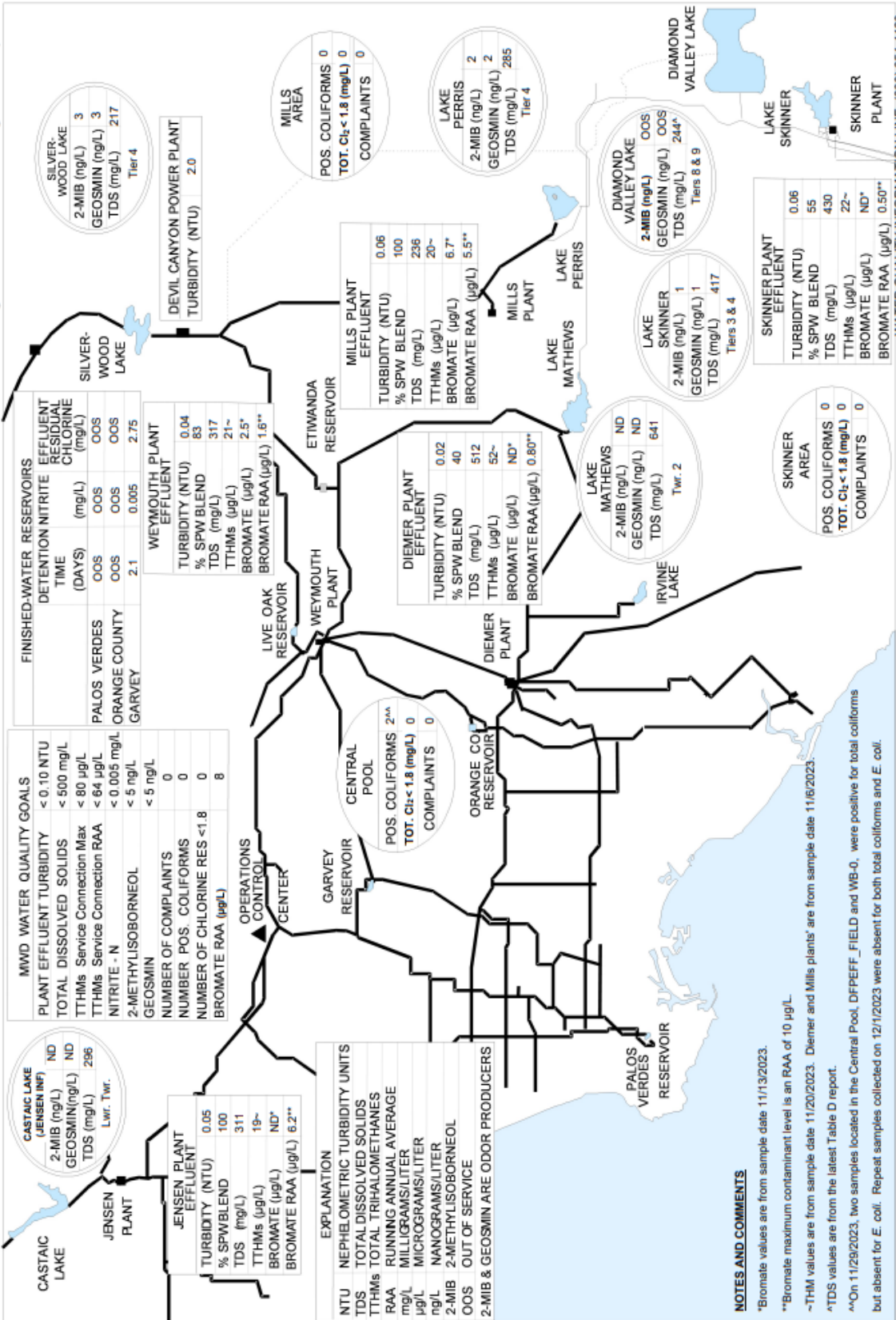
# Weekly Water Quality System Status

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Generated On: 12/16/2023 1:38:21 PM

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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



## NOTES AND COMMENTS

- \*Bromate values are from sample date 11/13/2023.
- \*\*Bromate maximum contaminant level is an RAA of 10 µg/L.
- ~THM values are from sample date 11/20/2023. Diemer and Mills plants are from sample date 11/6/2023.
- \*TDS values are from the latest Table D report.
- \*\*On 11/29/2023, two samples located in the Central Pool, DFEFF, FIELD and WB-0, were positive for total coliforms but absent for E. coli. Repeat samples collected on 12/1/2023 were absent for both total coliforms and E. coli.

