

WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH MET DIRECTORS
18700 Ward Street, Conference Room 101, Fountain Valley, California
January 7, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Teleconference Sites:
25652 Paseo De La Paz, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
17420 Walnut Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

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 (REVISED 1-03-2026)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC 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 THE 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 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 Website, accessible at <http://www.mwdoc.com>.

NEXT RESOLUTION NO. 2168

PRESENTATION ITEM

1. COLORADO RIVER 2026 GUIDELINES UPDATE (PRESENTATION BY JESSICA NEUWERTH)

Recommendation: Receive and file the presentation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

- a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR) (Report Revised 1-03-2026)
- b. State Legislative Report (WCA)
- 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

- 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
 - Oral Update by District Council Joseph Byrne and State Water Contractors Assistant General Manager Chandra Chilmakuri

5. MET BOARD AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary regarding December MET Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for MET Board Agenda

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 contacting Angela Crespi, District Secretary, at (714) 963-3058, or writing to Municipal Water District of Orange County at 18700 Ward Street, Unit B, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. 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 accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the District to provide the requested accommodation.



PRESENTATION ITEM

January 7, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Harvey De La Torre, General Manager

Staff Contact: Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Manager
Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs
Jared Dawson, Water Resources Analyst

SUBJECT: COLORADO RIVER 2026 GUIDELINES UPDATE (PRESENTATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESSICA NEUWERTH)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors receive the presentation.

REPORT

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to provide the Board with an update on the Colorado River Basin States' negotiations for Post-2026 operating guidelines. MWDOC staff invited the Colorado River Board of California Executive Director, Jessica Neuwerth, to brief the Board on the current status of negotiations, key issues, and potential implications for California and Southern California water supplies.

Background

The Colorado River Board of California represents the State of California and its members in discussions and negotiations with the Colorado River Basin States, federal, state, and local governmental agencies, as well as the Republic of Mexico regarding the management and operations of the Colorado River.

Seven counties in Southern California receive water and hydroelectric energy from the Colorado River. Colorado River water is used by over 19 million people in Southern California and irrigates over 600,000 acres of agricultural lands that produce fruits, vegetables, and other crops that help feed our nation's families.

The mission of the Colorado River Board of California is to protect California's rights and interests in the resources provided by the Colorado River and to represent California in discussions and negotiations regarding the Colorado River and its management.

To fulfill this mission, since 1937, the Colorado River Board of California has been charged with:

- Ensuring the long-term quantity and reliability of California's Colorado River water resources.
- Representing California in discussions among the Colorado River Basin States, Indian Tribes, the federal government, and others in implementing joint cooperative programs to protect California's use of Colorado River water and to address environmental and endangered species issues.
- Addressing issues relating to the 1944 U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty through cooperative efforts with the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission and other states.

The Colorado River Board of California consists of eight members who are appointed by the Governor, including six representing water agencies and two members of the public, and the Directors of the California Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Discussion

The Colorado River's current operating rules will expire on October 1, 2026, requiring a new set of guidelines that will determine Upper Basin's releases to the Lower Basin and how shortages are shared among the States and the Republic of Mexico. Negotiations toward these rules have stalled because the Upper Basin has resisted committing to water-use reductions during a drought. While the Lower Basin has agreed to cut 1.5 million acre-feet, further reductions are expected and must include participation by the Upper Basin.

The Basin States missed a November 11 deadline to reach consensus, prompting the Department of Interior to set a new deadline of February 14; otherwise, the Bureau of Reclamation will issue a unilateral operational plan. Failure to reach an agreement is likely to lead to litigation among the states and with the federal government over the river's management authorities and Compact obligations.

Next Steps

The Basin States have not yet reached agreement on the key operational elements of the Post-2026 Guidelines, which include: criteria for releases from Lake Powell, Lower Basin reduction triggers, storage in Lake Mead, and whether and under what conditions the Upper Basin will reduce water uses.

MWDOC invited Jessica Neuwerth, Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California, to present and provide an update on the negotiations, along with a short recap

of the Colorado River Water Users Association annual conference, held in December 2025.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
- Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and OC values and interests.*
- Strengthen communication and coordination of messaging.*
- Work with member agencies to develop water supply and demand objectives.*
- Solicit input and feedback from member agencies.*
- Invest in workforce development and succession planning.*

Attachments/Links:
N/A



To: Board of Directors, *Municipal Water District of Orange County*
From: Natural Resource Results
RE: Monthly Board Report – January 2026

Government Shutdown

Congress recently enacted legislation ending the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, which lasted 43 days. That measure provided full FY 2025 appropriations for a limited number of federal agencies, while extending funding for most others—including the Bureau of Reclamation—only through January 30 under a continuing resolution (CR). Congressional leadership continues to work toward completing the remaining appropriations bills. Notably, the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, which funds Reclamation and is typically among the least controversial measures, remains stalled. The delay is attributable to objections from Senator John Kennedy (R-LA), Chairman of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, who has placed a hold on the bill due to concerns that the overall funding allocation exceeds acceptable levels.

With fewer than 30 days remaining before the CR expires, several warning signs suggest continued challenges. While House and Senate Republicans have agreed to topline spending levels for the appropriations bills covered by the CR, negotiations over individual line items have not yet concluded, and the legislative calendar is increasingly compressed. Under the CR, agencies are generally funded at FY 2024 enacted levels, prorated for the duration of the resolution. However, we have heard reports that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has advised some agencies that, notwithstanding the CR, they should operate at levels consistent with the FY 2026 President’s budget request during the CR period. This guidance could have significant implications, as the FY 2026 request is substantially lower than FY 2024 enacted funding. It remains unclear whether Reclamation has received or is operating under this guidance, and we are actively seeking confirmation.

House Natural Resources Committee Hearing

On November 19th, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a legislative hearing where one of MWDOC’s member agencies had the opportunity to testify in support of Congressman Costa’s bill, H.R. 338, *Every Drop Counts Act*.

H.R. 338 would amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to expand the scope of Reclamation’s Small Storage Program. Specifically, the bill would increase the eligible size of storage or recharge capacity (setting thresholds such as at least 200 acre-feet and up to 150,000 acre-feet in average annual recharge) and broaden the eligible project types to include those that increase aquifer storage, convey water to or from underground storage, and stabilize groundwater

levels. It would also extend the agency's authority to carry out the program for an additional five years

Christine Compton of the Irvine Ranch Water District testified in support of the legislation and was introduced by Congressman Min (D-CA). In her testimony, she emphasized the importance of developing local water supplies, as Irvine Ranch has successfully done, while underscoring the need to do more — particularly by capturing and storing additional water when it is available. She highlighted the critical role of the Bureau of Reclamation's Small Storage Program in helping local water agencies strengthen supply reliability. At the same time, she noted that implementation of the program has faced challenges and explained that the proposed changes in H.R. 338 would improve Reclamation's ability to manage and administer it more effectively.

Christine did a fantastic job!

Cabinet Nominations

Brian Nesvik has been confirmed and sworn in as Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), succeeding Martha Williams. Paul Souza served as Acting FWS Director while Mr. Nesvik awaited confirmation by the Senate but has since returned to his role as Regional Director in Region 8.

The Trump Administration has yet to find another nominee for the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, since it asked Ted Cooke to withdraw his nomination on September 30th.

Endangered Species Act Reform

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently proposed four rules to help guide the implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Two of the rules are jointly published by the Services and deal with the ESA Section 7 permitting process and the criteria used for listing, reclassifying, and delisting species under ESA Section 4. Of the remaining two rules published solely by the USFWS, the first restores science-based, species-specific regulations for threatened species under ESA Section 4(d), and the second clarifies the process for excluding and precluding areas from critical habitat designations under ESA Section 4(b)(2).

The proposed regulatory changes include:

- Removing Biden-era rule language that specified ESA listing decisions must be made "without reference to possible economic or other impacts of such determination." While the law will still require that listings be made solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available, removing the "without reference" language will allow for cost-and-benefit studies to be conducted for the public to consider.

- Removing the Fish and Wildlife Service's use of a "blanket 4(d) rule" that automatically gives all threatened species the same strict level of protection as species designated as endangered. Under the Trump administration proposal, every threatened species would have a tailored protection plan that could allow for specified exceptions to the ESA ban on harming listed species.
- Revising the factors considered when an agency designates critical habitat. The proposal highlights an assortment of national security and economic impact categories that could keep an area from being designated as critical habitat.
- Removing a Biden-era rule that allowed FWS to compel a project proponent to "offset" and not simply mitigate impacts to listed species' habitat.

