



General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of August 2024

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Message from the General Manager

In August, Metropolitan's Education Program marked a major milestone: 40 years of acclaimed water education in Southern California.

Since its inception in 1984, Metropolitan's Education Program has pioneered experiential learning opportunities, engaging 20,000 students and teachers a year across the region. It has evolved to meet the needs of the District, from the early days of curriculum supplements like *Water Ways* and *Admiral Splash* to the creation of lasting resources like *bewaterwise.com* to the recent unveiling of a place-based curriculum focused on climate change.

The celebration, set against a lively luau-themed backdrop, brought together past and present staff, including the program's first manager, Sue Meltzer, other former managers Russ Donnelly and Adrian Hightower, current manager Benita Horn and other team members who continue to champion water education.

While we celebrate and take pride in four decades of success, we also recommit ourselves further innovation to promote water use efficiency and raise awareness of the need for investment to ensure water security into the future.

The Education Program is on the frontlines of Metropolitan's mission today while inspiring the next generation of engineers, scientists, and policymakers.

Deven Upadhyay
Interim General Manager



Right and Bottom Photos
40th Anniversary of
Metropolitan's Education
Programs



Strategic Priorities Update

The General Manager's Strategic Priorities guide actions in key areas of change and opportunity that will strengthen Metropolitan and its ability to fulfill its mission. Review the General Manager's [Business Plan for FY24-25](#) and the "[SMART Tracker](#)" dashboard of specific actions that advance the Strategic Priorities.



Empower the workforce and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion



Goal Dashboard

8 Outcomes in progress at the start of the fiscal year

■ **Build a safe, inclusive, and accountable workplace where all employees feel valued, respected, and able to meaningfully contribute to decisions about their work to fulfill Metropolitan's Mission.**

Senior Executives previewed the Civil and Inclusive Workplace training, which incorporates aspects of safety and our vision and values to further advance one holistic effort around cultural transformation for Metropolitan.

To streamline employee access of summary reports of injury, illness, and near-miss incidents each month, a report link is now available through the Safety and Environment webpage on the Intranet.

At the inaugural Executive Safety Committee meeting, the National Safety Council (NSC) introduced the executives to an overview of Safety Leadership. The Human Organizational and Performance (HOP) training is scheduled to be delivered by NSC to all Safety, Regulatory, and Training staff for professional development and possible inclusion in the safety leadership training.

■ **Prepare and support the workforce by expanding training and skill development and updating strategies to recruit and retain diverse talent, to meet the evolving needs and expectations of the workplace.**

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion staff met with Calleguas Municipal Water District to co-create solutions around workforce development and to discuss Metropolitan's Apprenticeship Program.

The Engineering Services Group will begin the next cohort of its Career Launch program in October 2024.



Sustain Metropolitan's mission with a strengthened business model



Goal Dashboard

5 Outcomes in process at the start of the fiscal year

- **Develop revenue and business model options that support the needs of the member agencies as well as Metropolitan's financial sustainability and climate adaptation needs.**

At the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) Task Force in August, Dave Pedersen of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District presented the proposed process for business model review, which was also outlined in a letter signed by all 26 member agencies. The Task Force found the process agreeable, and members voiced their continuing interest in being involved as it moves forward.

Another Treated Water Cost Recovery Workshop was also held in August.

- **Identify and secure programmatic cost savings, organizational efficiencies and external funding.**

Proposed budget reductions have been reviewed and established across all Groups. Finance continues to monitor expenditures and will keep the Board informed through regularly scheduled financial reporting.

Metropolitan, the San Diego County Water Authority, and the Imperial Irrigation District signed an agreement to leave 50,000 AF of water in Lake Mead in 2024, providing revenue for Metropolitan while benefitting the Colorado River system. This agreement enables USBR "Bucket 1" funding to support conservation, which also benefits Metropolitan at approximately \$16M. While the agreement will also cover similar action in 2025 and 2026, the volume and value of the conservation in those years is still TBD.



Colorado River

Agreement with San Diego and Imperial Irrigation District enables Inflation Reduction Act funding for 50 TAF of conservation in 2024



Adapt to changing climate and water resources



Goal Dashboard

10 Outcomes in process at the start of the fiscal year

Provide each member agency access to an equivalent level of water supply reliability.

The CAMP4W Task Force met in August and reviewed the evolution of evaluative criteria and the feedback received from member agencies. The input from the member agencies and Task Force is being used to refine and update the evaluative criteria, shifting from an approach focused on a universal scoring system to one that provides a more comprehensive evaluation using both quantitative and qualitative measures; this is expected to be next presented to the Board Task Force in September.

