



General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of February 2025

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Message from the General Manager

Through strategic investments, forward planning, and climate adaptation, Metropolitan and our member agencies are proactively addressing many water reliability challenges. At the same time, we are navigating uncertainties brought on by changes in the new federal administration.

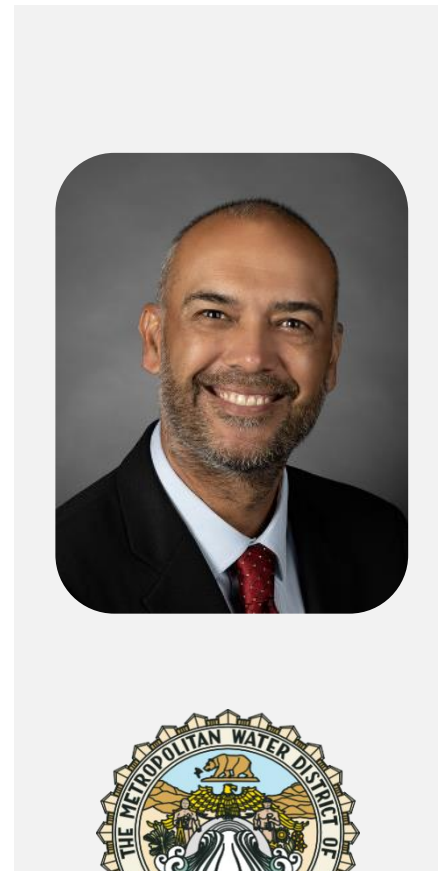
Our staff in California and Washington, D.C. are working to assess the impact of recent federal directives, advocating to maintain our vital federal funding and ensure the stability of our plans and programs.

For example, we recently signed funding agreements with the US Bureau of Reclamation to create long-term savings among Colorado River water users and are working with our partners to be ready to implement those conservation programs. Metropolitan has also signed on to letters to administration officials warning that planned reductions to Reclamation staffing levels would compromise vital work on water infrastructure projects, disrupt operations that serve urban and agricultural users, and create risks here in California and throughout the West.

As we work to maintain funding and minimize negative impacts on our investments and projects, we remain focused on building the partnerships necessary to improve our sustainability.

Southern California is in a transformational period. We know that the investments we make today will shape our water security for decades, driving economic growth, creating jobs, and reinforcing business confidence. We remain committed to working in a bipartisan, proactive approach to foster a stable and collaborative environment that advances our initiatives.

Deven Upadhyay
General Manager



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 and on target.

■ **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.**

Metropolitan is constructing perimeter fencing at 68 houses, three playground areas, and shade structures at the playground areas in Hinds, Eagle Mountain, and Iron Mountain. This project supports the Desert Housing and Recreation Interim Action Plan. The construction contract was approved by the Board in February and is expected to be executed by May 2025.

The General Auditor was featured in the February meeting of Group Managers, to review the Auditor's process and to clarify deadlines. The discussion is part of coordination between the General Manager and General Auditor to align the review and input processes to ensure timely completion of audit reporting and responses.

■ **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.**

Metropolitan's workforce development team met with EDD offices in four counties of the six-county region and participated in 11 events. We established a member agency workforce development working group to discuss challenges, best practices, and lessons learned and to inform a future-needs assessment, and we are planning for a regional workforce development summit, scheduled for May 1.

Supporting staff development within Metropolitan, we completed the third of six modules in the Career Launch Program. Module 3 included presentations on Operations Planning and Water Resources Management. Module 4 will include tours of the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant, Water Quality Lab, and other facilities on the LaVerne campus.



Sustain Metropolitan's mission with a strengthened business model



Goal Dashboard

5 Outcomes in process. 1 Outcome behind schedule.

■ **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.**

Business Model discussions advanced in February, including meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group and its three sub-working groups. Meaningful progress has been made toward developing broad agreement on recommendations that will be brought to the LTRPP Subcommittee on March 26. Recommendations are expected in three categories of readiness: refinements with broadly agreed-upon elements; those with conceptual agreements on parameters for refinement; and those for which a more comprehensive analysis is needed to shape a final proposal and develop points of agreement.

