



General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of September 2024

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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.**

Civil & Inclusive Workplace Training is being provided to managers starting in September. In addition, we are creating a toolkit for managers to help facilitate conversations with their teams about values and respect in the workplace.

■ **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.**

A formal mentoring program for new managers is underway, and the Engineering Services Group's next Career Launch cohort will begin its first module on October 17, 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.**

The Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) Task Force met in September and worked toward finalizing evaluative criteria. A Treated Water Cost Recovery meeting was held in September, and the member agency business model retreat is set for October 10-11.

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

The Centralized Grants Office hosted a SoCal Water Grants Network meeting in late August. The Network heard a panel discussion on strategic partnerships for the pursuit and management of grants.

Last month Metropolitan Legislative staff reported to the board on the status of Senate Bill 1255, introduced by Senator Durazo, which sought to provide financial relief to low-income households offering a 20 percent water-rate discount for eligible customers of larger water systems and which aimed to establish a universal water rate assistance program. The bill has been held in the state's Appropriations Committee and did not move forward this legislative session. While the bill garnered significant support, especially from advocacy groups, it did not proceed primarily due to concerns about funding mechanisms. The bill proposed using voluntary donations rather than state taxes or fees to fund the assistance program.

Metropolitan staff continues to work with Eastern Municipal Water District and the University of California Riverside on a water affordability study expected to be completed in December 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 Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water Task Force met in September and worked toward finalizing evaluative criteria and reviewed the evaluation of a sample project to test the criteria and presentation format. Additional input was received, and staff intends to return with another set of scored projects to further test and refine this important component of the decision making framework.

Water Resource Management staff 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. Regarding 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.

In support of long-term water supply reliability for the State Water Project dependent areas, a September 2024 board action authorized the procurement of the remaining long-lead equipment for improvements to Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations. Phase 1, which includes site investigation, design to the 75 percent level, and completion of a guaranteed maximum price to complete all work is scheduled for completion by December 2024.

■ **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 Board authorized the General Manager to provide funding for three forest resilience programs in the northern Sierra Nevada. The programs support a holistic watershed approach to sustainable Bay-Delta water supplies and will include pilot investigations to better understand the effects of improving watershed health on water quality, water supply, habitat protection, wildfire risk, and carbon sequestration.



Watershed Resilience

Funding approved to test water supply impacts of forest restoration

A Water Use Efficiency coordinator meeting was held in-person in September, and the next Program Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to take place in October. An update on Conservation as a California Way of Life will be presented and discussed at October's One Water and Stewardship Committee meeting.

Staff and consultants are working on the next One Water Awards program and are beginning to develop a short list of potential awardees and looking at strategies to promote them.



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.

Duty Officers provided support as we monitored multiple wildfires and related notifications during the last month. There are a total of four Duty Officers now, and Security Management aims to add at least one more Duty Officer.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff participated in an official State EOC Management course this month, as well as one in July 2024. EOC staff will participate in the Great California ShakeOut planned for October 2024. A second Emergency Management staff person has become an authorized State instructor and can now teach California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) courses.

A kick-off meeting was held this month to update the current Risk Assessment and Emergency Response Plan, a project expected to take one year.

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

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 is preparing an October board action to award on-call agreements to support preliminary design.



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.**

Metropolitan held a public forum on CAMP4W in September with representatives of community-based and environmental organizations, consultants, tribal interests, member agencies and staff. Approximately 60 people participated in person and 80 online. Following a presentation on CAMP4W, the participants worked in groups to share their priorities for Metropolitan's climate adaptation policies and then to explore ideas on collaboration and partnerships to help accomplish the work that might evolve from the policies. The information shared from the groups is being considered in development of the policies and partnerships element of the plan. Black Women for Wellness, a non-profit, shared their work on environmental and reproductive justice as well as their new Drinking Water Guide for South Los Angeles. The guide was developed in response to community questions and concerns regarding the quality and safety of their drinking water.

Metropolitan also updated the member agency Public Information Officers (PIO) on CAMP4W and began formation of a CAMP4W PIO Working Group.

At the direction of management and the Bay-Delta Ad Hoc Committee, External Affairs (EA) prepared and will begin to execute an outreach effort to inform and engage a broad range of interested parties to provide input (written and public comment) in preparation for the Board's vote on funding to complete the planning for the Delta Conveyance Project in December.