Among the projects underway to enhance the long-term supply reliability for State Water Project dependent areas, one item came to the Board for approval in August: the installation of a large isolation valve for the Wadsworth Pump Plant Bypass. This installation work, through a change order to the existing contract, advances future work into the current phase and thereby eliminates an additional shutdown and the costs for preparing, advertising, and administering a second contract, as well as additional contractor mobilization. The valve would be installed during the planned February 2025 shutdown for the Inland Feeder/Rialto Pipeline Intertie.

Advance the long-term reliability and resilience of the region's water sources through a One Water approach that recognizes the interconnected nature of imported and local supplies, meets both community and ecosystem needs and adapts to a climate change.

The State Water Resources Control Board issued a notice of public hearing regarding the Delta Conveyance Project on July 31, 2024. The public hearing is set to begin on January 16, 2025, and will address the water right change petition filed by the Department of Water Resources to add two new points of diversion and rediversion to the water rights associated with the State Water Project.

Staff held a pre-bid inspection for the installation of flow meters and telemetry equipment on diversion siphons on Metropolitan's Delta Islands. This project is the fifth and final phase of a project related to SB 88 compliance. Staff continued design activities for the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project. Design of a new levee improvement project on Bouldin Island started in August.

A wide range of predevelopment work to advance the Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) program has progressed this month:

- Discussions with member agencies continue toward developing term sheets by the end of 2024. Follow-up meetings with each member agency have been held, and a third Workshop was convened in August. Member Agency responsibilities and schedule are being discussed.
- Value Engineering (VE) was performed for Reach 1 and the conveyance team is evaluating what suggestions will be incorporated into the design. Additional tunneling is a major topic of discussion. Geotech and potholing for Reach 1 is nearly complete, while similar work on Reach 2 is just beginning.
- Technical analysis and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) preparation are ongoing. The draft EIR is scheduled to be available by mid 2025. The final EIR schedule has been moved up to January 2026 to meet budget/rate calendars for the next Metropolitan biennium and LA County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) 5-year budget cycle.
- As staff and USBR discuss the \$99M Large Scale Water Recycling grant, the Board was provided an informational update in August. A board action for acceptance of the grant is scheduled for October 2024.
- Also provided to the Board in August was information on agreement modifications that increase the responsibilities of the LACSD for treatment at PWSC. An action item for the LACSD agreement modifications is scheduled for the September.
- Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) regulations were officially approved in August, and a summary document was prepared by Water Quality staff; results of our DPR analysis will be provided at the September subcommittee meeting.

Application activity has increased in Metropolitan's commercial, industrial, and institutional turf replacement program to remove non-functional turf and replace it with climate appropriate landscapes. Staff is currently ramping up inspections to accommodate the increase in activity due to the release of the grant funding.

A meeting of member agency Water Use Efficiency coordinators was held in August, with a presentation by a member agency on turf replacement design services.



Protect public health, the regional economy, and Metropolitan's assets



Goal Dashboard

9 Outcomes in process at the start of the fiscal year

Proactively identify, assess, and reduce potential vulnerabilities to Metropolitan's system, operations, and infrastructure.

Important risk assessments are underway, including for Lake Mathews and Lake Skinner. The "Potential Failure Modes Analysis" was completed for Lake Mathews, and the Lake Skinner assessment is on target for completion by June 2025.

A system-wide criticality assessment has been completed to support the prioritization operations facilities related to potential vulnerabilities and emergency readiness investments.

The recently expanded Duty Officer cadre, consisting of Emergency Management and Security Management personnel, last month responded to or monitored over 20 incidents, including earthquakes, wildfires, a worldwide IT outage, and a potential water leak. The Duty Officers tracked all incidents in Metropolitan's WebEOC system.

Planning has begun for the 2024 ShakeOut EOC exercise, in collaboration with Southern California Edison and some of our member agencies. The Metropolitan Emergency Response Plan will be assessed during this exercise in October.

Apply innovation, technology, and sustainable practices across project lifecycles.

Two electric vehicle charging stations to be used exclusively by district vehicles were installed at the Weymouth plant this month. Staff has issued a Request for Proposals and received and prequalified four consultants to perform preliminary design for Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) charging infrastructure. Staff began preparing an October board action to award on-call agreements to support preliminary design.