Permitting Reform

Before adjourning for the year, the House passed broad permitting legislation, which may become part of a broader package lawmakers hope to pass this Congress. The House voted for Chair Bruce Westerman's (R-Ark.) "Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act," H.R. 4776. Notable provisions include the following:

- Agencies are only required to consider effects proximately caused by the project (not speculative or distant impacts).
- Sets hard deadlines:
 - 1 year for Environmental Assessments (EAs)
 - 2 years for Environmental Impact Statements (EISs)
 - Extensions allowed only with project proponent's approval
- Programmatic documents: Valid for 10 years, up from 5.
- New science: Agencies are not required to consider new research after a project's NEPA review has been initiated.
- Courts can only overturn agency actions if the agency abused its discretion and it changed the outcome.
- No vacatur or injunctions: Courts cannot halt projects—only remand for corrections, with a 180-day deadline.
- Lawsuits must be filed within 150 days of the final agency action, down from 6 years.
- "Major Federal Action" - Excludes actions where federal involvement is limited (e.g., grants, loan guarantees).
- "Reasonably foreseeable effects" - Must have a close causal connection to the project; speculative or unrelated future effects are excluded.
- Encourages use and sharing of categorical exclusions (CEs).
- Courts must resolve NEPA-related lawsuits within 180 days, appeals within 60 days.

Eleven Democrats, including Jim Costa and Adam Gray of California, ended up voting "yes" despite Westerman efforts to get more on board.

The bill would tighten timelines for National Environmental Policy Act reviews and reduce the potential for litigation. Westerman, a forester by training, stressed he simply wanted to "restore

NEPA to its original form" and that his proposal would accelerate reviews for projects of all kinds.

Throughout the floor debate, Democrats stressed they were open to amending NEPA — long considered sacrosanct in the party — but the last-minute changes offered by Westerman did not do enough to undo the Trump administration's attacks on clean energy in the eyes of most Democrats.

CVP and SWP Operations

The Bureau of Reclamation recently signed a Record of Decision that adopts an updated long-term operations plan for the CVP and the SWP under NEPA. This ROD implements “Action 5,” a revised operations approach analyzed in the 2024 Long-Term Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and is consistent with updated biological opinions from both NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The decision responds to Executive Order 14181 by directing Reclamation to operate the CVP to maximize water deliveries to high-need communities while still meeting statutory obligations, contractual terms, and environmental protection requirements. Compared to previous plans, Action 5 removes certain Delta environmental constraints (such as the Fall X2 and early export-reduction measures), updates real-time Delta operating criteria (including OMR limits), strengthens governance mechanisms, and incorporates adaptive management guided by predictive tools. Operationally, this ROD is expected to allow increases in annual water deliveries within the range analyzed in the EIS — potentially up to hundreds of thousands of acre-feet more for the CVP and SWP — while maintaining compliance with federal law and species protections.



To:	MWDOC Workshop
From:	Syrus Devers
Date:	January 7th, 2026
Re:	State Legislative Report

Legislative Report

This report covers the month of December, which is always a slow time of the year. Below are the 2026 legislative proposals and bills not already covered by ACWA and CMUA reports that SDA has heard of so far. Although Sacramento seems quiet to the outside world, state agencies and the Governor's staff are actually hard at work preparing the Budget which must be released by January 10th. All of that, however, happens behind securely closed doors.

Issues and bills for 2026:

Prop 218 reform: ACWA has a working group of attorneys looking at clarifying the standards that water agencies must meet when setting rates. The problem is the standard of review used by courts when reviewing how rates are set. Prop 218 just says that rates charged to customers "shall not exceed the proportional cost of the service attributable to the parcel." But it says nothing about any particular method of determining that cost. Is it enough that the method used is reasonable, or is some higher standard required? This lack of clarity has led to courts coming up with conflicting opinions of what Prop 218 requires, and a booming cottage industry of litigation against water agencies. The desired bill would "clarify", because a statute cannot amend the Constitution, that Prop 218's requirements are met if the agency used reasonable methods to set tired rates, even if an individual customer's rate is not perfectly proportional to the exact cost of the water delivered to the parcel. The ACWA working group remains interested in introducing a bill in 2026 but has yet to release proposed language and has not identified an author.

As a reminder, bill requests need to be turned in to Legislative Counsel by January 23rd, and must be introduced by February 20th.

AB 497 (Wilson): This is a 2-year bill that will be amended to support Healthy River and Landscapes (HRL). The bill will remove the requirement for the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to respond to individual comments submitted on the draft environmental documents for the Bay-Delta Plan, although the SWRCB would still have to incorporate changes to the final documents based on the comments. The goal is to shorten the approval process of HRL by up to six months without creating a new CEQA exemption. The bill is sponsored by the Solano County Water Agency who is soliciting support.

AB 35 (Alvarez): This 2-year bill in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee will be amended to exempt Proposition 4 funding regulations from Administrative Procedures Act (APA) review and

Syrus Devers Advocacy

approval. Past bond appropriations by the Legislature have been exempt from APA review, but the last-minute Prop 4 funding jammed into the Budget failed to include the exemption. Formal adoption of new regulations will add as much as 18 months to the process. Keep in mind that funding in the 2025 Budget for infrastructure improvements was removed and shifted to Prop 4 to help cut the deficit. Public agencies that were counting on funding approval this year are now being told funds will not likely be released until early 2027. AB 35 would exempt Prop 4 funding from the APA and include an urgency clause to take effect immediately.

In other news, the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) reports that Senator Hurtado has made no indication if she intends to pursue her bill, SB 496, to grant relief from Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) requirements. CSDA sponsored SB 496 to clarify which vehicles are necessary for emergency response, and to set up a process for appealing a denial of an ACF waiver application. The bill received bipartisan support but was held in Senate Appropriations. ACF requirements continue to increase in significance now that all partial exemptions to the program have expired. As of 2026, 100% of all covered vehicle purchases by public agencies must be Zero Emission Vehicles.

Legal and Regulatory

January 7, 2026

1. **More PFAS Cures:** Researchers at Rice University have come up with another technology to attack the problem. This was done in conjunction with the University of South Korea. This is based on a double-hydroxide material composed of copper and aluminum. The process is much faster than other methods and is eco-friendly. Slight charge imbalances are induced removing the PFAS molecules which can then be disposed of. The primary material can be reused up to 6 times making it more sustainable than other concepts. The next step is to see if it can be scaled up for commercial use.
2. **Clams Clean Water:** A Delaware non-profit and Sussex Central High School have combined for a pilot program to clean up a local area known as Assawoman Bay in Fenwick Island, Delaware. Baby clams are put into the bay. In a few years they will be large enough to harvest. In the meantime, they will clean the bay. Their natural growth pattern filters contaminants from the bay and improves the overall ecosystem. They are also considering a program for oysters which have similar characteristics. They will be monitoring the effectiveness for future projects.
3. **Bad Swans:** Animals seem to be grabbing headlines in recent months, the mute swans however in a negative way. These swans which are not native to the US came from Europe in the 1800s. They are not the same as our natural Tundra swans and have a very different personality. Their nickname is “aquatic feral pigs”. They are very aggressive, eat 8 pounds of vegetation per day per bird, destroy natural habitat and food chains and attack other birds. They reportedly killed a man in Illinois, knocking him off his canoe and attacking him until he drowned. They are now on every state's kill list, including California. They look similar to the good swans except they have a black bill and a yellow spot near their eye. Beware!!
4. **Marine Mammals at Risk:** Large numbers of various mammals near the California coast have been dying this year. The latest cause is a bacteria, leptospirosis, which attacks gastrointestinal tracts of sea lions, seals, otters, dolphins and even whales. Throw in the large number of toxic algae blooms we have experienced in central and southern California, the new heat blob, fishing and ship incidents, and we have the largest death toll we have seen in many years. Experts are trying to determine if there is any relationship among those causes or just separate issues occurring at the same time.
5. **Great Salt Lake Update:** Salt lakes make up almost half of the total lake water volume of the globe. Many of these salt lakes have been shrinking and some have completely dried up. Agricultural expansion and other human use has been the primary cause in each case. Owens Lake and the Salton Sea are some examples in California. The Great Salt Lake was once the largest salt body in the US. Now agriculture and residential use take up over 2/3 of water formerly flowing the Lake. This has caused toxic dust issues from the dry Lake and a threat that it might disappear.

completely. The Governor is now taking steps to save the Lake. The last two years have helped with record snowfall. Now more conservation methods for ag and human use are being considered and implemented. By way of contrast, the Great Salt Lake is 5 times bigger than the Salton Sea and is much closer to high population areas. Time will tell if these measures will be successful.