New employee communication assets include a "Water Champions" social media campaign which will highlight employees and their work on a weekly basis through 2024. Engagement on social media has been very high.



"Water Champions"

Social media campaign launched to highlight employees and their work

Metropolitan's Vision and Values are now posted as part of the "Who We Are" section of the website, at www.mwdh2o.com/vision-and-values. EA staff will continue to work with Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) and Human Resources on this initiative and supplemental tools for supporting improvements to the workplace culture.

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

Staff are evaluating the data available on use of rebate programs within disadvantaged communities (DAC) in preparation for GIS mapping. A new turf rebate conservation media campaign will be in multiple languages with a minimum 30 percent spend in disadvantaged communities.

A new sustainability competition program initiated by Education staff will reach college students, including those in DAC communities.

Members of the DEI team met with Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) in Parker, AZ in September to work toward better partnering around workforce development efforts in Tribal communities.

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

Staff presented information to the State Water Resource Control Board related to Sites Reservoir's water rights hearing. On September 20, the Third District Court of Appeal [released an opinion](#) upholding the decision by the Superior Court of Yolo County in the *Friends of the River v. Sites Project Authority* case. The Yolo County Superior Court and now the Court of Appeal have found in the Sites Project Authority's favor in every claim asserted by the environmental organizations challenging the sufficiency of the Final Environmental Impact Report, concluding that the Authority fully complied with the California Environmental Quality Act in its review of the Sites Project.

Staff presented twice at the 154th Annual American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting.

Chief Financial Officer

In September 2024, Metropolitan priced the \$214,335,000, Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, 2024 Series C. The 2024 Series C bonds were priced at a True Interest Cost of 3.71 percent (to maturity) and 1.76 percent (to call date of 4/1/34) and received a strong reception from investors, who placed over \$1.3 billion in orders. On September 18, 2024, Metropolitan priced the \$150,000,000, Variable Rate Subordinate Water Revenue Bonds, 2024 Series D, with an initial weekly variable rate of 2.60 percent. Barclays was the senior underwriter for both the 2024C bonds and the variable rate subordinate 2024D bonds. The 2024C bonds and the variable rate subordinate 2024D bonds closed on September 19, 2024.

Colorado River Resources

Following board authorization in August 2024, in September Metropolitan executed an agreement with Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority to leave an additional 50,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead. In response to leaving the water in Lake Mead, the San Diego County Water Authority and Metropolitan will receive revenue generated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation under the Inflation Reduction Act.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Team continued to build connections and expand opportunity in the community throughout the month of September in ever more meaningful ways. We produced another class of graduates from our Contractor Academy and engaged in several business procurement opportunities across the service territory, including with the Asian Business Association, the Women Enterprise Business Council, and the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce, among others. Regarding our Workforce Development efforts, we have been working with the City of Carson, the Los Angeles County Sanitation District and West Basin to advance an MOU focused on workforce development efforts focused on Pure Water Southern California. Last, but certainly not least, with respect to our culture transformation efforts, we began rollout of Civil & Inclusive Workplace Training to all 1,800+ employees, starting with our leadership.

Engineering Services

In September 2024, Metropolitan's Board approved the early procurement of pumps, valves, motor control centers, and switchgear for the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Project. This project will enhance overall water supply reliability while increasing system flexibility in times of reduced State Water Project supplies. To expedite project completion, this project is Metropolitan's first project using progressive design-build (PDB) delivery. The PDB approach maximizes collaboration among contractor, design consultant, stakeholders, and Metropolitan, while it streamlines schedule and incorporates value engineering and constructability early in the project's development. The recent board approval is a PDB milestone that demonstrates how this delivery approach expedites overall project schedule, reduces supply chain risk, and minimizes price uncertainty resulting from future inflation.

Equal Employment Opportunity Office

This month, Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) staff attended the Association of Workplace Investigators' (AWI) Annual Conference held in San Diego, CA. AWI is a professional membership association for individuals who conduct, manage, or have professional interest in workplace investigations. Its mission is to promote and enhance the quality of impartial workplace investigations. In support of this mission, EEO attended sessions such as "How to Handle the Most Challenging Witnesses," "Best Practices for Conducting Multifaceted C-Suite Investigations," and "Investigating Complex Sexual Harassment Cases." The EEO Office will continue to attend trainings and conferences to ensure that we maintain the gold standard in conducting fair, impartial, and thorough investigations.