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

"Bucket 2" funding agreements with the US Bureau of Reclamation have been signed. California forbearance agreements are needed, and staff is working with California parties toward the launch of project implementation.

Metropolitan's Centralized Grants Management Office (CGMO), Finance, External Affairs, and Legal staff continue to track federal executive orders and their effects on Metropolitan's projects and the region. CGMO staff set up a SharePoint site to track the news on federal funding and all federally funded Metropolitan projects.

Staff also developed a shared site for Fire Recovery/FEMA resources and held three meetings in February with Foothill Municipal Water District and sub-agency staff. Topics covered included:

- a. Overview of Altadena and Pasadena Water infrastructure
- b. Speakers from Sonoma Water who shared the recovery experience from 2017 Tubbs Fire
- c. FEMA and Best Management Practices, presented by crisis and emergency management specialists from the firm Witt O'Brien's



Adapt to changing climate and water resources



Goal Dashboard

10 Outcomes in process. 1 Outcome behind schedule.

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

Staff presented the first draft of the CAMP4W Implementation Strategy at the Task Force. The Strategy is both the culmination of this phase of the planning process and describes key climate adaptation activities over the next five years. The Strategy compiles the work of the Task Force over the last 18 months including the Needs, Vulnerability, and Infrastructure Assessments, Time-Bound Targets and the Climate Adaptation Policy Framework, the Climate Decision-Making Framework, and a description and timeline of key adaptation strategies. The Implementation Strategy will be discussed in FAAME Committee and the Task Force again in March, and will be presented to the Board for approval in April.

Updates on four projects toward long-term water supply reliability for the State Water Project-dependent areas:

- Design of the 30 cfs Sepulveda Feeder Pump Station Stage 1 project is 75 percent complete. Staff is currently negotiating with the design/build contractor for the costs related to the remainder of the design work as well as the construction phase of the project.
- The contractor is currently installing electrical conduits to power the valve vault and associated equipment for the Wadsworth Pump Plant Bypass. Construction is 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in June 2025.



Planning Climate Adaptation

A draft CAMP4W Implementation Strategy was released toward Board consideration in April.

- For the Inland Feeder Badlands Tunnel Surge Protection, the contractor is currently backfilling the area surrounding the valve vault. Construction is approximately 78 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in June 2025.
- Phase 2 of the Surface Water Storage Study is 85 percent complete with a shortlist of potential sites identified and a set of proposed evaluation criteria. The Phase 2 study is anticipated to complete by June 2025.

■ **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.**

Climate Action Plan

Recruitment for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Program Manager is complete. The new CAP Program Manager will start in March. The third annual CAP implementation progress report is being prepared.

Pure Water

Metropolitan convened the Regional Water Reuse Collaborative. West Basin Municipal Water District presented their plans and points of coordination, and LADWP led a group conversation about opportunities for regional workforce development.

Preliminary design of the first two pipeline reaches is anticipated to be complete later this year. Current work includes utility and geotechnical investigations, incorporating value engineering comments to increase the amount of tunneling in the first reach, and development of preliminary design report and drawings. A market sounding for Reach 1 and Reach 2 CM/GC is also anticipated in March, followed by advertisement this summer.

Bay Delta

On February 14, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife issued an Incidental Take Permit under Section 2081 of the California Endangered Species Act for the Delta Conveyance Project. Completion of this permit is an important milestone in the planning and pre-implementation process.

On February 10, staff released a Request for Proposals to engage a partner to cultivate rice on a minimum of 1,000 and up to 1,360 acres on Webb Tract with an initial base term of 10 years and an option to extend for an additional 5 years.

Water Use Efficiency

The Water Use Efficiency coordinator meeting and Program Advisory Committee meeting were held in February. Continued financial support is provided through the Member Agency Administered Program, where agencies can use funding for local projects to assist with legislative compliance. Staff is

available to provide updates and technical assistance to Member Agencies upon request.

Interviews for the One Water Awards honoree videos are underway. Each video will highlight industrial and institutional project participation of Metropolitan's Regional Rebate and Water Savings Incentive Programs. The Save the Date has been sent to the Board of Directors and will be soon distributed to the general managers of all member agencies.