6. **Global Water Use Up:** A report from the University of Twente in the Netherlands is very disturbing. It shows that over the last 20 years, worldwide water use has increased 25%. A major factor was global trade of products which require significant water volume to make. Specifically mentioned in the report were countries like Pakistan. Pakistan is experiencing water shortages but uses large amounts of water to make cotton sweaters to sell worldwide. Reducing inefficient water use in agriculture would save 33 1/3%. Of all the water used globally, 25% is used for products in the global economy.
7. **WOTUS Changes:** WOTUS (waters of the United States) is being redefined, again!! In a Brownstein report, the history of WOTUS is summarized. WOTUS regulations determine which and what kinds of water bodies/elements will be under control of the federal government. The Clean Water Act gives federal jurisdiction over WOTUS. This is aimed at restoring and protecting surface water in the US. However it does not define WOTUS, but allows the EPA and USACE (Army Corps of Engineers) to issue regulations defining the term. Historically, it was defined as traditional navigable waters, interstate waters, waters involved in interstate and foreign commerce plus a few other situations. In 2006, the Rapanos case went to the US Supreme Court regarding the definition of WOTUS. The court could not agree on a definition but set forth the concept of “relatively permanent flow” as a standard. This left a large ambiguity in the law. Since then, every administration has defined WOTUS as they saw it. Obama greatly expanded the definition to broaden the federal jurisdiction. Trump I repealed that definition and replaced it with a more restrictive definition. Biden in essence threw out the Trump I effort and returned to the Obama with some additions. Now Trump II desires to narrow the impact by further defining “relatively permanent”, interstate waters, tributary, “continuous surface connection”, and ground water. Legal challenges will occur and based on history, patchwork court decisions will further muddy the “water”. Congress should act to force certainty and not allow successor administrations to rewrite definitions>>
8. **Inland Seas:** A UC Irvine professor, Amir AghaKouchak, is researching a solution to sea level rise. NOAA reports that the ocean level has increased, on average, from 8 to 9 inches since 1880 and is continuing to rise. The main cause is ice packs melting and the earth getting warmer. The proposal is to establish inland seas as a place for this water to go. The current target is Quattar Depression in Egypt. This is a low lying desert region which is 436 feet below sea level. The result would lower global sea level by a few millimeters. Other target areas are the Dead Sea, the West Bank, and the Danakil Depression in Ethiopia. The Salton Sea was also mentioned. All of these would be controversial. Most of these projects could be gravity fed due to destinations being below sea level. However, there are many other concerns as you have guessed.
9. **Tiered Rates Upheld:** A recent Court of Appeals case in California involving LADWP upheld their tiered rate water prices. Prop 218 requires actual justification for prices charged to water users. That is, if you want to charge a customer more for their increased water use, you have to show that it is costing you more to provide the additional water. In this case, LADWP paid different prices for different sources of their water. Also they paid

extra when they exceeded their peak level. The court said tier breakpoints and water budgets could also be considered.

10. **Modesto's Rock Wells:** Modesto has over 9000 rock wells, most of which were constructed over 50 years ago. Originally, they were built to handle storm-water and to recharge their below ground aquifers. A rock well is a hole in the ground filled with rocks designed to capture storm water and allow it flow to aquifers below. Lately they have been experiencing problems. They fill up with leaves and debris and can cause flooding in heavy rain events. They also collect toxic material which is delivered to the groundwater basins. Untreated rainwater is one thing, but urban runoff is another. They require constant maintenance and overtime are not as efficient for groundwater recharge. The new alternative is dry wells. They have a fore basin to collect solids and leaves. The prescreened water is then drained into the ground. The dry wells have 2 to 4 times the capacity but still require regular maintenance. Thus far they have installed 91 dry wells, mostly in the flood areas. The rock wells are being phased out.
11. **Drought Debt:** Local government and state government have been facing severe financial hits with fires, hurricanes, floods and droughts. While most such incidents are a one time occurrence, droughts can extend over years. The \$4 trillion municipal bond market is starting to realize that the drought cost could up-end the entire market. 43 of our 50 states have faced some form of drought experience. The federal government usually has the capacity to help in fires, floods and hurricanes but not in drought related crisis. Water rates which have traditionally been relatively low will have to be increased significantly. Financial experts and planners are starting to give warnings. Actions may be next.

TO: MWDOC Board of Directors

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: January 7, 2026

SUBJECT: December 2025 Local Legislative Report

Following are a few of the more notable developments and issues that have transpired in Orange County over the last several weeks:

- The Moulton Niguel Water District Board of Directors appointed Laguna Niguel resident Brian Parker to fill the vacancy created by the resignation in late November of longtime Board member Duane Cave. Mr. Parker has a long career in the petrochemical industry and most recently served as a member of the 2023-2024 Orange County Grand Jury, co-authoring the report, “Emerging Opportunities in South County Water/Wastewater Systems.”
- Aliso Viejo City Manager Mitzi Ortiz passed away suddenly on December 22. Ms. Ortiz had served as the City Clerk for roughly ten years before being appointed City Manager in August of 2024. City Finance Director Ann Eifert will serve as Acting City Manager pending City Council determination on the path forward.
- The Cypress City Council voted 3-1 to appoint resident Rachel Strong to the at-large council seat vacated by former Council Member Scott Minikus. The appointment came after the individual first selected to the seat withdrew from the process, prompting the City Council to convene a publicly noticed special meeting to meet the Nov. 30 legal deadline to fill the vacancy. Council Member Strong will fill out the remainder of the District 5 seat term, through November 2026.
- Negotiations continue between the County of Orange and a coalition of cities and sanitation districts regarding landfill tipping fees, known as the Waste Infrastructure System Enhancements (WISE) agreements. Final approval by the Board of Supervisors is anticipated in early 2026, after which each jurisdiction will work to complete their respective Prop 218 hearings and approve the rate increases prior to the new fees going into effect July 1, 2026.

- The Laguna Beach City Council voted to place a term limits measure on the November 2026 ballot. Laguna Beach, Brea, La Habra, Laguna Woods, Rancho Santa Margarita, and San Juan Capistrano are the only Orange County cities that do not currently limit the number of terms a council member or Mayor may serve.
- The Costa Mesa City Council officially appointed Cecilia Gallardo-Daly to serve as its City Manager, while Seimone Jurjis and Kelly Reenders have officially assumed the City Manager positions in Newport Beach and Dana Point, respectively, effective January 1.
- Engie North America asked the California Energy Commission (CEC) to suspend processing of its application to construct a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) adjacent to Saddleback Church's San Juan Capistrano satellite church. In its December 22 letter to the CEC, Engie said it would analyze alternative locations and market changes "to improve the economic viability of the project." Engie's proposed 250-megawatt Compass Energy Storage project battery energy storage system would have collected excess energy from the power grid, stored it and then discharged it back to the grid during periods of peak demand. Engie was planning to purchase 41 acres of a former ranch that fronts Camino Capistrano, the railroad tracks and the 5 freeway from Saddleback Church, using 13 acres for the storage facility and preserving the remainder as natural open space with trails.
- Phase II of Orange County's Climate Action Plan, a comprehensive roadmap detailing potential projects and programs to reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions from various sources, has been delayed and won't likely come to the Board of Supervisors until February or March of 2026. Key initiatives within the CAP included increasing stormwater capture and infiltration, reducing the amount of organic waste going to landfills by 75 percent and improving edible food recovery by 20 percent, and exploring the feasibility of regional anaerobic digestion and conversion technology facilities. The County is required to have a completed CAP in order to apply for and secure Proposition 4 grants for these targeted programs.

As part of our scope of work, Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors has continued to monitor the agendas of the 26 city and water district MWDOC members to identify items of relevance to MWDOC. We also continue to monitor activities at the South Coast Air Quality Management District and Orange County Water District.

