



General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of July 2024

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Message from the General Manager

In July the Metropolitan family gathered together at Whittier Narrows for the fun and food of the Employee Appreciation Day picnic, an event that felt strangely normal after many years of having to be canceled, a casualty of a pandemic that disrupted routines and workplaces and kept us further apart than we could have previously imagined.

The picnic—and a sister event we held at Iron Mountain for our desert workforce—was a time not just to appreciate the hard work of our employees but to celebrate that we are committed to a common and uplifting purpose. Our workforce is tackling some of the most important challenges of the day. We are providing the lifeblood of our region’s economy and wellbeing, and Metropolitan’s leadership has set forth an ambitious agenda to ensure we continue to fulfill our mission in the face of an accelerating climate crisis and the increasing uncertainty and stress it is adding to our system.

As we enjoyed the food, fun activities, and the chance to meet or reconnect with co-workers and their families, I felt confident and energized about our work. I felt the importance of being together in person, and most of all, I felt deeply grateful to be a part of such a dedicated and capable organization.

Deven Upadhyay
Interim General Manager



*Right Photo
Appreciation Event at Iron
Mountain*

*Bottom Photos
Appreciation Event at
Whittier Narrows*



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.**

The inaugural Executive Safety Committee (ESC) met in July. Providing high-level oversight and guidance to existing safety committees, ESC will provide direction to address safety initiatives to be implemented Metropolitan-wide and will provide ongoing review of Metropolitan-wide safety and performance data, injuries, and trends as well as upcoming Cal/OSHA regulations.

The Safety Review Request EForm was implemented to facilitate an employee's ability to report safety hazards and concerns, near misses, and suggestions for improvements. It provides a streamlined process for employees to report safety items anonymously, without fear of retaliation, for safety committees to address in partnership with Safety, Regulatory, and Training staff.

As part of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office's (EEO) outreach and training plans for the coming year, in July it piloted its new live virtual sexual harassment prevention training. A next virtual sexual harassment prevention training in planned for September.

The rollout of Civil and Inclusive Workplace training to all Metropolitan employees will begin in August with an Executive Session for Group Managers and above.



EEO Training

New live format piloted for sexual harassment 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.

A Workforce Development Manager was hired, and Brenda Martinez begins her role on the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Team in August, having served the last couple of years as a recruitment specialist for Metropolitan. She will lead improvements to outreach and engagement, specifically around underutilized positions, that have been identified as part of DEI's focus on workforce development.

The Organizational Development & Training Unit (OD&T) facilitated the third class of our 14th cohort of Management University, which covered Active Listening, Persuasive Communication, and Effectively Delegation. OD&T conducted a training session on Stress Management & Positivity in the Workplace, on-site at Skinner.

The Engineering Services Group is working with other groups to develop a "Career Launch" program scheduled to start in October 2024. The program consists of six modules that expand awareness of various disciplines at Metropolitan to improve cross-functional work and support career development.



Workforce Development

**Brenda Martinez is hired
as Workforce Development
Manager**



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.**

A Task Force has met three times—with a fourth meeting scheduled in August—to achieve the Board's directive to review and develop possible solutions for treated water cost recovery.

Member agency general managers convened with Deven Upadhyay for a strategic roundtable discussion about the Business Model review, and plans are developing for a retreat and future gatherings to further outline the scope of the review and possible refinements.

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

The Centralized Grants Management Office has developed a six-part Grants Administrator training series that will guide staff through grant application procedures; trainings and certification will be available on MyLearning.

Staff has received proposed budget reductions from all groups and is in the process of working with the Interim General Manager and Executive team to identify cost savings that minimize service impacts.

Metropolitan has begun negotiations with US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) in order to finalize the award of "Bucket 2" funding, with a focus on the AVEK High Desert Water Bank and turf removal.



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 of board members and member agency general managers met in July to discuss the further development of possible time-bound targets and of signposts that will be used in the adaptive management approach to resource planning in an increasingly uncertain environment of climate change. A template for the Annual CAMP4W Report was also developed and shared.