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



Goal Dashboard

9 Outcomes in process and on target.

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

Risk-Informed Asset Management

We have incorporated climate impacts and benefits into Metropolitan's updated CIP scoring criteria and will use that feature to better prioritize projects for the next biennium after testing the process in the 24/26 CIP budget development. Integration of climate adaptation like this is reflected in the completed CAMP4W Working Memo #7.

Staff availability has been limited to support the comprehensive updating of the Strategic Asset Management Plan, including the incorporation of climate adaptation goals. A consultant has been brought on board to assist with updating the plan and facilitating workshop discussions. The completion date has been extended to April 2026.

The Risk and Resiliency Assessment (RRA) is on track for March 2025 completion. Work on the Emergency Response Plan will commence after the RRA is completed.

Water Quality and Emerging Contaminants

A second online workshop was held in February, bringing together regional agencies affected by the January wildfires and the Division of Drinking Water to continue discussion of recovery efforts. A Member Agency Water Quality Managers meeting on emerging issues is scheduled on March 13, 2025, and will cover quagga and golden mussels in the State Water Project, unregulated disinfection byproducts, and member agency accessibility to water quality reports.

The final preliminary design of the Water Quality Laboratory seismic retrofit and upgrade is on schedule for completion by March 3, 2025, and the request to proceed with final design is to be presented to Metropolitan's Board in April.

Electrical upgrades have been completed and HVAC modifications scheduled at the Water Quality Laboratory in anticipation of the March delivery of the liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometer for PFAS analysis.

Innovation Program

The Innovation Team held a workshop with the Group Managers and Booky Oren Consulting to share their Knowledge to Implementation (K2i) platform, which compiles meeting notes and videos from global interagency exchanges on a broad set of critical water management, governance, and operations issues. Group Managers are providing feedback on their key areas of concern and needs in order to inform the Innovation Program and identify opportunities for exchange with other water utilities. The team is also preparing for our bi-annual Western Water Technical Advisory Group meeting at Metropolitan for water utilities throughout the region to discuss emerging technologies.



Partner with interested parties and the communities we serve



Goal Dashboard

5 Outcomes on target. 1 Outcome uncertain pending federal developments.

- **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 an environmental listening session on the draft CAMP4W Annual Report in February. A hybrid event is being planned for March to share the implementation strategy and future opportunities for engagement. One of the initiatives identified in the CAMP4W policy framework is to develop community engagement standards. This will begin later this spring and will inform future outreach and engagement for CAMP4W.

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

Staff participated in seven events to increase awareness and tribal engagement in the Desert region. Desert and Native Nations outreach was conducted regarding apprenticeship program opportunity and industry awareness, including interview skills and resume building.

The Equity in Infrastructure Pledge activities have been tabled temporarily until the impact of federal executive orders are analyzed.

Executive Summary

This executive summary is added to this report to provide a high-level snapshot of key accomplishments from each area of the organization.

Bay-Delta Resources

On February 14, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife issued an Incidental Take Permit under Section 2081 of the California Endangered Species Act for the Delta Conveyance Project. Completion of this permit is an important milestone in the planning process, advancing this critical project closer to implementation.

On February 10, staff released a [Request for Proposals](#) to engage a partner to cultivate rice on a minimum of 1,000 acres up to 1,360 acres on Webb Tract with an initial base term of 10 years and an option to extend for an additional 5 years.

Chief Financial Officer

Business Continuity worked with the Diemer and Weymouth water treatment plants to expand access to the MetAlert emergency notification system for local facility-specific emergency alerts.