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

Sincerely,



Peter Whittingham



INFORMATION ITEM

January 7, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Harvey De La Torre, General Manager

Staff Contact: Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Manager
Kevin Hostert, Senior Water Resources Analyst
Jared Dawson, Water Resources Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: MET ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors Receive and file the information.

REPORT

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

- 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
 - Oral Update by District Council Joseph Byrne and State Water Contractors Assistant General Manager Chandra Chilmakuri

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Clarifying MWD OC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
- Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and OC values and interests.*
- Strengthen communication and coordination of messaging.*
- Work with member agencies to develop water supply and demand objectives.*
- Solicit input and feedback from member agencies.*
- Invest in workforce development and succession planning.*

Attachments/Links:

Attachment 1: Issue Briefs a-e

Issue Brief A

SUBJECT: MET Finance and Rate Issues

RECENT ACTIVITY

Water Transactions for December 2025 (for water delivered in October 2025) totaled 123.5 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 2.7 TAF lower than the budget of 126.2 TAF. This translates to \$162.1 million in receipts for December 2025, which were \$22.8 million higher than the budget of \$139.3 million.

Year-to-date water transactions through December 2025 (for water delivered in May 2025 through October 2025) were 704.8 TAF, which was 39.2 TAF lower than the budget of 744.0 TAF.

Year-to-date water receipts through December 2025 were \$851.2 million, which was \$4.1 million lower than the budget of \$855.7 million.

Month		Acre-Feet (AF) ¹		Variance		Revenue (\$) ²		Variance	
Delivered/Billed In	Collected in	Budget	Actual	AF	%	Budget	Actual	\$	%
May	July	110,834	104,802	(6,032)	-5%	122,873,672	134,899,988	12,026,316	10%
June	August	117,893	105,957	(11,936)	-10%	150,194,358	117,905,817	(32,288,541)	-21%
July	September	130,799	117,324	(13,475)	-10%	149,512,493	134,297,129	(15,215,364)	-10%
August	October	133,060	121,437	(11,623)	-9%	152,486,828	153,574,498	1,087,670	1%
September	November ³	125,227	131,748	6,521	5%	141,365,920	148,845,233	7,479,313	5%
October	December ³	126,161	123,488	(2,674)	-2%	139,251,899	162,069,208	22,817,309	16%
YTD Total		743,974	704,756	(39,219)	-5%	855,685,171	851,591,873	(4,093,297)	0%
November	January	128,056	-	-	0%	136,399,566	-	-	0%
December	February	107,621	-	-	0%	112,940,009	-	-	0%
January	March	90,739	-	-	0%	105,775,733	-	-	0%
February	April	78,856	-	-	0%	91,212,001	-	-	0%
March	May	84,484	-	-	0%	98,206,004	-	-	0%
April	June	110,200	-	-	0%	129,990,583	-	-	0%
FY Total		1,343,930	704,756	N/A	N/A	1,530,209,068	851,591,873	N/A	N/A

¹ AF reflected does not include non-member agency transactions.

² Includes Water Sales, Exchanges, and Wheeling for member agency and non-member agency.

³ Information is presented on an accrual basis; corresponding cash data is not yet available.

ISSUE BRIEF B

SUBJECT: MET's Supply Condition Update

RECENT ACTIVITY

The 2025-26 Water Year (2025-26 WY) officially started on October 1, 2025. Thus far, Northern California accumulated precipitation (8-Station Index) reported **11.48 inches or 82% of normal as of December 17th**. The Northern Sierra Snow Water Equivalent was **0.3 inches on December 16th**, which is **4% of normal** for that day. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has set the initial State Water Project (SWP) **"Table A" allocation for WY 2025-26 at 10%**.

The Upper Colorado River Basin has accumulated precipitation of **6.6 inches, or 101% of normal, as of December 17th**. Snowpack is measured across four states in the Upper Colorado River Basin, encompassing the Colorado River system. The Upper Colorado River Basin Snow Water Equivalent was **3.01 inches as of December 17th**, which is **61% 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, 2022 (below 1,075 feet storage level)**. As of December 2025, **there is a 100% chance of shortage continuing in CY 2026, a 93% chance in CY 2027, and a 97% chance in CY 2028. Additionally, there is a 13% chance of a California shortage (below a 1,045-foot storage level) in 2028.**

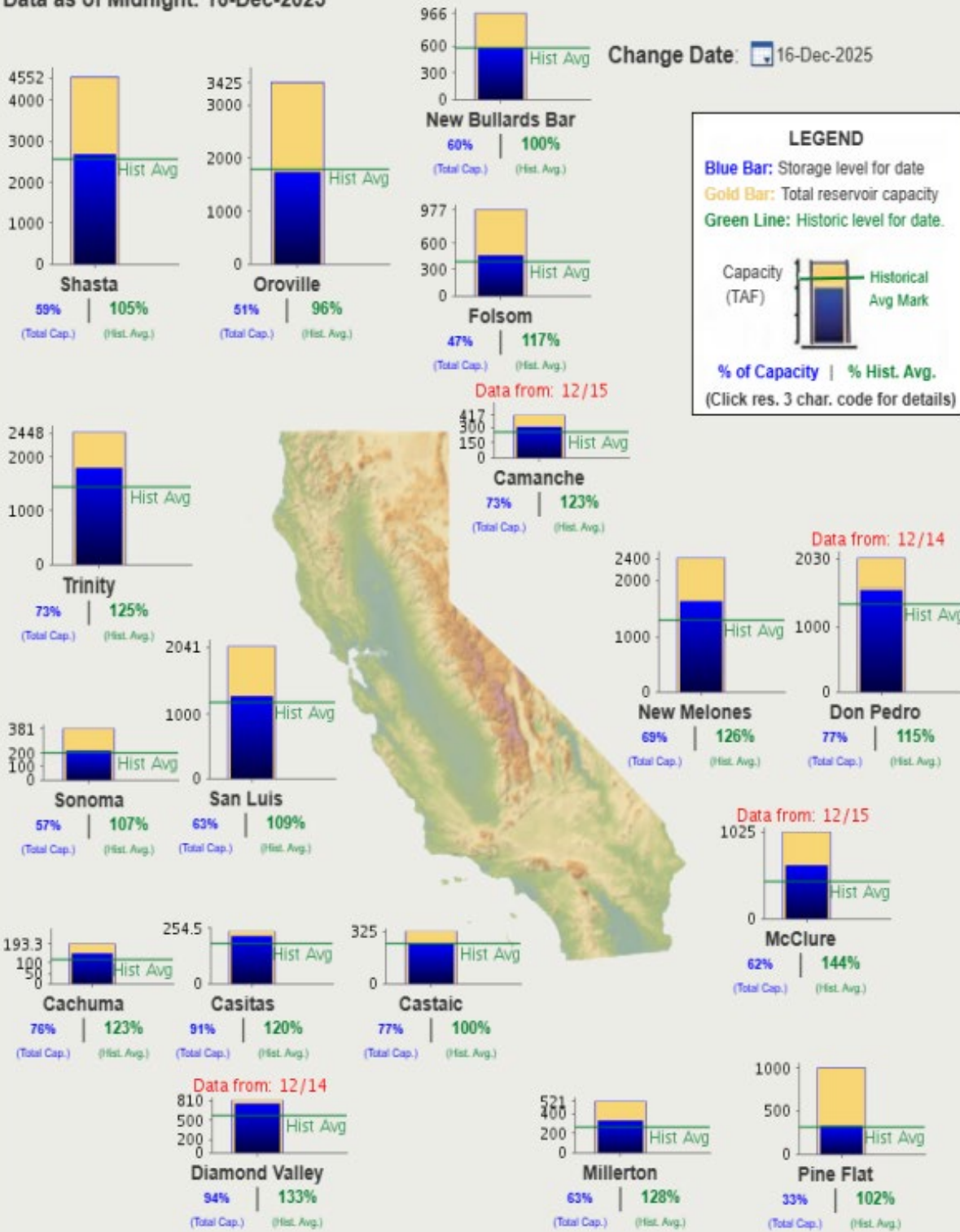
As of December 16th, Lake Oroville storage is at **51% of total capacity and 96% of normal**. Additionally, as of December 16th, San Luis Reservoir has a current volume of **63% of its total capacity and is 109% of normal**.