On September 19, EEO conducted a concurrence process training to 47 Section/Unit/Team managers in Integrated Support Services, Treatment & Water Quality, and Conveyance & Distribution. The purpose of this training was to provide hiring managers in this section with an understanding of EEO's role in the recruitment process. EEO explained that an EEO representative would attend the Hiring Strategy meetings for underutilized positions and other positions deemed by the EEO Office to require further monitoring, to assist management with identifying relevant targeted outreach, and to discuss other steps in the process that EEO would be involved in. For example, EEO may observe interviews, review testing material, interview questions, selection justifications, and other related processes that are used for making employment-related decisions.

External Affairs

Metropolitan, in partnership with Calleguas MWD, hosted a Community Leaders' Briefing with Assemblymember Bennett (D-Oxnard) to discuss regional and statewide water issues. Chair Ortega and Director McMillan spoke at the event that drew about 80 attendees. (September 16).

Human Resources

The Organizational Development & Training Unit (OD&T) facilitated sessions 6 and 7 of its 14th cohort of Metropolitan Management University for 14 new managers. The topics were Coaching, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) Compliance, Workers' Compensation, and Leave Administration. Participants were debriefed on their Emotional Intelligence (EQ) assessment in one-on-one sessions with OD&T's Principal, Melinda Snow (who is certified in EQ coaching). The Unit also facilitated a Team Building for the Administrative Services' Business Support Team, which concentrated on Communication Skills and Conflict Resolution.

Metropolitan's annual Employee Survey collected feedback on Metropolitan's culture and leadership (with a 54 percent response rate). The results will be posted on a SharePoint site hosted by Human Resources.

Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) group recently completed the migration of the email system (Microsoft Exchange) from an on-premises data center to Microsoft Cloud. Over the years, IT created many shared mailboxes and email distribution lists (DLs) for various teams and groups. However, it was noted that a sizeable number of DLs and shared mailboxes were not migrated to the cloud. As a result, the IT team did a deep dive to verify the quality of these items. The goal was to analyze, identify, and remove redundant DLs and shared mailboxes to increase efficiency for end users. The team also addressed items that did not adhere to and conform with industry best practices. The team remediated and moved 500+ mailboxes and 300+ DLs to the cloud. Metropolitan's email system and all its components are now hosted in Microsoft Cloud. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed for ongoing maintenance of shared mailboxes and DLs. The SOPs have been added to the IT knowledge base library located on the IT customer support portal.

Safety, Security and Protection

The Security and Emergency Management Unit (SEMU) recognizes its personnel limitations while overseeing an expansive service area with numerous facilities. To enhance its capabilities, SEMU strategically leverages partnerships at the local, state, and federal levels for specialized expertise, best practices, and technical know-how. One key partner is WaterISAC, an organization dedicated to protecting critical infrastructure, particularly water facilities. WaterISAC not only values SEMU's unique skill sets but also sought their assistance in developing a national tabletop security exercise scenario tailored to the water sector, further demonstrating SEMU's influence and collaborative strength in safeguarding critical infrastructure.

There are now two Emergency Management staff members certified to teach State emergency management courses at Metropolitan. They taught a state course for EOC Management personnel in August. Water Quality staff participated in a multi-day national water contamination exercise with various outside agencies. Emergency Management staff simulated an EOC activation during the exercise. Staff monitored multiple large wildfires in Metropolitan's service area and are prepared to activate the EOC if the fires continue to spread.

Health and Safety (H&S) facilitated a Labor/Management meeting with NSC to provide updates on safety and workplace culture initiatives, review of the finalized safety vision and guiding principles, and provide an overview of the new Executive Safety Committee. Staff also issued several Safety "Met" Alerts this month for COVID-19 exposure, high heat events, and Wildfire Smoke Exposure.

The Apprenticeship Program completed written and practical exams for electricians and mechanics. The recruitment of the new class of apprentices is progressing by sending qualifying applicants a link to schedule online testing.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

Centralized Grants and Research staff introduced two non-profits to Metropolitan staff and participated in kick-off sessions to discuss future grant and/or research opportunities. One agency is Electric Power Research Institute and the other is the National Fleet Electrification Network.

Water Resource Management

Water Resource Management (WRM) staff continues to provide leadership and partnership opportunities. On the landscape conservation front, staff provided two Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program classes. Staff provided presentations and representation at the board meetings for the Southern California Salinity Coalition and CalDesal, and participated in the board meeting for the California Water Data Consortium. In terms of outreach, WRM staff met with and participated in a meeting with representatives from the Japanese Water Works Association. WRM staff also attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Pasajero Groundwater Recharge Project with Westlands Water District, which is a lead into future partnership opportunities through the Memorandum of Understanding with Metropolitan, Friant Water Authority, and Westlands.