July saw more progress to enhance the long-term water supply reliability for the State Water Project dependent areas:

- A July board action authorized amending the agreement for procurement of the transformers for Sepulveda Pump Stations. Phase 1, which includes site investigation, design to the 70 percent level, and development of a guaranteed maximum price to complete all work, is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024.
- A board action is planned for August 2024 to add the installation of a large isolation valve through a change order to the existing contract for the Wadsworth Pump Plant Bypass.
- Construction of the Inland Feeder Badlands Tunnel Surge Protection is approximately 20 percent complete. The contractor has completed excavation and started construction of the isolation valve vault.
- The study Surface Water Storage opportunities is 50 percent complete with a shortlist of potential sites identified and a set of evaluation criteria proposed.

■ 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.

As technical analysis continues in development of the draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for Pure Water Southern California (PWSC), in July and August, draft terms related to PWSC participation are the subject of workshops with affected member agencies and follow up meetings to discuss issues specific to each agency.

Staff met with USBR in July to begin negotiations toward finalizing the Large Scale Water Recycling award for as much as \$99 M for PWSC. A informational update for the Board is planned for August, which will include including information on agreement modifications regarding the share of PWSC responsibility with the LA County Sanitation Districts.

The soil moisture project completed earlier this year was one of several studies investigating alternative management practices for fallowed fields in Palo Verrde Irrigation District (PVID). Findings revealed that “armoring” a fallowed field with stubble/residue from the previous crop did not have a significant long-term effect on loss of soil moisture compared with bare fallow ground. However, the study did reveal insights into how the varied soil types in PVID lead to frequent over-irrigation of portions of many fields. It also revealed the importance of the soil's infiltration capacity in allowing applied water to percolate deeper into the root zone, something that the Chico State studies are continuing to investigate.

Staff held the first public meeting for the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration and Rice Conversion projects. The meeting was attended by over 30 interested parties.

Metropolitan anticipates conservation activities to focus on supporting member agency efforts to implement measures to comply with the recently finalized Conservation as a California Way of Life (CAACWOL) state regulations. Staff is planning to provide the Board an update on CAACWOL in September.



Colorado River

**Agreement reached with
PVID for conservation
funded by Inflation
Reduction Act**



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.

Installation of the dam monitoring system at Garvey Reservoir has been completed, and testing and verification are still ongoing. The final system design for the system at DVL is anticipated to be complete in August, and installation of the system is anticipated to be on target for completion by June 2025.

The dam potential failure modes analysis (PFMA) and risk assessment for Lake Mathews is substantially complete with final report expected in the next 30 days. Workshops for the PFMA and risk assessment for Lake Skinner are scheduled for December 2024 with anticipated on-target completion.

A professional service agreement is in place in support of updating the Strategic Asset Management Plan, with work to commence in August.

In July, staff completed a facility-level and Jensen plant analysis toward a system-wide criticality assessment that can help inform and prioritize capital investments and O&M practices.

We have expanded the on-call Emergency Management Duty Officer cadre from three to four and trained them in Metropolitan processes and integrated them into emergency response procedures. Each Duty Officer takes a one-week 24/7 rotation and coordinates with an on-call Duty Manager, who is an experienced Emergency Manager. The new Duty Officers are Security Special Agents that have law enforcement experience and are familiar with the urgency of real time responses. All Duty Officers have been trained on Metropolitan's WebEOC Program and use it to track incident and potential real-time threats. They have also been trained on the Metropolitan emergency notification system, Met-Alert, so they can send emergency alerts to employees when needed.



Dam Safety

Monitoring system for Garvey Reservoir is installed

All Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff participated in tabletop exercises which focused on virtual EOC operations. EOC Planning and Intelligence Section staff completed official State training from the California Specialized Training Institute, the official training arm of the California Office of Emergency Services.

We are updating Metropolitan's Risk Assessment and Emergency Response Plan per the America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA). Virtual EOC activation protocols were added to the draft Emergency Response Plan, which will be included in the 2025 AWIA required update.



**Emergency
Response**

**Duty Officer capacity has
been expanded and all
officers trained**

■ **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 charging infrastructure to support the transition to zero-emission vehicles. Staff is preparing a board action to award on-call agreements to support this design work.