Colorado River Resources

On February 13, the Lower Basin States sent a letter of congratulations to recently confirmed Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum. The letter highlighted the Lower Basins' commitment to work with the Upper Basin States to develop a Basin State consensus plan for the Colorado River but also expressed concerns with the Alternatives Report for the new guidelines issued by the prior administration. Additionally, on February 27, Metropolitan signed a letter with Southern Nevada Water Authority and Central Arizona Project supporting the Bureau of Reclamation employees and encouraging sufficient staffing to effectively manage the Colorado River system.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

In February, Metropolitan staff participated in the CUWA and CSU-WATER Careers in Water webinar, engaging over 120 CSU students, the Education to Workforce Tour (hosted by MWDOC and SDCWA), the BizFed Institute Workforce Development Summit and Career Fair, and California Water virtual career fair (with SDCWA and West Basin). Staff presented an industry workforce awareness session and presentation regarding the apprenticeship program to United American Indian Involvement, Inc., a Los Angeles-based nonprofit providing resources and job readiness skills to American Indian and Alaskan Native communities in Los Angeles. Outreach efforts focused on industry awareness, career readiness, and apprenticeship outreach with tribal and educational partners. Staff also actively participated in key business and community events, including the LA Area Chamber of Commerce 2025 Inaugural Event, the Regional Hispanic Chamber's Business Development Series, and the Small Business Diversity Network Leadership Luncheon, fostering partnerships and expanding opportunities for SBEs, DVBES, and nonprofits. Additional engagements included the Black Business Association's Future Leaders Luncheon and the CalTrans Procurement Fair, connecting small businesses with procurement and contracting opportunities.

Engineering Services

National Engineers Week started in 1951 to increase public awareness of engineering, celebrate accomplishments of engineers, and encourage students to engage in science and technology. To promote interests in pursuing engineering careers, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) hosts an Annual Engineers Week Girl Day. This year, ASCE partnered with Metropolitan to host the event at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building on February 20, 2025. About 100 local high school students attended the event. Featured speakers included Metropolitan's interim Chief Engineer, staff engineers, an engineering intern, and an engineer from the City of Los Angeles. Students were introduced to how engineers contribute to building a safe, reliable, and sustainable water supply.

for Southern California, and the speakers shared their academic and professional paths to inspire the next generation of engineers.

Equal Employment Opportunity Office

On February 11, 2025, EEO provided an update on Metropolitan's Non-discrimination Program (NDP) results for fiscal year 2024 to Metropolitan's recruitment team. An updated list of underutilized job classifications was provided to recruitment and the team was reminded to include EEO in the Hiring Strategy Meetings for all positions identified as underutilized.

External Affairs

Chair Ortega, Vice Chairs Camacho and Garza, Directors Erdman, Faessel, and Seckel, GM Upadhyay, and Metropolitan staff participated in the dedication of the Dr. Michael J. McGuire Water Quality Lab on February 20, 2025. The event, organized by External Affairs in collaboration with Water System Operations' Water Quality Section, highlighted the accomplishments of Dr. McGuire and the importance of the Water Quality Lab in protecting the region's drinking water supplies.

Human Resources

The Business Support Team planned, organized, and coordinated a "Taking Care of Your Heart" wellness webinar. The live webcast was held on February 5, 2025, and was hosted by Kaiser Permanente. The webinar provided employees with the opportunity to learn about heart disease and identify associated risk factors. The Mediterranean and plant-based meal plans were highlighted in relationship to keeping a healthy heart. Employees were invited to create a realistic heart-healthy action plan, using their personal strengths to keep a heart healthy life.

Information Technology

Final testing is underway for our new CIP Budgeting System. The new system is expected to go live in March 2025 for submission and processing of proposals for the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 biennium CIP proposals. This new system will replace the initial SharePoint system and will use Microsoft technology that most district users are already familiar with and working with. In the new system, proposal submission will be simplified, and the approval process will be streamlined by eliminating redundancies and unifying the budget and risk form as part of the proposal.

Operations Groups

Operations staff successfully completed a shutdown to perform internal inspections of the Rialto Pipeline and approximately one mile of the 120-inch Etiwanda Pipeline from the Etiwanda Wye. This shutdown enabled the installation of a new Inland Feeder to Rialto Pipeline connection as part of a series of drought projects being completed to allow conveyance of water from Diamond Valley Lake to the Rialto Pipeline. This shutdown also allowed for replacement of multiple faulty valves and the mortar lining along a 35-foot section of the Rialto Pipeline that exhibited excessive wear. This successful shutdown reflects the team's dedication, expertise, and hard work in ensuring the reliability and resilience of Metropolitan's water system.