MWD water quality goals meet or exceed all State and Federal regulations.



## Water Quality Section Weekly TDS Report

For the week of 12/3/2023

Percent SPW Needed to Achieve TDS Goal of 500 mg/L				Estimated TDS for Reservoirs		
Source Water TDS		SPW Required		Reservoir (Effluent)	Date	mg/L
Plant	CRW	SPW	Percent			
Weymouth	641	217	33%	Lake Havasu (Table D)	10/11/23	662
Diemer	641	217	33%	Lake Mathews (DFPI-LWRFDR)	12/4/23	641
Skinner-Silverwood	691	217	40%	Lake Skinner (Outlet Structure)	11/27/23	417
Skinner-Perris	691	285	47%	Castaic Lake (JFPI)	12/3/23	296
CRW for Diemer and Weymouth is Lake Mathews and San Jacinto - West Portal for Skinner.				Silverwood (Mills Inf)	12/3/23	217
				Lake Perris	12/4/23	285
				DVL Outlet (Table D)	10/9/23	244

### SUNDAY COMPOSITE ESTIMATED TDS FOR 07/30/23 - 12/03/23

TDS For Week of 12/3	
Plant Eff.	mg/L
Diemer	510
Weymouth	321
Skinner	423
Jensen	311
Mills	236



Sunday composite estimated TDS measured from plant effluent composite samples collected on Sunday and analyzed for hardness and electrical conductivity.

### WEEKLY COMPOSITE ESTIMATED TDS FOR 07/30/23 - 12/03/23

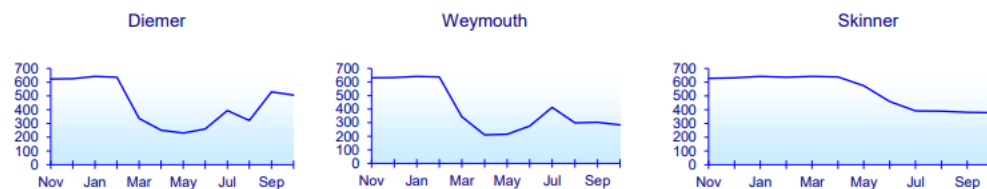
TDS For 11/27 - 12/3	
Plant Eff.	mg/L
Diemer	516
Weymouth	325
Skinner	424



Weekly composite estimated TDS measured from plant effluent composite samples collected Monday through Sunday and analyzed for hardness and electrical conductivity.

### MONTHLY COMPOSITE CALCULATED TDS FOR November 2022 - October 2023

TDS For Oct 2023	
Plant Eff.	mg/L
Diemer	507
Weymouth	284
Skinner	378
Jensen	340
Mills	195



Monthly calculated TDS calculated from plant effluent monthly composite sample for total anions and cations. These results are also used for Table D.

### FLOW WEIGHTED RAA TDS FOR November 2022 - October 2023

Flow-Weighted RAA TDS Nov 2022 - Oct 2023	
Plant	mg/L
Diemer	453
Weymouth	417
Skinner	504
Jensen	349
Mills	216



Seasonal flow weighted RAA TDS calculated from plant effluent monthly composite sample for total anions and cations. Results are based on average monthly flows.

## **ISSUE BRIEF #D**

**SUBJECT: Colorado River Issues**

### **RECENT ACTIVITY**

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Metropolitan staff participated in meetings and workshops with California, Lower Basin, and Upper Basin partners to continue developing a Basin States alternative for operating Lakes Mead and Powell after 2026, once the current operational guidelines (the 2007 Interim Guidelines) expire. Meetings included an online meeting of technical modeling teams from Metropolitan, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and the Central Arizona Project; a two-day meeting of Lower and Upper Basin States principals in Denver, Colorado; and a meeting of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Integrated Technical Education Workgroup in Denver for training on USBR's new online tool for modeling possible post-2026 reservoir operation alternatives. The post-2026 reservoir operation guidelines will significantly influence Metropolitan's future supply of Colorado River water.

Metropolitan staff submitted additional documentation to Reclamation on Metropolitan's Bucket 2 funding proposal for \$420 million dollars. Additional documentation included separate proposals for each of the six components from our initial portfolio proposal, expanding on the mechanisms to conserve water, and clarification on how the proposed administrative costs had been determined. By submitting this additional information quickly and completely, further discussions on Bucket 2 projects can begin at Reclamation's earliest opportunity.