Staff completed an analysis to balance the risks associated with the age and condition of critical fleet vehicles with regulations to transition to ZEVs and available funding for purchasing replacement vehicles. This analysis was summarized and presented to the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee to allow future consideration by the Board for possible financing of additional vehicle purchases above the existing approved budget.



Dam Safety

Risk Assessment for Lake Mathews completed



Partner with interested parties and the communities we serve



Goal Dashboard

6 Outcomes in progress at the start of the fiscal year

- **Grow and deepen collaboration and relationships among member agencies, interested parties and leaders on the issues most important to them and toward mutual and/or regional benefits.**

Staff presented CAMP4W to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Water Working Group, and an Environmental Listening Session was held to seek input on the attributes and metrics for Community Equity and Environmental Co-Benefits in the CAMP4W evaluative criteria. Staff participated in a panel discussion on Investing in our Water Future at the Building Industry Association of Southern California's Water Conference. An Agricultural Listening Session was organized by Eastern Municipal Water District, where agricultural water users shared innovative efficiency measures and Metropolitan discussed CAMP4W and water reliability.

We issued a monthly newsletter to 16,000 subscribers including all Metropolitan employees. A slide show of the Employee Appreciation event is posted and running in the lobby at Metropolitan Headquarters. We are creating content on Water Quality lab and employees for social media as part of the 50th anniversary of the lab. And we celebrated another anniversary, 40 years of the Education Program, convening employees at a "Learning Luau" and looking ahead to future opportunities for water education.

- **Reach disadvantaged communities and non-traditional interested parties to better understand their needs and ensure their inclusion in decision making.**

Tribal outreach and engagement focused on the apprenticeship program and included speaking to a welding class at an area high school.

Metropolitan is collaborating with other California-based governmental entities to envision a one-stop-shop for procurement opportunities for small businesses and historically underutilized businesses, possibly modeled on or building off of the City of LA's Regional Alliance Marketplace for Procurement (RAMP), an online tool for accessing contracting opportunities from regional partners.

Executive Summary

This executive summary is added to this report to provide a high-level snapshot of a key accomplishment from each area of the organization. Detailed information is reported in the pages following this summary.

Bay-Delta Resources

The State Water Resources Control Board issued a notice of public hearing regarding the Delta Conveyance Project on July 31, 2024. The public hearing is set to begin on January 16, 2025, and will address the water right change petition filed by the Department of Water Resources to add two new points of diversion and rediversion to the water rights associated with the State Water Project.

Staff provided a tour of the Delta to students and researchers from COEQWAL, the Collaboratory for Equity in Water Allocation. Twenty graduate students and postdocs from several University of California campuses toured the Delta, the Freshwater Pathway, Bouldin Island, and Webb Tract in August.

Chief Financial Officer

Contracting Services Unit was named as a recipient of the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement award by the National Procurement Institute. The Achievement of Excellence in Procurement® recognizes organizational excellence in public and non-profit procurement nationwide. The Contracting Services Unit was evaluated based on operations across all its functional areas of Procurement, Inventory Management, and Warehousing. The evaluation also included an assessment of the education and experience of staff. The award criteria are designed to measure innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity, and leadership attributes of the procurement function.

Colorado River Resources

In August, the Bureau of Reclamation determined the water supply available from the Colorado River for 2025. As Lake Mead is forecast to end the year between elevation 1,050' and 1,075', a level one shortage has been declared for 2025. A level-one shortage results in cutbacks to Arizona, Nevada, and the Country of Mexico. California will not be subject to any curtailments next year. Metropolitan may be able to access its Intentionally Created Surplus water in Lake Mead, if needed, to fill the Colorado River Aqueduct next year.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Members of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Team had a busy August advancing work across Tribal Outreach & Engagement, Workforce Development, Business Outreach, and on our employee/cultural initiatives. Given the recent recruitment for the newest Apprenticeship class, we pursued broad outreach efforts to our Tribal Communities and our many community-based partners in anticipation of casting a wide net for talent into this life-changing opportunity. In addition, our DEI Workforce Development Manager and Chief DEI Officer engaged with Calleguas MWD to discuss workforce development and Metropolitan's apprenticeship program. The Business Outreach Team had a busy month, engaging in a variety of events ranging from the Building Industry Association of Southern California to the Orange County Black Chamber of Commerce. Last, but certainly not least, we continue to advance our Military/Veteran recruitment efforts with partnership conversations related to the Skillbridge program and our continuing efforts around 29 Palms Marine Base with a trip planned there in late September.