Staff completed an Envision submittal for the Casa Loma Siphon No.1 Seismic Retrofit in June 2024. Staff is awaiting verification from the Institute for Sustainable infrastructure that the project meets the sustainability criteria in the Envision framework.



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 used the CAMP4W community postcard and survey to share information on CAMP4W and provide opportunity for input at community events. More listening sessions and presentations are organized for August. Staff initiated conversations with environmental organizations to explore ideas on how to effectively engage community-based organizations in CAMP4W and other Metropolitan initiatives. Opportunities to leverage existing efforts and past models were discussed.

Liz Crosson presented at a CAMP4W workshop organized by the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. Attendees included Upper District retail agencies, cities, and interested parties.

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

DEI staff was at the American Indian Chamber of Commerce Annual Expo to promote contracting opportunities with Native American-owned businesses. We also engaged in the LA Latino Chamber of Commerce 2024 Business Expo.

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 published a paper with researchers at Southern Illinois University and UC Davis on contaminants in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel. The paper, titled “A Baseline Assessment of Contamination in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel” was published in Environmental Pollution.

Staff held the first public meeting for the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration and Rice Conversion projects. The meeting was attended by over 30 interested parties. Two levee improvement projects continue to progress on Bouldin Island and Bacon Island.

Chief Financial Officer

Metropolitan is continuing its Member Agency Manager Treated Water Cost Recovery Workshops.

Colorado River Resources

In July, the Bureau of Reclamation completed its final draft of the 2025 Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River system. It appears that next year there will be another tier 1 shortage declaration, with Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico all having to take reductions in their Colorado River supply. Lake Mead is high enough, however, to avoid cutbacks to California. Additionally, it would allow Metropolitan to access its Intentionally Created Surplus water in Lake Mead, if needed, to fill the Colorado River Aqueduct next year.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

During July, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) staff continued to engage across the service territory with the diverse communities we serve. On the business outreach side, members of the DEI staff were at the American Indian Chamber of Commerce Annual (AICC) Expo sharing contracting opportunities with Native American-owned businesses. We also engaged in the LA Latino Chamber of Commerce 2024 Business Expo, among many other opportunities. We continue to engage in tribal knowledge sharing and trust-building with Native American communities, including taking part in such events as the San Fernando Valley “Peace and Dignity Run.” In July, we also hired a Workforce Development Manager who will help us accelerate the pace of change in our workforce development efforts and enable better engagement in the future with our member agencies.

Engineering Services

In July, Engineering Services welcomed 13 new intern engineers for the academic year with a visit to the La Verne facilities. The interns are assigned to various units in Engineering including Design, Construction Management, and Project Management. During their internship, they gain practical engineering experience that rounds out their education and contributes to their future careers. Several previous Engineering interns have returned as regular employees and continue their contributions to Metropolitan’s success

Equal Employment Opportunity Office

On July 25, the Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) piloted its new two-hour live interactive training for managers titled *Recognizing Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation*. EEO will begin rolling out this training for all Metropolitan managers in September, with more dates to follow, as an alternative to the video webinar that is available on Metropolitan’s training portal. The training satisfies California’s sexual harassment prevention training requirements pursuant to SB1343. Also, on July 17, EEO conducted a concurrence process training to Metropolitan’s recruitment team. In this training, EEO provided recruitment staff with an overview of recruiting requirements that Metropolitan is required to abide by. This includes CFR 60-1.4(a), 41 CFR 60-300.5(a), and 41 CFR 60-741.5(a). These regulations prohibit discrimination against individuals based on their protected status. EEO will begin rolling out the concurrence process effective in August for positions that have been identified as underutilized and will revisit the concurrence process with recruitment staff in September to address feedback/concerns that come up during implementation. EEO will schedule concurrence process training to hiring managers after addressing feedback or potential concerns discussed at the September meeting.