## **ISSUE BRIEF #E**

**SUBJECT: Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues**

### **RECENT ACTIVITY**

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#### **Delta Conveyance**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for a public review that ended on December 16, 2022. The Final EIR is expected at the end of 2023. It will include responses to all substantive comments on the Draft EIR and edits to the Draft EIR, as appropriate, to respond to the comments.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act for a public review that ended on March 16, 2023. USACE is in the process of developing responses to the comments received.

#### **Delta Conveyance related Joint Powers Authorities**

At the November 16 regularly scheduled Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) Board meeting, the board approved an amendment to the bylaws authorizing the DCFA Board to adopt a policy that authorizes the disclosure of information disclosed in a DCFA closed session consistent with Government Code requirements. Amending the bylaws to include this policy will allow for the sharing of information with members' legislative bodies and their legal counsel and allow those agencies to take action accordingly.

The DCFA Board retained the services of Richardson & Company to perform an annual audit of financial activities for the past fiscal year. No material weaknesses or recommendations were reported by the external auditor.

#### **Sites Reservoir**

At the November 17 Joint Reservoir Committee and Sites Authority Board meeting, the Reservoir Committee recommended to the Sites Authority Board to approve a resolution certifying the Final EIR, adopting the CEQA Findings; adopting the Statement of Overriding Considerations; adopting the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program; approving the Sites Reservoir Project as described in the CEQA Findings; directing the Executive Director to file a Notice of Determination and pay all related fees; and authorizing the Executive Director to certify the CEQA record of proceedings.

#### **Science Activities**

Metropolitan science staff is reviewing the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Draft Staff Report and Substitute Environmental Document released by the California State Water

Resources Control Board on September 28, 2023. The deadline for written comments has been extended to January 19, 2024.

Metropolitan staff participated in the Delta Science Programs Workshop: Exploring Scientific and Management Implications of Upper Trophic Level Foodwebs in the Delta and spoke on the Ecosystem Management in the Delta Panel. Additional panel members included CDFW, DWR, USBR, the Delta Conservancy, and the United Auburn Indian Community. The goal of this workshop was to determine the management needs for decision support tools of foodweb models for managing the Delta and Suisun Bay. The workshop was held over two days with several breakout sessions to work out the scope and needs for these decision support tools.

### **Delta Island Activities**

Metropolitan's Multi-Benefit Landscape Restoration Planning Grant for its Delta Islands (Islands) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is in its final phase of developing conceptual plans and basis of designs for six recommended pilot projects and scientific research studies for Bouldin Island. The primary objective of this grant is to assist in identifying opportunities on Metropolitan's Islands in addressing land subsidence, habitat restoration, carbon sequestration, sustainable agricultural practices, and water quality/reliability. In addition, feedback was received from environmental interests, local stakeholders, Tribal Nation representatives, and other non-governmental organizations. This planning grant effort, with a final outcomes report, is anticipated to be completed by March 2024.

Final edits to the draft grant agreement for the Multi-Benefit Landscape Restoration Project on Webb Tract were completed, and the agreement is going through the Delta Conservancy's administrative review process. Metropolitan staff executed three consultant agreements for design, environmental planning, and public outreach for the Multi-Benefit Landscape Restoration Project on Webb Tract. The final consultant agreement for scientific studies is expected to be completed in early December 2023. A New Project Authorization package was submitted to Engineering, and a Capital Investment Plan project number is expected to be issued shortly. A reimbursable project number will be issued after the grant agreement has been fully executed.

**Summary Report for  
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Special Board Meeting  
December 5, 2023**

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION**

Adopted CEQA determination that the proposed actions related to the fallowing programs were previously addressed in various CEQA documents and related actions, and authorized the General Manager to enter into agreements for Reclamation to fund the generation of up to 408,000 AF of conserved Colorado River system water through 2026 and to enter into agreements with other Colorado River contractors to forbear rights to water generated in California under Reclamation's LC Conservation Program. **(Agenda Item 7-1)**

Awarded a \$250,974 contract to Access General Contracting Inc. for the improvements of the courtyard area located at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. **(Agenda Item 7-2)**

Awarded a \$698,000 procurement contract to B&K Valves & Equipment Inc. for five globe valves. **(Agenda Item 7-3)**

Authorized an increase in the maximum amount payable under the contract for legal services with Marten Law LLP in the amount of \$150,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$400,000. **(Agenda Item 7-4)**

**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>