Water System Operations

Staff completed a white paper, *"Roadmap for Direct Potable Reuse: Considerations for Implementing DPR through the Pure Water Southern California Program."* This document outlines the role of direct potable reuse (DPR) in the PWSC program, the implications of newly adopted DPR regulations, and the research and planning needed for successful implementation. A collaborative effort, the white paper reflects contributions from staff across Water Quality, System Operations, Engineering, and External Affairs, underscoring the teamwork and collective expertise of Metropolitan staff. The white paper was presented to the Board's Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance Subcommittee on September 24.



TEAM DESCRIPTION

The Desert Section Pump Maintenance Team is responsible for all heavy repair of Colorado River Aqueduct equipment. The team consists of highly skilled mechanics, welders and machinists who work together to repair and overhaul critical equipment. The team has a shop at both the Eagle Mountain and Gene Camp facilities which allows them to quickly respond to emergency repairs across the Desert service area. The highly specialized skills required to repair everything from 12,500hp synchronous motors to machining small components for our Discharge Valve Governor systems is what sets this team apart.

IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

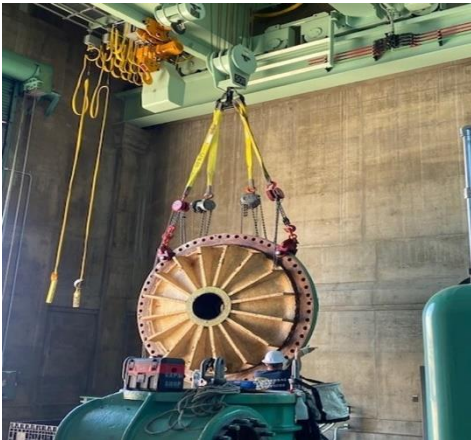
Much of the CRA equipment you see in the very first MWD Annual Report published in 1939 is still in service today. Dedicated, highly skilled employees are required to ensure the operational reliability we have long expected from the CRA. The Pump Maintenance Team staff collaborates with MSU, ESG, and other entities within Metropolitan to quickly repair or refurbish equipment, often providing solutions that will enhance efficiency and reliability. The Pump Maintenance Team staff understand the impact of drought and changing demands, and keep operational flexibility at the forefront of planning.

MEMORABLE MOMENT

During the 2024 CRA Shutdown, the team already had a full schedule worth of projects and repairs to complete within a small window of time. At the beginning of the Shutdown, the stem of Copper Basin Gate 1 suffered major damage. Though just the stem repair was a major undertaking, the team rallied together and were able to take on this additional project with minimal interruption to the completion of previously scheduled tasks.

“With recent efforts to repair major equipment along the CRA, the Pump Maintenance Team has been taking a proactive approach to maintaining an 8-pump flow commitment. Keeping an open line of communication with the Desert Plants maintenance schedules has allowed the team to make repairs with no interruptions of water deliveries. Job well done team!”

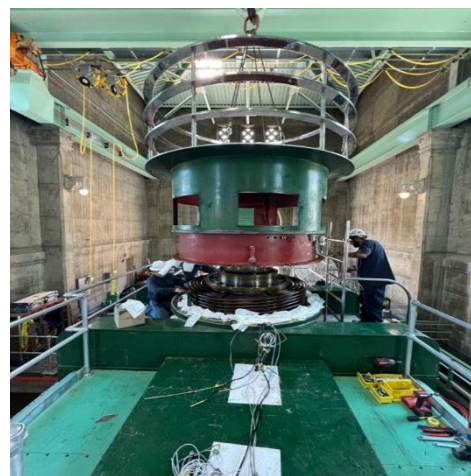
**Steve Solaiza, Team Manager,
Desert Pump Maintenance Team**



Discharge Valve Cover being removed.



Discharge plug being installed after coating at Iron Mountain.