External Affairs

Partnered with Inland Empire Utilities Agency in hosting a Community Leader's Briefing, featuring State Senator Rubio (D-Pomona). Chair Ortega provided opening comments and Board Vice Chair Camacho, Director Fellow and AGM Zinke were in attendance. (July 18)

Human Resources

The Business Support Team planned, organized, and coordinated a company-wide Employee Appreciation Event. The event was held on Saturday, July 20, 2024, at Whittier Narrows for employees and their families. The day was filled with delicious food, fun activities for all ages, and plenty of opportunities to connect with co-workers and their families. The event was an opportunity to come together as a community in a relaxed and festive atmosphere to express a heartfelt thanks for the hard work and dedication of employees.

Information Technology

The Information Technology Group played an integral role in collaborating with different departments (HRIS, Benefits, and Payroll) and outside consultants to successfully launch the Roth options for 401(k) and 457(b) Deferred compensation plans. The project team was actively involved in contract creation, project management, requirements criteria, design reviews, development, and user acceptance testing. As part of this initiative, enhancements were made to the MyHR Employee Self Service page, to include the ability to enroll into a deferred compensation plan online, previously done by paper forms. The introduction of Roth plans will also help Metropolitan support current and future compliance with Federal and State laws.

Safety, Security and Protection

Preparedness and swift response efforts averted a potential disaster in Lake Mathews. Contract security, Metropolitan staff, and first responders coordinated effectively to battle wildfire flames close to the lake, protecting critical infrastructure and natural resources. This incident highlights the crucial role of readiness and quick action in safeguarding our critical infrastructure.

A new Safety Talk on Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Program guidelines was developed, and a Heat Wave and High Heat Alert message was sent out to all employees reminding them to use preventive measures for heat illness.

Environmental obtained special approval from California Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct dewatering for the emergency repair at San Diego Pipeline 5 by a member agency and responded to a clean-up of abandoned waste near Skinner/San Diego Canal.

The Apprenticeship Program facilitated a visit at Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant for electrical apprentices to gain understanding of high voltage equipment and testing procedures and created a social media post promoting apprentice recruitment for hire in early 2025.

Technical Training provided crane operators their 5-year re-certification training.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

Southern California Edison (SCE) has been issued an entry permit for the placement of electrical infrastructure underground near Lake Matthews. The permit will help facilitate SCE's wildfire mitigation project.

Water Resource Management

Water Resource Management provided outreach, education, and coordination with the member agencies. This included presentations on the Turf Replacement Program to the City of San Fernando, the Future Supply Funding program, and the array of Metropolitan's storage management programs to the Calleguas Municipal Water District. Staff also provided a presentation on the Antelope Valley East Kern High Desert Water Bank.

Water System Operations

OC-88 Pump Station tripped offline in early July, cutting the flow from 38 to 0 cfs. The Operations Control Center quickly started the backup OC-88A pumps, which can provide a flow of 20 cfs. Staff found that a blown surge arrester caused the problem and later found that the copper buss and grounding cables were missing. Staff across multiple units responded immediately, including working with Southern California Edison to safely isolate the plant, establish clearances, and investigate the issue. Affected agencies were informed and asked to reduce demand until the repairs were made. Staff quickly replaced the surge arresters, fabricated, and installed new cables, and tested the system before restoring the plant to service. Staff's expertise and immediate response prevented further operational issues and minimized the impact of this incident.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Metropolitan’s Field Survey Team takes pride in utilizing cutting-edge technologies to accomplish its mission. Recently, the team acquired a mobile LiDAR (light detection and ranging) scanner to assist with preliminary design for the Pure Water Southern California project. The team has used stationary LiDAR successfully for many years and the new mobile technology promises to greatly enhance its capabilities.

IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

Pure Water Southern California will potentially include over 60 miles of large diameter pipeline extending to groundwater basins, industrial facilities and potentially to two of Metropolitan’s water treatment plants. Successful pipeline design will require a thorough knowledge of the presence and dimensions of existing features along the proposed routes including buildings, bridges, and overhead wires. Collecting this information using traditional survey methods and even stationary LiDAR can be costly, time consuming, and provide incomplete data. The team was aware that mobile LiDAR could provide a solution, but until recently, the technology was not well-developed and was prohibitively costly. The team performed pilot testing of several products including field testing near the La Verne facilities. The testing provided valuable insights into Metropolitan’s needs and product capabilities, which the team used to secure equipment for preliminary design of the Pure Water pipeline alignments.

