



# General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of March 2025

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# Message from the General Manager

As we close out March, we are nearing the completion of several essential and intensive repair and maintenance projects, including the shutdown of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). This operation involved completely turning off one of the region's main supplies of water and deploying hundreds of staff and experts to inspect, rehabilitate and repair this massive system.

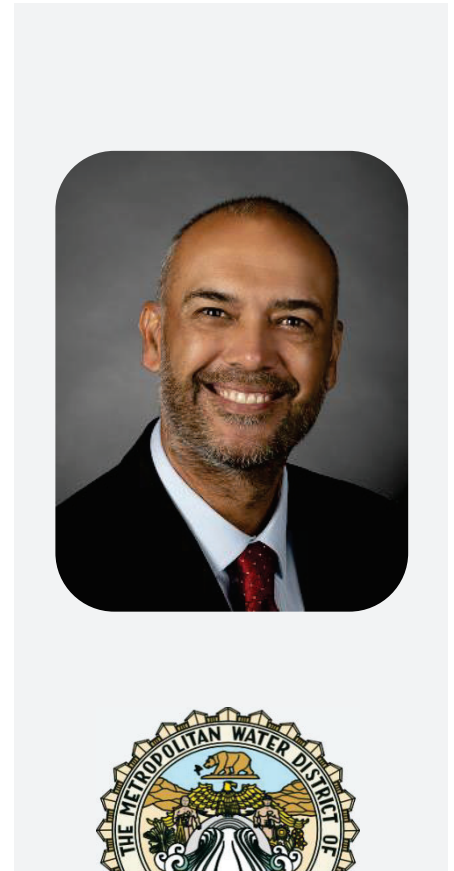
While the CRA is the highest profile of our annual projects, it represents just one of many essential projects underway across the District. From replacing aging valves along the Middle Feeder to the sleeve valve refurbishments that were schedule to coincide with our member agency's relining work along the San Diego Pipeline, our work comes in all shapes and sizes. These projects are planned months in advance and yet can also require immediate mobilization in response to unforeseen needs and emergencies. They involve procurement from overseas suppliers as well as custom fabrication in our own shop in La Verne. The work is both routine and innovative, with every step backed by community engagement, staff and safety training, and member agency coordination.

The end of a shutdown doesn't mean the work is done. We are constantly tuning up the system while it's in full operation. For example, following the CRA shutdown, we will begin the demolition phase of a project to replace and upgrade domestic water treatment systems at all five CRA pumping plants, an initiative set to be completed by this time next year.

In addition to these ongoing projects, the District is facing additional challenges related to emerging contaminants, cybersecurity and impacts from a rapidly changing climate. These challenges demand innovative approaches and new investments. Two current initiatives are a district-wide, mandated transition to Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV), and upgrading and replacing the power line to our Black Metal Mountain communication site.

It takes a skilled and experienced team to design, oversee and complete the work needed to ensure Metropolitan meets its mission of delivering reliable high-quality water to Southern California in an environmentally and economically responsible way. Our team is constantly proving itself up to the task and investing today to minimize risk tomorrow.

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.**

A new dashboard is being piloted to streamline transparency and reporting of safety data. A curriculum is being developed in partnership with the National Safety Council to provide safety leadership training. Roughly 80 percent of all employees have taken the Civil and Inclusive Workplace training. In partnership with DEI and HR, Metropolitan staff are developing the agenda for next year's training needs, including for managers and new hires.

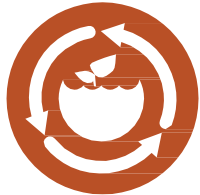
Ethics Office was featured in the March meeting of Group Managers, leading a discussion about the prohibition on certain Board member communications to prevent the perception of unethical influence.

■ **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.**

Completed four of six modules in Career Launch Program to support career development within Metropolitan. Module 4 included a tour of the Weymouth Treatment Plant, Water Quality Lab, MSU Shops and Field Engineering Bldg.