Safety, Security and Protection

Metropolitan co-hosted a successful Water Security Summit with the FBI and CISA, highlighting the need for strong partnerships in protecting critical infrastructure. With growing cyber, physical, and insider threats, resilience is essential. Serving 19 million people, Metropolitan remains committed to security through investments in emergency response, cybersecurity, and infrastructure protection. The Summit fostered dialogue on emerging risks and reinforced the importance of cross-sector collaboration to strengthen regional resilience.

Metropolitan's emergency management staff focused on responding to the January 2025 wildfires in Los Angeles County. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated for over 20 days, with staff embedded in the County EOC, fire command posts, and evacuation sites. The EOC coordinated mutual assistance for Pasadena Department of Water and Power, Foothill Municipal Water District, and its impacted agencies. It also supported HR in issuing emergency alerts on employee safety and reporting.

The Safety Team conducted toolbox meetings with the coatings teams to review the recent changes in the Lead in Construction regulations. Additionally, the Technical Training team is updating related training materials to reflect these changes. The Environmental Team submitted 18 wastewater compliance reports for various facilities.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

SRI and the Core Planning Team for the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) finalized the 2024 CAMP4W Annual Report providing updates on Signposts, Time-Bound Targets, and Implementation Highlights.

Water Resource Management

WRM staff took strides in furthering regional efforts and implementation of local resources by attending a ribbon cutting for the recycled water efforts at the Los Angeles Community Colleges. WRM staff delivered the 25th annual report to the California Legislature on the Metropolitan's Achievements in Conservation, Recycling & Groundwater Recharge, which details the regional emphasis in those areas of water resource development. WRM staff held a Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification session. WRM staff collaborated with Coachella Valley Water District, Desert Water Agency, and the California Department of Water Resources on an update to the seepage recovery efforts at Lake Perris. WRM staff provided multiple presentations and participated on panels to various stakeholders and conferences including CalDesal and the American Society of Golf Course Architects. WRM staff promoted greater water utility understanding of climate change science and modeling through the work and the release of the Water Utility Climate Alliance's "CMIP6 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): A Resource for Water Managers."

Reflections



“Vast infrastructure, vigilant guardians: Metropolitan's resilience is built not on sheer numbers, but on the unparalleled expertise and unwavering dedication of its Security and Emergency Management Unit.”

Tomer Benito, Unit Manager, Security

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Metropolitan’s vast infrastructure, spanning over 5,200 square miles and serving millions of Southern Californians, demands constant vigilance to protect its physical and cyber assets and ensure resilience against natural and human threats. In an ideal scenario, the Security and Emergency Management Unit (SEMU) would be staffed with hundreds of professionals to meet these demands. Instead, Metropolitan operates with a small but highly skilled team—each member an “army of one.”

Beyond their certifications, each SEMU team member brings a unique skill set, from fraud examination and executive protection to emergency medical response and threat management. This breadth of expertise makes the unit an invaluable asset to Metropolitan, equipping it to tackle emerging security challenges.

IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

SEMU staff are among the few in the world recognized as Certified Protection Professionals, a designation that carries significant authority in the security and emergency management field. Their expertise fosters strong relationships with local, state, and federal agencies, ensuring Metropolitan remains at the forefront of security in the utility sector. Given the scale of their responsibilities—each overseeing multiple facilities across county-sized regions—their ability to act as protective security advisors and leverage external partnerships is critical.

MEMORABLE MOMENT

Metropolitan’s leadership in security was further reinforced in February 2025 when it co-hosted the California Water Security Summit with the FBI and the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). With over 250 participants, the summit underscored the importance of collaboration in safeguarding critical infrastructure.

Moments like these serve as a testament to the impact of SEMU’s work, positioning Metropolitan as a leader not just in the water sector but in the broader utilities domain.