Engineering Services

In August 2024, micro tunneling was completed on the third and last tunnel for the Perris Valley Pipeline Tunnel Project. This project constructs three tunnels roughly 3,000 feet long and 120 inches in diameter. The last tunnel was the shortest at 600 linear feet but was the most sensitive since it crossed a Metrolink railway and the 215 freeway. The tunnel hole was a significant milestone in completing the Perris Valley Pipeline and enhancing water reliability in Metropolitan's eastern region. The contractor will continue to install the 97-inch diameter steel pipe that will carry water through the tunnel and perform site restoration. The project is expected to be complete in early 2025.

Equal Employment Opportunity Office

On August 20, 2024, the Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) conducted a refresher training on the EEO Investigative Procedures for the Board and its direct reports during the EOP committee meeting. The training included a high-level overview of EEO's investigative procedures, including the complaint intake process, complaint outcomes, interim measures, and investigative steps and findings. The presentation generated a fruitful discussion and provided an opportunity for the Board to ask clarifying questions. Also, EEO is scheduled to attend the Business Management Team's quarterly meeting on August 29 to introduce upcoming changes to recruitment as they relate to EEO's Concurrence Process. In this meeting, EEO will answer questions, address concerns and incorporate feedback that would support Metropolitan's commitment to equal employment opportunity.

External Affairs

On August 1, 2024, Metropolitan hosted Senator Menjivar (D-Van Nuys) and her staff for a water tour at Jensen Water Treatment Plant. Chair Ortega, Directors McMillan and Ramos, and San Fernando Mayor Rodriguez were in attendance.

Human Resources

Employee Relations conducted four Desert visits in the month of August and are having frequent office hours with staff. These visits have been incredibly rewarding, providing valuable insights and strengthening our relationships with our colleagues in the Desert. We are confident that these visits will lead to improved collaboration and better outcomes for our organization.

Information Technology

To safeguard Metropolitan's operations, the Information Technology Group completed the migration of Proofpoint to Microsoft Defender for Office 365. Microsoft G5 Defender for Security encompasses a range of advanced security solutions and features designed to protect our organization from cyber threats, ensure data security, and maintain compliance.

Safety, Security and Protection

Security is initiating a new pilot program to deploy advanced security technology, including robot and drone patrollers, to enhance our detection and deterrence capabilities. This initiative aims to integrate cutting-edge autonomous systems into our security framework, providing real-time surveillance, improved response times, and comprehensive coverage of our facilities. By leveraging these technologies, we expect to reduce human resource strain, increase situational awareness, and bolster overall security effectiveness. The pilot will focus on evaluating the operational efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and potential for broader implementation across Metropolitan.

The Emergency Management Program continues to focus on improving employee safety by expanding its response role to an increasing number of real-time emergencies. Staff responded to multiple wildfires and earthquakes that affected some Metropolitan facilities and partner agencies. Staff also conducted official State Emergency Management training courses for EOC staff and is preparing for the upcoming Great California ShakeOut exercise in October.

Health and Safety (H&S) facilitated the inaugural Executive Safety Committee (ESC) meeting. This ESC will be providing executive-level decisions on safety priorities, resource allocation, and initiatives affecting Metropolitan business operations. Also, H&S updated the existing heat illness prevention program and is currently training employees on the new indoor heat illness prevention regulation.

Environmental responded to an unplanned release of raw Colorado River Aqueduct water from the Corona Power Plant and completed inspection and confirmed readiness of the Intake temporary bleach system to receive delivery. Additionally, Environmental continued to monitor South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) proposed new rule that may affect the Plasma Arc Cutting (PAC) system being installed at La Verne.

The Apprenticeship Program's electrical classroom was relocated to the new Apprenticeship Training Center, and the Water Education Team recognized Apprenticeship for supporting their outreach efforts to workforce development by conducting field trips and workshops.

Technical Training conducted a 64-hour initial training on Systems Operating Orders Manual (SOOM): High-Voltage Switching class for In-Town and two 16-hour refresher training on SOOM: High-Voltage Switching for Desert.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

Metropolitan staff applied for an unprecedented \$212 million in grant funds during FY 2023/2024. As of August 2024, we have been awarded \$127 million, and \$29 million in applications is still pending award notifications.