MEMORABLE MOMENT

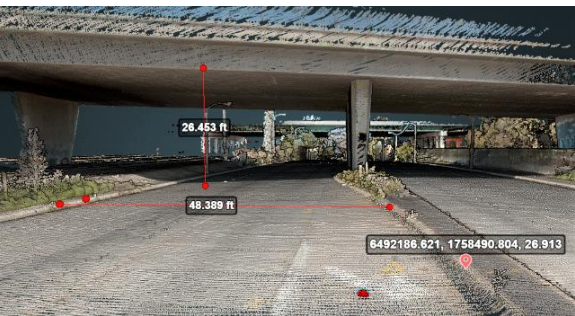
Following training and some trial runs with the equipment, the team used the equipment for a LiDAR survey of Pure Water Reaches 1 and 2 (approximately 15 miles). They mounted the equipment on a survey truck along with a 360-degree panoramic camera. In only two days, they were able to survey the 15 miles, a feat which would have taken several weeks using conventional methods. Also, the data was of superior quality and included photographic imagery that greatly simplified data processing and increased the usefulness of the product to designers. The data will also be valuable for documenting existing site conditions prior to construction, can be used for highly efficient and effective construction as-builts, and will be beneficial for implementation impending digital twin modeling of Metropolitan’s infrastructure.



Standing in front of the vehicle-mounted LiDAR equipment, Field Survey Team members (l to r) **Matt Corcoran**, **Travis Mensen** (Team Manager), and **Brian Wiseman**, who were instrumental in implementing the technology.



Colorized point-cloud: looking northerly along Alameda Street. The clearly visible overhead wires are a key benefit provided by the technology.



The technology allows for easily measuring dimensions of features along the survey route.

“The new 3D mobil LiDAR mapping system is a game changer and perfect for long corridor projects like Pure Water conveyance.”