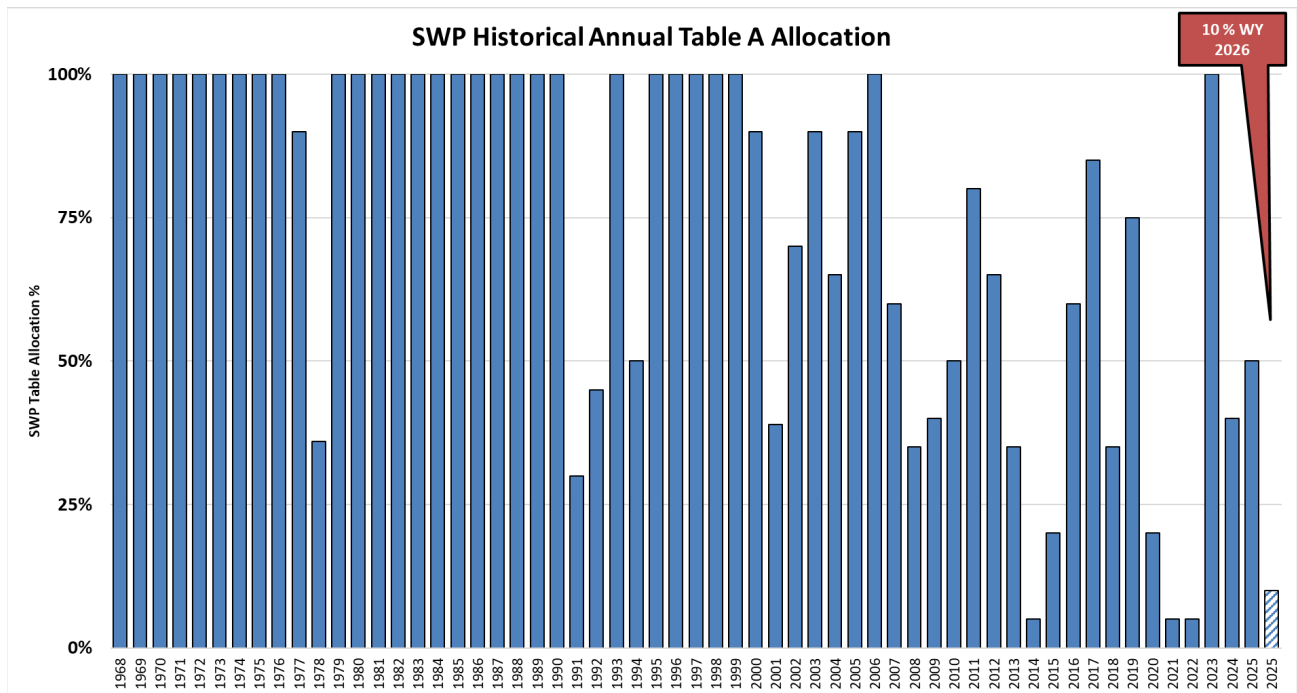
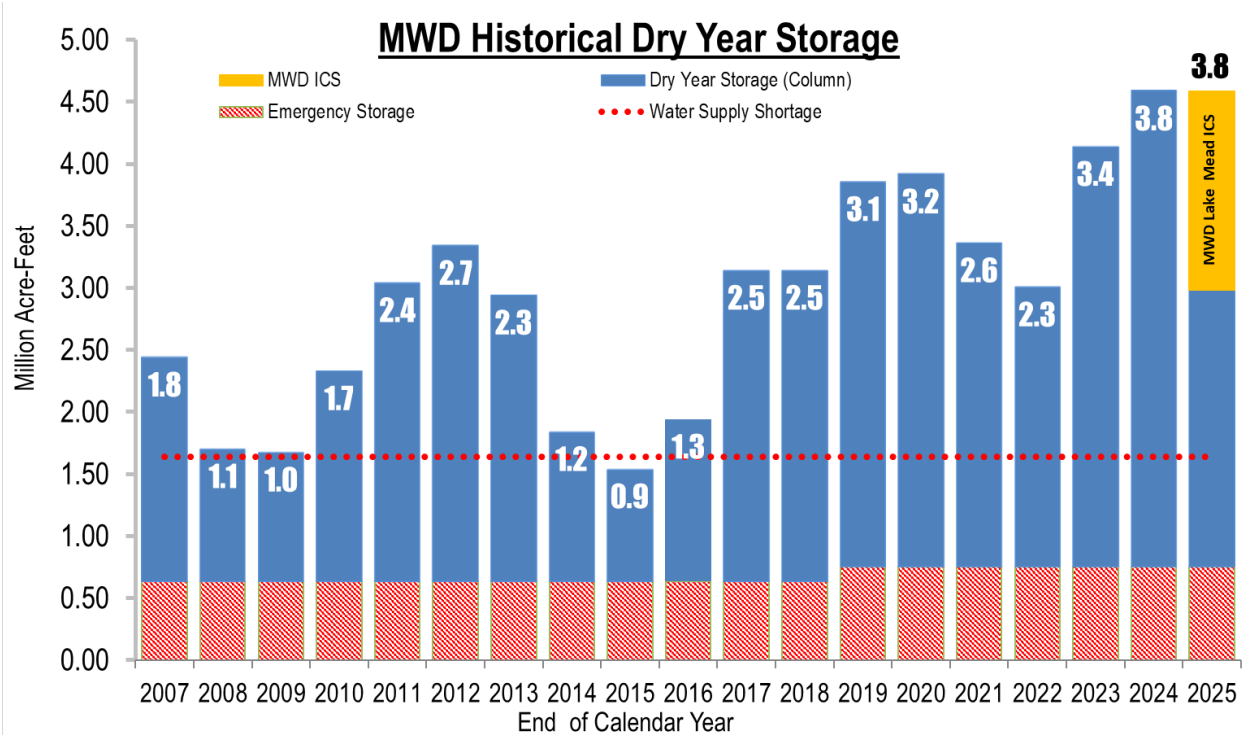
With Calendar Year (CY) 2025 estimated total demands and losses of 1.929 million acre-feet (MAF) and with a 50% SWP Table A Allocation, Metropolitan is projecting that supplies will equal demand levels in CY 2025. Based on this, the estimated total dry-year storage for Metropolitan at the end of **CY 2025 will remain at approximately 3.8 MAF**. A projected dry-year storage supply of **3.8 MAF would be approximately 2.8 MAF above a typical level where MET enters Water Supply Allocations**. A significant factor in maintaining a high water storage level is lower-than-expected water demands. We are seeing regional water demands reaching a 40-year low. **However, with a majority of MET's water supplies stored in Lake Mead, which still projects a 5-year shortage, there remains considerable uncertainty about future supply balances. In addition, the Colorado River Basin States have been meeting for months to negotiate new, post-2026 operations at Glen Canyon Dam, located at Lake Powell, and Hoover Dam, located at Lake Mead.**

CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS:16-DEC-2025

Data as of Midnight: 16-Dec-2025

Change Date: 16-Dec-2025





2025 WSDM Storage Detail

WSDM Storage	1/1/2025 Estimated Storage Levels	Net Projected Storage Action Put (+) / Take (-) ¹	Projected End of Year 2025 Balance ²	2025 Total Storage Capacity
Colorado River Aqueduct Delivery System	1,544,000	0	1,544,000	1,622,000
Lake Mead ICS	1,544,000 ³	0	1,544,000	1,622,000 ⁴
State Water Project System	1,163,000	78,000	1,240,000	2,338,000
MWD & DWCV SWP Carryover	380,000	70,000	450,000	529,000 ⁵
MWD Articles 14(b) and 12(e)	3,000 ⁶	-3,000	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	227,000	8,000	235,000	350,000
Kern Delta Storage Program	142,000	0	142,000	250,000
Mojave Storage Program	19,000	0	19,000	330,000
AVEK Storage Program	27,000	3,000	30,000	30,000
AVEK High Desert Water Storage Program	45,000	0	45,000	280,000
In-Region Supplies and WSDM Actions	1,060,000	-21,000	1,038,000	1,151,000
Diamond Valley Lake	788,000	-25,000	763,000	810,000
Lake Mathews and Lake Skinner	188,000	10,000	198,000	226,000
Conjunctive Use Programs ⁸	84,000	-7,000	77,000	115,000
Other Programs	762,000	-30,000	732,000	1,181,000
Other Emergency Storage	381,000	0	381,000	381,000
DWCV Advanced Delivery Account	381,000	-30,000	351,000	800,000
Total	4,529,000	26,000	4,554,000	6,292,000
Emergency	750,000	0	750,000	750,000
Total WSDM Storage (AF)⁹	3,779,000	26,000	3,804,000	5,542,000

¹ Put capacity assumed under a 50 percent SWP Table A Allocation. Storage program losses included where applicable.