*Dissassembly of Unit #9 at Eagle Mountain.
Pulling the exciter housing.*

Water Supply Conditions Report

Water Year 2023-2024

As of 09/30/2024

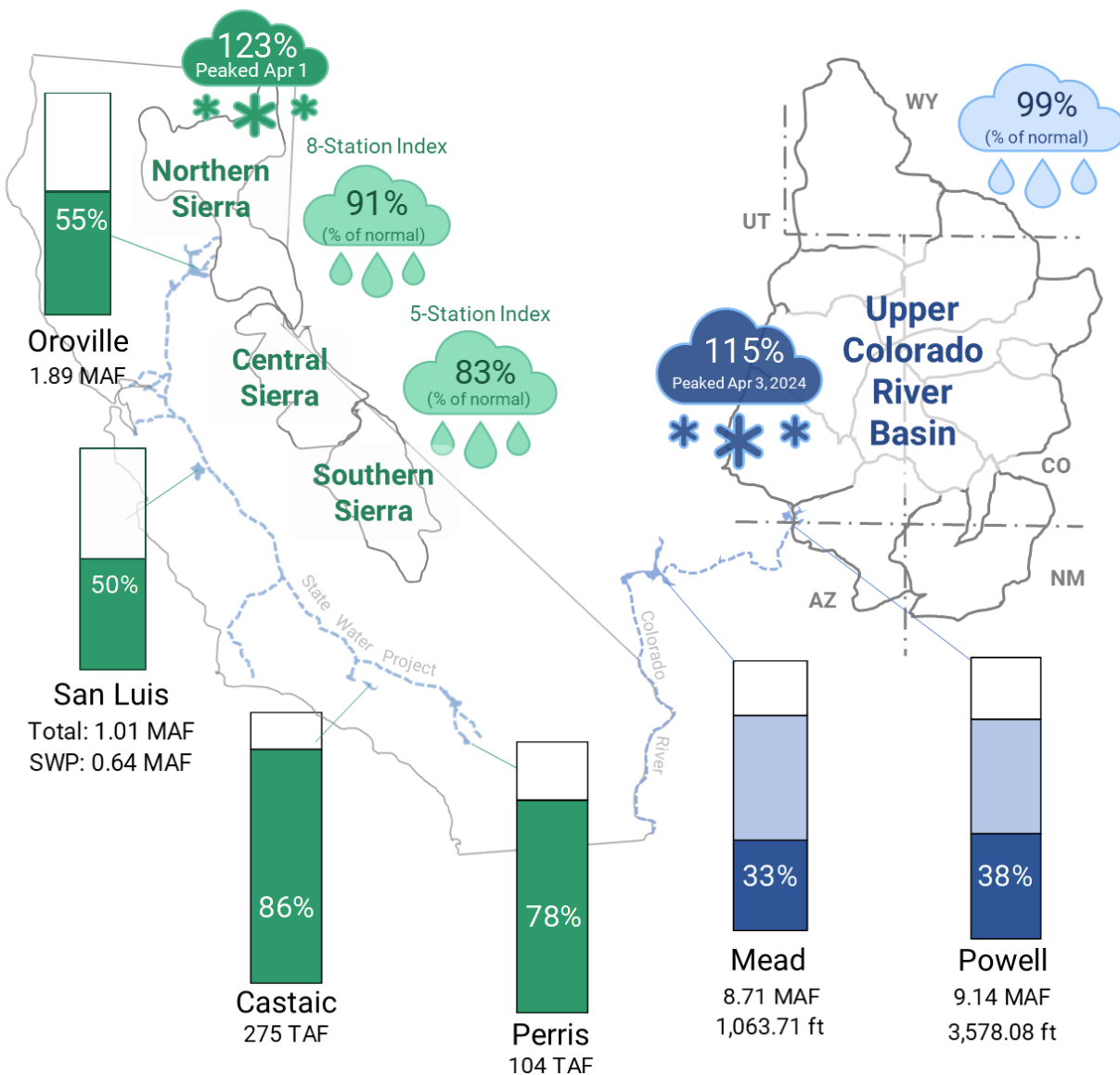
Extended Report: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

State Water Project Resources

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

Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions
957,000 acre-feet



Reservoir Report

End of Month Reservoir Report

Monthly Update as of:

9/30/2024

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	9,136,165	38%
Lake Mead	8,712,000	34%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	1,887,909	55%
Shasta Lake	2,766,115	61%
San Luis Total	1,011,194	50%
San Luis CDWR	639,802	60%
Castaic Lake	275,360	85%
Silverwood Lake	70,073	93%
Lake Perris	103,853	79%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	786,690	97%
Lake Mathews	95,957	53%
Lake Skinner	38,823	88%



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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