Water Supply Conditions Report

Water Year 2024-2025

As of 02/28/2025

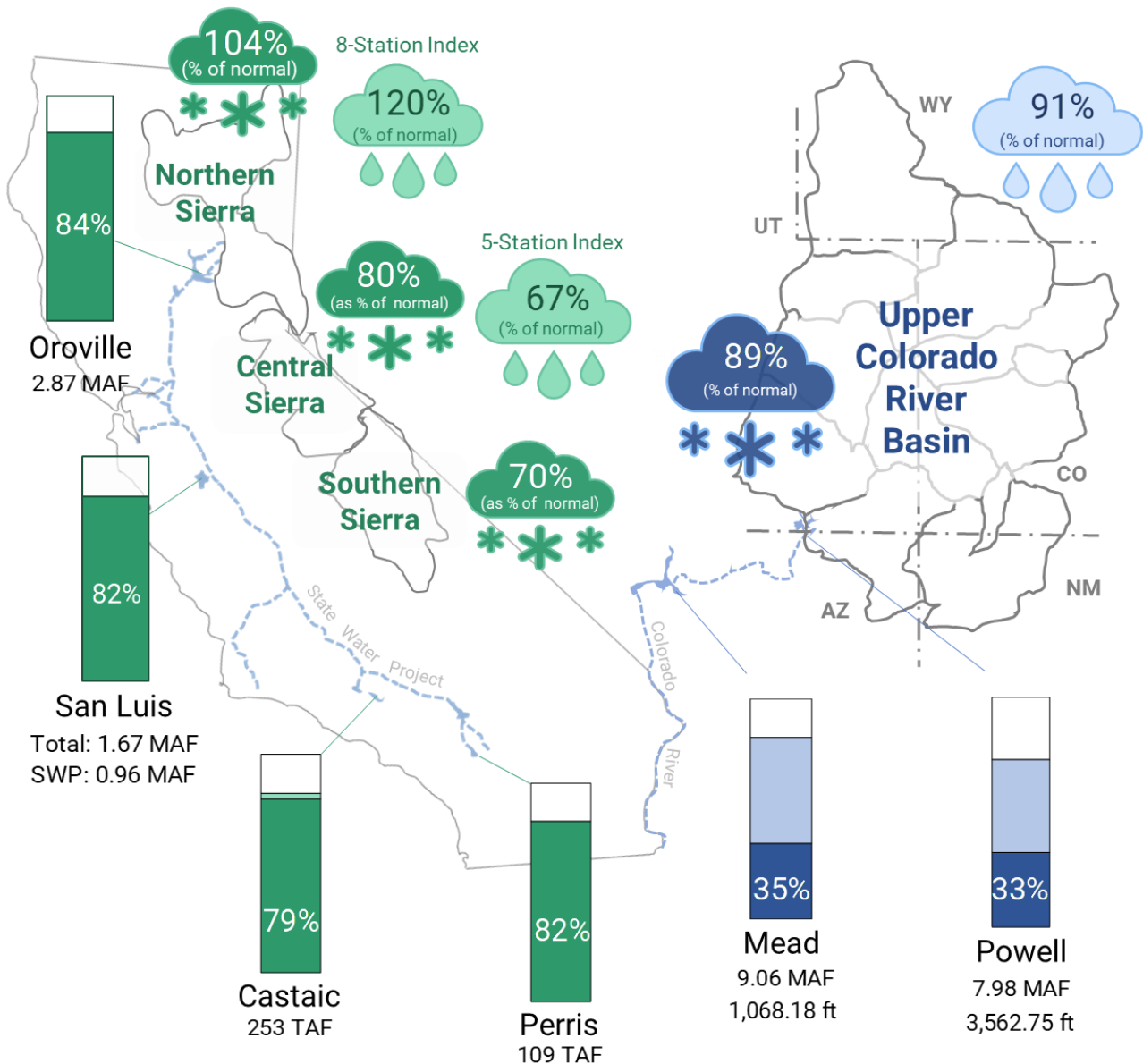
Extended Report: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

State Water Project Resources

SWP Allocation
35% Table A: 669,025 acre-feet

Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions
994,000 acre-feet



Reservoir Report

End of Month Reservoir Report

Monthly Update as of:

2/28/2025

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	7,983,369	33%
Lake Mead	9,060,000	35%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	2,865,710	83%
San Luis CDWR	960,072	90%
Castaic Lake	252,831	78%
Silverwood Lake	70,214	94%
Lake Perris	109,075	83%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	794,567	98%
Lake Mathews	162,975	90%
Lake Skinner	36,833	84%





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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