² Preliminary end-of-year balances, subject to DWR adjustments and USBR final accounting in May 2026.

³ 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, based on the SWP Table A allocation, is combined with the remaining balance from the previous year. There is a potential risk that Metropolitan's stored water may be converted to SWP water if the San Luis Reservoir approaches full capacity.

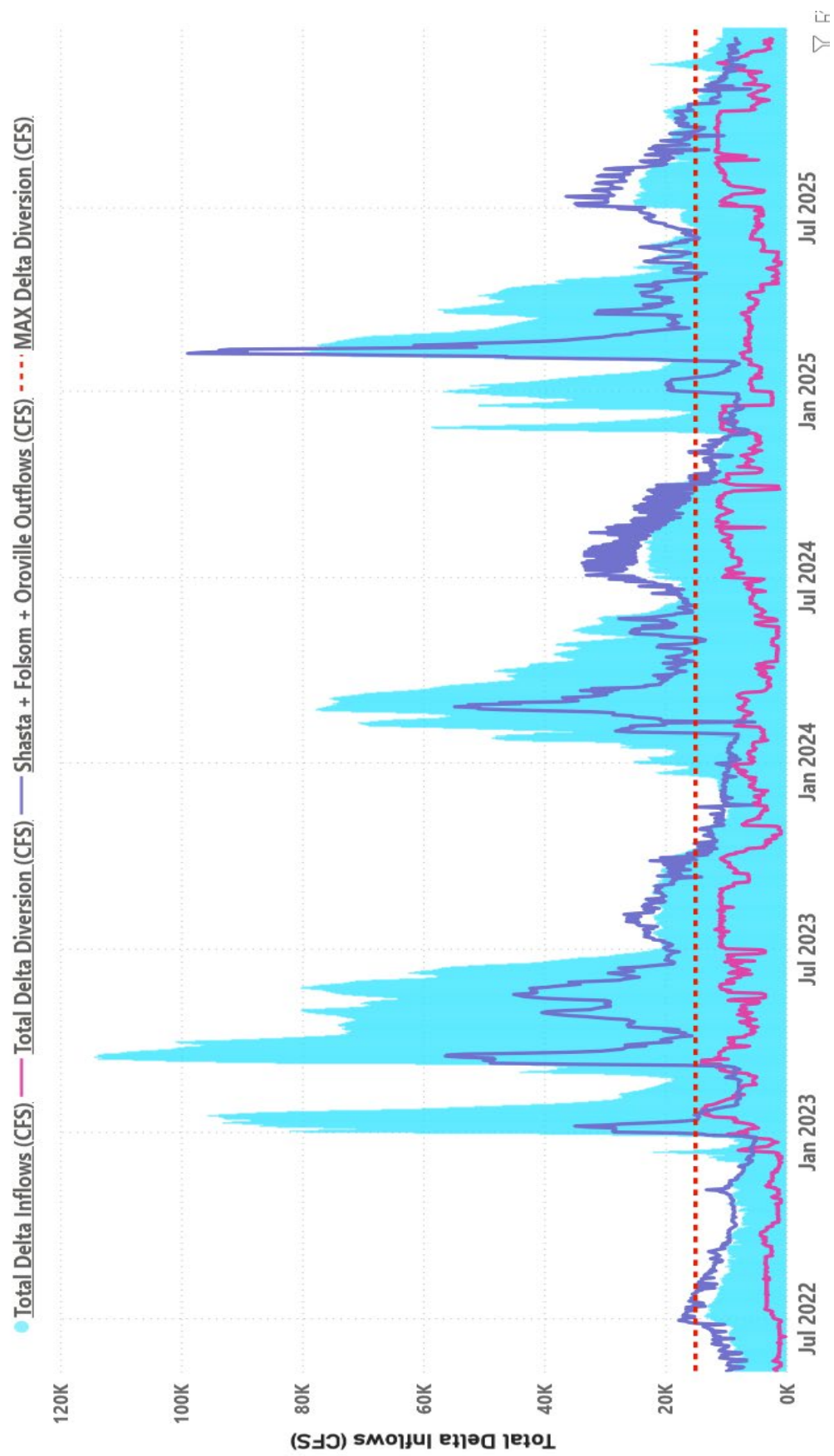
⁶ DWR has approved carryover supplies under Article 14(b) of the State Water Project Contract for delivery in 2025.

⁷ Puts are limited due to water quality considerations.

⁸ Total of active CUP programs, including IEUA/TVMWD (Chino Basin); Three Valleys (Upper Claremont); and Western (Lake Elsinore). On April 8, 2025, the Board authorized the termination of six inactive CUP agreements, effectively decreasing the CUP storage capacity to 115,000 AF on July 1, 2025. The balance decrease is for the extraction of stored water within the terminated Long Beach CUP agreement.

⁹ Total WSDM Storage level subject to change based on accounting adjustments. Total may not sum due to rounding.

Bay Delta Daily Historical Water Operations



ISSUE BRIEF C

SUBJECT: MET's Water Quality Update

RECENT ACTIVITY

Water System Operations

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries are projected to be 98,000 acre-feet (AF) for November with an average of 3,270 AF per day, which is about 570 AF per day lower than in October. Treated water deliveries were 16,700 AF lower than in October for a total of 46,100 AF, or 47 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) projected diversions are 54,800 AF in November. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 3,160 AF per day, totaling about 94,900 AF for the month. The target SWP blend is currently 75% at the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

Metropolitan has sufficient SWP and Colorado River supplies, combined with ample storage reserves to meet demands in 2025. Water continues to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles and operational objectives with an emphasis on positioning SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP dependent area. The SWP Allocation is 50% for the calendar year, and Metropolitan is operating to manage its surplus supplies. Cyclic program deliveries were paused in late September due to increased detections of the invasive golden mussel. In response, CRA pumping has been reduced and SWP blends at the treatment plants are scheduled to increase for the remainder of the year.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Weekly Operations Plan

For additional information, please contact Miluska Propersi at MPropersi@mwdh2o.com

12/11/2025 - 12/18/2025



Colorado River Aqueduct:
3-pump flow

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

Total Member Agency Demands

3,070 AF/Day

Change in Member Agency Demands*

▲ 80 AF/Day

Forecast

December

Deliveries to
Member Agencies

81 TAF

East Branch SPW Imports

Rialto Pipeline	790 AF/day	▲
Santa Ana Valley Pipeline	0 AF/day	▶
Inland Feeder	880 AF/day	▲

West Branch SPW Imports

Castaic Lake	0 AF/day	▼
SCVWA (formerly CLWA)	50 AF/day	▲

Water Quality

Plant Name	Targeted Blend (% SPW)	TDS (mg/L)	TTHMs (µg/L)
	As of 12/10/2025	As of 12/10/2025	As of 12/1/2025
Weymouth	75	377	26.0
Diemer	75	356	21.0
Skinner	75	410	26.0
Jensen	100	269	12.0
Mills	100	323	54.0