Mike Angelo, Infrastructure Unit Manager

Water Supply Conditions Report

Water Year 2023-2024

As of 07/31/2024

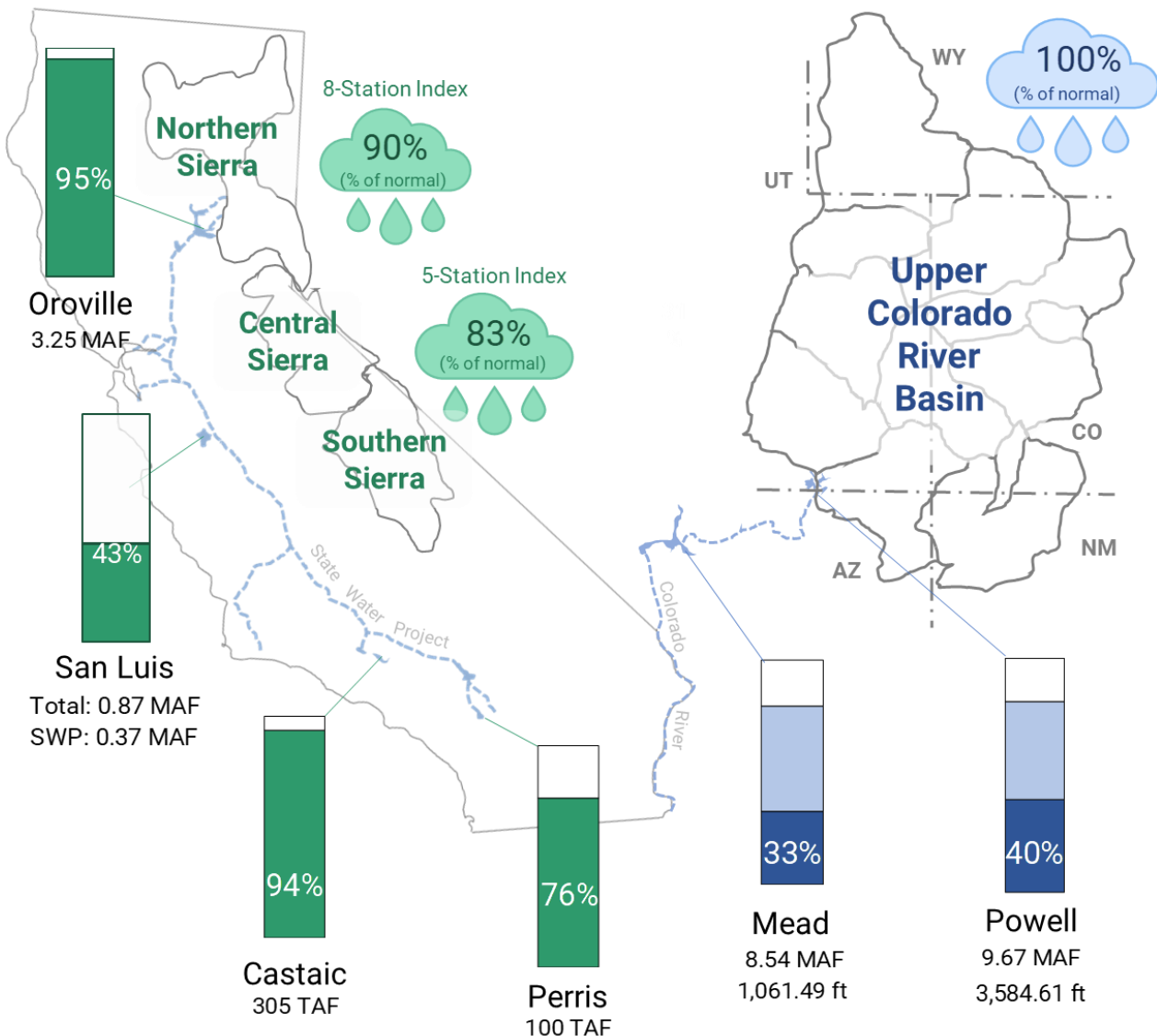
Extended Report: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

State Water Project Resources

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

Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions
931,000 acre-feet



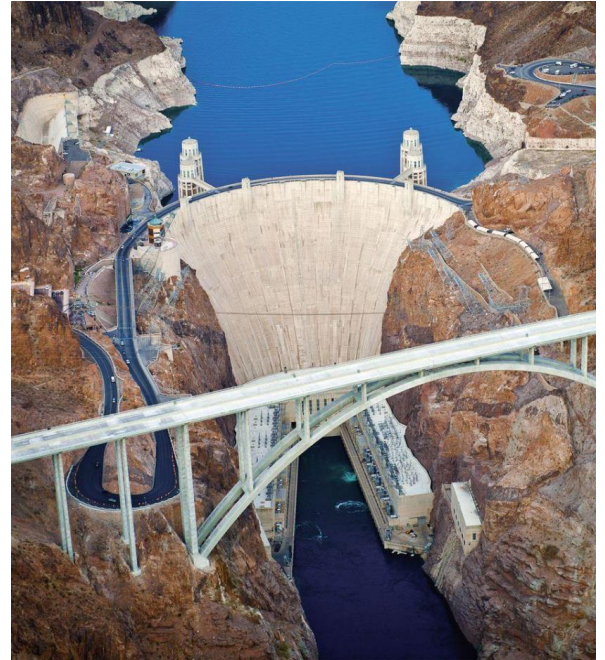
Reservoir Report

End of Month Reservoir Report

Monthly Update as of:

7/31/2024

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
Colorado River Basin		
Lake Powell	9,654,330	40%
Lake Mead	8,524,000	33%
DWR		
Lake Oroville	2,737,139	80%
Shasta Lake	3,435,601	75%
San Luis Total	868,522	43%
San Luis CDWR	375,023	35%
Castaic Lake	305,091	94%
Silverwood Lake	69,229	92%
Lake Perris	100,233	76%
MWD		
DVL	754,358	93%
Lake Mathews	117,417	65%
Lake Skinner	37,519	85%



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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