Water Resource Management

Water Resource Management made strides in furthering regional conservation efforts by securing two grants through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program. Staff also held a landscape conservation webinar and attended an annual AWE conference. Staff attended and presented at the 9th Annual California Water Data Summit. On the Colorado River, staff met with USBR and provided a technical overview of the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency High Desert Water Bank, which was approved to receive grant funding from the federal government under the Inflation Reduction Act.

Water System Operations

This month, staff in the Asset Management Unit completed an analysis balancing the risks associated with the age and condition of critical fleet vehicles with Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) regulations and available funding for purchasing replacement vehicles. This analysis was summarized and presented to the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee to allow the Board to consider additional financing for additional purchases above the existing approved budget. Also, two more Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations to be used exclusively by district EVs were installed at the Weymouth plant this month. These highlights mark the district's progress toward the expansion of its ZEV fleet.



"From transitioning to zero-emissions and pushing to reduce air toxics, to the emergence of Quaggas on the State Water Project, staff are embracing new challenges and striving to provide regulatory solutions that focus on practical and achievable work practices."

***Kiersten Melville, Interim Environmental Program Support Team Manager
Air Quality/ Wastewater and Tanks***



"The proper handling of hazardous materials and wastes is not only critical for complying with regulatory requirements, but for the safety of all Metropolitan employees and the public."

***Dave LeDuff, Interim Environmental Program Support Team Manager
Hazardous Materials***

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Metropolitan’s Environmental Program Support Team (EPST) supports Metropolitan’s overall mission to provide adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way. The team has three primary programs:

Wastewater and Tanks – Manages wastewater permits for sewer discharges and supports critical distribution system maintenance work by obtaining dewatering permits and submitting Quagga Mussel Control Plans. It also supports equipment custodians to comply with the regulatory requirements for underground storage tanks (USTs), and develops and maintains Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) plans for facilities that store oil-containing products.

Air Quality – Manages Metropolitan’s air quality permits and emissions reporting for a wide variety of critical support equipment. They track and advocate on Metropolitan’s behalf on the many proposed air quality regulations. They have been actively collaborating with interdisciplinary groups in the District on Metropolitan’s Climate Action Plan and the zero-emission fleet transition required by the Advanced Clean Fleet regulation.

Hazardous Materials – Supports the safe handling, management, and shipment of hazardous materials critical to water treatment and conveyance operations. This also includes supporting spill response efforts and coordinating emergency response exercises. They also provide expertise and support for the abatement of hazardous materials (lead, asbestos, PCBs) and the complex regulations governing their removal.

IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

Metropolitan must comply with some of the most complex and stringent environmental regulations in the country, if not the world. The team uses its technical expertise to create and manage Metropolitan’s environmental policies and procedures and provides subject matter expert guidance and training.

MEMORABLE MOMENT

EPST is part of the Safety, Regulatory, and Training Section (SRT) that is now under the Office of Safety, Security and Protection (OSSP) as part of Metropolitan’s strategic reorganization. This positions the team to enhance their support Metropolitan-wide. This includes supporting engineering projects, partnering with Emergency Management, and working closely with Security on illegal hazardous material dumping issues.