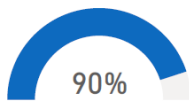
Terminal Reservoirs

as of 12/9/2025

Lake Mathews

164,700 AF

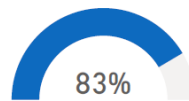
▼ -1,300 AF*



Lake Skinner

36,700 AF

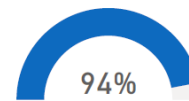
▼ -1,000 AF*



Diamond Valley Lake

762,300 AF

▼ -800 AF*

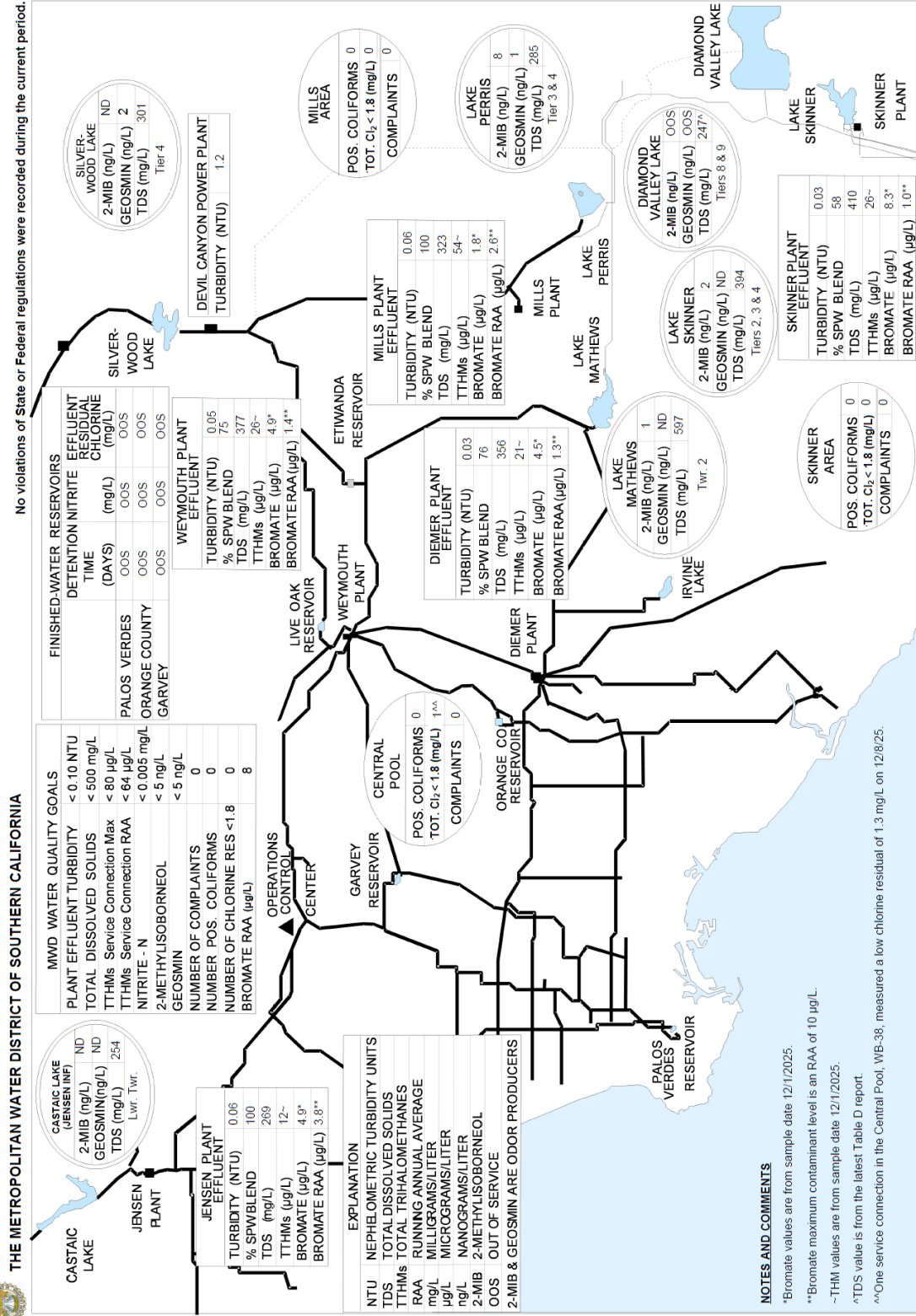


* = data from 12/4/2025

Weekly Water Quality System Status

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Generated On: 12/10/2025 3:06:01 PM



ISSUE BRIEF D

SUBJECT: Colorado River Issues

RECENT ACTIVITY

Develop Post-2026 Guidelines and Negotiate Implementation Agreements: Provide input that shapes the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) selected alternative

Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) Meetings

The Basin States continued to meet up to November 11, 2025, the deadline the Interior Department had given the Basin States to reach consensus on operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead in the post-2026 period. On that day, the Basin States and the federal team issued a joint statement:

The seven Colorado River Basin States together with the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation recognize the serious and ongoing challenges facing the Colorado River. Prolonged drought and low reservoir conditions have placed extraordinary pressure on this critical water resource that supports 40 million people, tribal nations, agriculture, and industry.

While more work needs to be done, collective progress has been made that warrants continued efforts to define and approve details for a finalized agreement. Through continued cooperation and coordinated action, there is a shared commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability and resilience of the Colorado River system.

On the same day Arizona leaders including the Governor and bipartisan leadership from state house and senate submitted a letter to Interior Secretary Burgum asking that he ensure that the Post-2026 Guidelines maintain compliance with the Colorado River Compact and stating that they “find it alarming that the Upper Basin States have repeatedly refused to implement any volume of binding, verifiable water supply reductions” and that this “extreme negotiating posture—four of the seven Basin States refusing to participate in any sharing of water shortages—has led to fundamental impasse that is preventing the successful development of a Seven-State consensus plan for management of the Colorado River.”

The Basin States have not yet reached agreement on the key operational elements of the Post-2026 Guidelines including criteria for releases from Lake Powell, Lower Basin reduction triggers, storage in Lake Mead, and whether and under what conditions the Upper Basin will reduce water uses, but will continue to meet to discuss these issues. Metropolitan staff participates in these meetings as advisors to California's principal

representative in the Basin States negotiations, JB Hamby, in his role as Chair of the Colorado River Board of California.

Colorado River Salinity Control Forum Meeting

Metropolitan hosted the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum meeting at Union Station on October 29. The Forum is made up of representatives from the seven Colorado River Basin States which provide guidance to numerous federal agencies on implementing the Colorado River Salinity Control Program. Due to the federal shutdown, federal staff was limited during the meeting. During the meeting, the Forum received a report from the Bureau of Reclamation that the paradox well has been operating at 2/3 capacity with no increase in seismic activity in the region. The well was shut down for a few years following an earthquake in Paradox Valley when the well was operating at full capacity, but it appears that the well can operate at reduced capacity without inducing additional earthquakes. The salinity near Metropolitan's intake at Lake Havasu is estimated to be 125 milligrams per liter lower due to the overall implementation of the Salinity Control Program.

ISSUE BRIEF E

SUBJECT: Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

ORAL UPDATE

Update by District Council Joseph Byrne and State Water Contractors Assistant General Manager Chandra Chilmakuri

- Federal Central Valley Project (CVP) operations are subject to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), requiring biological opinions from the federal fishery agencies. The biological opinions provide the rules the project must follow in order to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act. The biological opinions are adopted by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in what is called a Record of Decision.
- The State Water Project (SWP) is subject to the federal ESA and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), requiring both the federal biological opinions and an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) . Similar to the biological opinions for the ESA, the ITP provides the rules California Department of Water Resources (DWR) must comply with to satisfy CESA.
- In early 2024, Reclamation received biological opinions (2024 BiOps) under the ESA for continued long-term operations of the CVP and SWP. Around the same time DWR received an Incidental Take Permit (2024 ITP) under CESA for continued long-term operations of the SWP. The operations criteria under the 2024 BiOps and the 2024 ITP were fully consistent.
- In December 2025, Reclamation issued a revised Record of Decision identifying “Action 5” defining the operations criteria for the long-term operations of the CVP and SWP. In this Record of Decision, Action 5 modifies the operations criteria in the 2024 BiOps and as a result, the operations criteria are different for the CVP and SWP due to the fact that the SWP still must comply with the 2024 ITP. Reclamation, however, has noted that Action 5 is consistent with the effects analyzed in the 2024 BiOps.
- In December 2025, DWR sought and received an amendment to its 2024 ITP, which allows some real-time flexibility in SWP operations, subject to CDFW decision-making. This amendment to the 2024 ITP is consistent with the adaptive management envisioned in the 2024 ITP and enables better water supply management during high flow periods.
- The differences in the operations criteria in Action 5 and the amended 2024 ITP may result in a potential misalignment of the CVP and SWP operations. Reclamation and DWR are committed to coordinate in real-time to minimize any potential misalignments and any unintended redirected impacts during 2026 operations.
- The presentation will provide an update on these actions and implications going forward.

OTHER RECENT ACTIVITY

Sites Reservoir and Bay-Delta Interests

Analyses for Metropolitan Board Consideration

At its October 17, 2025, meeting, the Sites Reservoir Committee and Authority Board approved actions tied to the 2026 Amendment 3 Work Plan, including: budget approval, strategic imperatives, and revisions to governance authorities.

The proposed fiscal year (FY) 2026 expense budget totals \$30 million. Revenue for FY 2026 includes \$12.5 million in carryover funds and \$17.5 million in new revenue, supported by \$10.9 million in state funding, \$5.7 million in federal funding, and \$415,000 in Authority Board dues, fully aligning with planned expenditures.

The Reservoir Committee and Authority Board authorized the Executive Director to issue a Request for Qualifications for a terrestrial biological compensatory mitigation contractor. This initiative is crucial for implementing mitigation measures outlined in the Project's Final Environmental Impact Report and permits, particularly as the largest construction costs will stem from compensatory mitigation for terrestrial biological resources. Coordination with construction timelines is essential to avoid delays.

Science and Multi-Benefit Solutions that Improve the Sustainability of the Delta and Inform Regulation

Metropolitan staff, in coordination with UC Davis, conducted field trials on the Pond Harvest Study. The full study will be conducted later this fall and will be used to optimize harvest protocols for pond culture of Delta smelt.

Metropolitan staff met with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Water Resources (DWR), and UC Davis to conduct site visits on Bouldin Island regarding building an interim culture facility for the listed Delta smelt. The future facility will include a lease agreement with the federal agencies to expand their needs to quadruple their production of the listed species.

Delta Conveyance Project

At its October 16, 2025, regularly scheduled board meeting, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board adopted a resolution recognizing and expressing appreciation to Director Miguel Luna for his dedicated service to the DCA. Director Luna was commended for his contributions as the DCA Board's Legislative Liaison, where he led multiple legislative education initiatives and participated in numerous speaking engagements in support of the Delta Conveyance Project. In mid-November, DWR provided Metropolitan with a \$75 million check consistent with the commitments DWR made in 2024 ahead of Metropolitan's vote to continue planning funding for the project.

**Summary Report for
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Board Meeting
December 9, 2025**

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

Approved Commendatory Resolution for Director Larry D. Dick representing Municipal Water District of Orange County. **(Agenda Item 7B)**

Approved Committee Assignments and appointed:

Director Crane to the Audit Committee, Finance, Affordability, Asset Management, and Efficiency Committee, Legislation and Communications Committee, One Water and Adaptation Committee, and the Subcommittee on Imported Water.

Directors Shepherd Romey and Fellow to the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships. **(Agenda Item 7C)**

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

Awarded a \$381,812 procurement contract to Primary Flow Signal Inc. for the replacement of two venturi flowmeters at the LA-17 service connection. **(Agenda Item 7-1)**

a) Authorized on-call agreements with Butier Engineering Inc., MARRS Services, Mott MacDonald, and HDR Inc. in amounts not to exceed \$2 million each, for a maximum period of two years for construction management and inspection services; and b) Authorized an increase of \$1.0 million to an existing agreement with PMA Consultants, for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$1.249 million for cost estimating and scheduling services. **(Agenda Item 7-2)**

Authorized the General Manager to execute up to 32 revocable license agreements in the cities of Santa Clarita, South Gate, and Los Angeles to allow temporary encroachments on Metropolitan fee-owned parcels in Los Angeles County. **(Agenda Item 7-3)**

Adopted the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2026. **(Agenda Item 7-4)**

Reviewed and considered the Yuba County Water Agency certified Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and authorized an amendment to the Dry Year Water Purchase Program Agreement with the California Department of Water Resources to purchase water supply under the Yuba Accord Long-Term Water Transfer Program. **(Agenda Item 7-5)**

Adopted CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the 2019 Mitigated Negative Declaration, and authorized an amendment extending the term to December 31, 2029, for the Rancho Los Cerritos – Looking Back to Advance Forward Project Agreement under the Stormwater for Direct Use Program. **(Agenda Item 7-6)**

OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

a) Adopted CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the certified 2024 Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project Environmental Impact Report; b) Awarded a \$115,611,000 construction contract to J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for rehabilitation of Garvey Reservoir facilities; and c) Authorized an increase of \$3.2 million to an existing agreement with Arcadis U.S. Inc., for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$9.55 million, to provide technical support during construction. **(Agenda Item 8-1)**

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 - Revised 2

January 13, 2026

12:30 PM

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 Meeting Schedule
08:30 a.m. CWC 10:30 a.m. LEGAL 12:00 p.m. BREAK 12:30 p.m. BOD

Written public comments received by 3:00 p.m. the business day before the meeting is scheduled will be posted under the Submitted Items and Responses tab available here: <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>.

The 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 and in-person. To provide public comment by teleconference dial 1-833-548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 815 2066 4276 or to join by computer [click here](#).

Disclaimer: Written and oral public comments are received in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. Please note that Metropolitan does not endorse or ensure the accuracy or reliability of the information provided as public comment or by third parties.

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

Teleconference Locations:

City Hall • 303 W. Commonwealth Avenue, Chambers • Fullerton, CA 92832

1. Call to Order

- a. Invocation: TBD
- b. Pledge of Allegiance: Director Desi Alvarez, West Basin 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. | Report on Directors' Events Attended at Metropolitan's Expense | <u>21-5328</u> |
| | <u>Attachments:</u> <u>01132026 BOD 5A Report</u> | |
| B. | Chair's Monthly Activity Report | <u>21-5329</u> |
| C. | General Manager's summary of activities | <u>21-5330</u> |
| D. | General Counsel's summary of activities | <u>21-5331</u> |
| E. | General Auditor's summary of activities | <u>21-5332</u> |
| F. | Ethics Officer's summary of activities | <u>21-5333</u> |

**** CONSENT CALENDAR ****

6. BOARD CONSENT ITEMS

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------|
| A. | Approval Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Board of Directors and Executive Committee July 22, 2025, August 26, 2025, November 18, 2025 and December 9, 2025; and the Special Board of Directors September 8, 2025; and the Board of Directors for September 9, 2025 and October 14, 2025 | <u>21-5334</u> |
| B. | Approve Committee Assignments | |

7. BOARD LETTERS CONSENT

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|
| 7-1 | Award an \$880,422 procurement contract to Ebara Corporation for an 18-inch conical plug valve for service connection B-01; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or not subject to CEQA. [UPDATED SUBJECT on 12/12/2025] (EOT) | <u>21-5291</u> |
| 7-2 | Amend the Metropolitan Administrative Code to conform to current policy, law, and practice, and to make other minor, non-substantive changes; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (LC) | <u>21-5293</u> |

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

8. BOARD LETTERS ACTION

- 8-1** Review and consider Addendum No. 6 to the certified 2017 Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Rehabilitation Program; award a \$61,242,000 construction contract to J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for PCCP rehabilitation of Sepulveda Feeder Reach 2; and authorize an agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,300,000 for technical support during construction. [UPDATED SUBJECT on 12/12/2025] (EOT) [21-5289](#)
- 8-2** Approve guiding principles for Pure Water Southern California partnerships; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) [21-5290](#)
- 8-3** Approve a limited waiver of the Brown Act closed session privilege regarding the closed session meeting of the Organization, Personnel, and Effectiveness Committee on October 14, 2025, for the limited purpose of conducting an attorney-client privileged investigation overseen by the Ethics Office, and authorize Metropolitan staff and directors present during the October 14, 2025 closed session Committee meeting to disclose information from the closed session to the assigned investigator pursuant to the limited waiver; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (CWC) [21-5288](#)
- 8-4** Authorize filing a cross-complaint in Fakhoury v. City of Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino County Superior Court Case No. CIVRS 2509398; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with legal counsel – existing litigation and initiating litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) and 54956.9(d)(4)] (LC) [21-5335](#)

9. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

- 9-1** Report on Conservation Program [21-5313](#)
- 9-2** Pure Water Southern California and Other Partnership Opportunities: Guest Speaker Robert Ferrante, Chief Engineer and General Manager, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts [21-5295](#)
- 9-3** Pure Water Southern California and Other Partnership Opportunities: Guest Speaker John Entsminger, General Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority [21-5301](#)
- 9-4** Report on Water Surplus and Drought Management. [SUBJECT ADDED on 12/17/2025] (OWA) [21-5342](#)

- 9-5 External Affairs activities. [SUBJECT ADDED on 12/17/2025] [21-5344](#)

10. OTHER MATTERS

- 10-1 Brown Act Training and update on SB 707 (Guest Speaker: Richard Pio Roda, Redwood Public Law) [21-5327](#)

- 10-2 Security Awareness Training and Physical Security Biannual Update [Conference with Tomer Benito, Unit Manager-Security, Office of Safety, Security, and Protection or designated Metropolitan Security Agent on threats to public services or facilities; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957(a)] [21-5326](#)

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.