Water Supply Conditions Report

Water Year 2023-2024

As of 08/31/2024

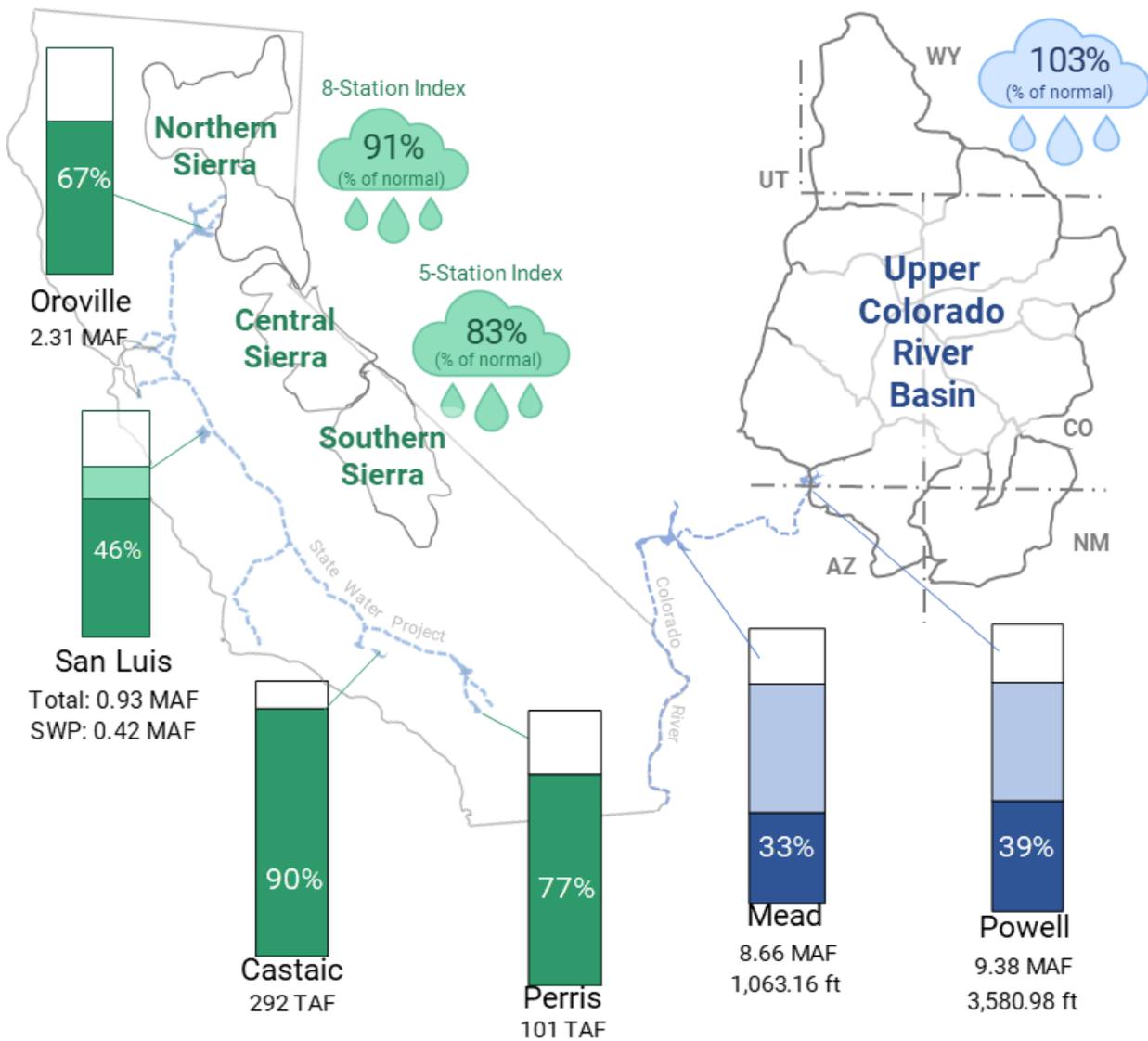
Extended Report: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

State Water Project Resources

SWP Allocation
40% Table A: 764,600 acre-feet

Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions
931,000 acre-feet



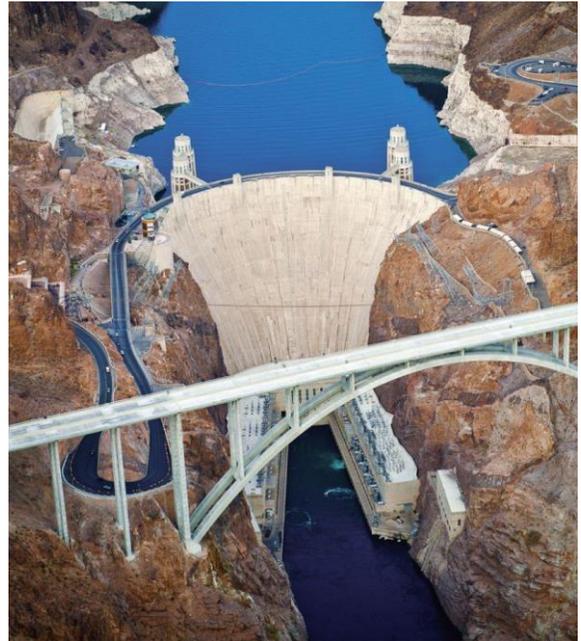
Reservoir Report

End of Month Reservoir Report

Monthly Update as of:

8/31/2024

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	9,372,753	39%
Lake Mead	8,671,000	34%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	2,292,862	67%
Shasta Lake	2,997,780	66%
San Luis Total	936,402	46%
San Luis CDWR	519,103	49%
Castaic Lake	291,123	90%
Silverwood Lake	72,169	96%
Lake Perris	100,949	77%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	773,774	96%
Lake Mathews	102,642	56%
Lake Skinner	38,296	87%



Hoover Dam



Metropolitan's Mission is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

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