In addition to engagement on Workforce Development with Native Nations, Metropolitan continues a focus on veterans in collaboration with the Employment Development Department, engaging in the Careers in Water Webinar for Veterans with member agencies Long Beach and LADWP, in support of veterans exploring careers in the water sector and the Veteran Job Fair in Woodland Hills to support veteran employment initiatives. Metropolitan staff also partnered with Unite LA to present a Step into Tech webinar on IT and cybersecurity careers for young adults, and an Alumni Panel for USC Viterbi School of Engineering. Staff participated in the Los Angeles Regional Consortium (LARC) Careers in Water Webinar in partnership with City of Glendale Water & Power, Central Basin MWD, Las Virgenes

Water District, WRD, and Beverly Hills. LARC represents 19 community colleges in Los Angeles County. Additionally, Metropolitan has convened the Member Agency Workforce Development Working Group, which has held two meetings in March 2025.



## 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 refinement working groups met and focused discussion on water exchanges, local resource program, treatment surcharge, reserve policies, and engineering resilience. The GM Ad Hoc group met to advance refinement proposals and prepare for a presentation to the CAMP4W Taskforce, anticipated for April.

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

The Large-Scale Recycled Water Program grant for Pure Water Southern California was executed with US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) in January. In March, Metropolitan submitted the first two invoices to USBR, for \$63M in pre-award expenditures, and received \$15.6M in reimbursement.



### Pure Water Grant Funding

**Metropolitan has begun to receive federal funding that was awarded but, as with all federal grants, had been uncertain due to Executive Orders.**



## 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.

The CAMP4W Task Force reviewed and discussed the CAMP4W Implementation Strategy. Discussions focused on the adaptive management process for decision-making as well as the components and five-year timelines in the Implementation Strategy. The Task Force advanced the Implementation Strategy to the FAAME Committee and Board for consideration in April. Approval would provide staff direction to assess eligible projects and programs using the CAMP4W evaluative criteria and follow the implementation timelines for the development of new and enhanced climate adaptation strategies.

As part of the discussion of the Implementation Strategy, WRM presented an overview of Local Resource Program (LRP) production, potential projects and performance. This understanding of current conditions and challenges facing member agency projects is an important starting point for further exploration of LRP opportunities.



### Planning Climate Adaptation

**Task Force review advances CAMP4W Implementation Strategy to Committee and full Board.**

Made progress on several projects to enhance long-term water supply reliability for the State Water Project dependent areas:

- Sepulveda Pump Stations - Phase 1 is 96 percent complete. Staff is currently negotiating terms and conditions for Phase 2 work with the Progressive Design-Build (PDB) entity.
- Wadsworth Pump Plant Bypass - The contractor began installing guard rails on valve structure. Construction is 93% complete and is scheduled to be complete in June 2025.
- Inland Feeder Badlands Tunnel Surge Protection - The contractor is backfilling the area surrounding the valve vault. Construction is approximately 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in June 2025.
- Surface Water Storage Study, Phase 2 - The study is 87 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.

### *Imported Water – Colorado River*

Metropolitan and IID met to advance negotiations for intra-state agreements for sharing shortages in California. The goal now is to reach agreement by end of June 2025.

### *Climate Action*

Work continues on multiple strategies in the Climate Action Plan. To support the transition to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs), Metropolitan joined the Advanced Clean Transportation Fleet Forum, which provides educational opportunities for staff involved in the ZEV project. SRI and Engineering held a four-day ZEV infrastructure workshop to review infrastructure design for vehicle charging at Union Station that will be used by fleet, employees, and Metropolitan board members. At the end of the workshop, employees presented potential design improvements that included cost estimates. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2026.

The Climate Action Plan Annual Progress Report is planned to be released on Earth Day, April 22, 2025.

### *Demand Management*

The MWD/Member Agency Water Use Efficiency coordinator meeting took place in March. The California Water Efficiency Partnership (Calwep) Plenary was also held in March, presentation by the State Water Board on the CAACWOL legislation. They shared updates. This meeting featured a presentation on the data collected so far, discussed common challenges, and explained how the state is understanding the information reported. The first set of data they have received will help guide ongoing implementation.

Staff is gearing up for the One Water Awards event, scheduled for May 21. All interviews for the honoree videos have been completed. Save the Dates have been sent out, including to the Board of Directors, MWD executive leadership, and general managers for our member agencies. The official invitation with the sign-up link will be sent out in April, one month before the event.

### *Pure Water*

Metropolitan met with the Central Arizona Project on the potential investment in the Pure Water program. A workshop was also held with Los Angeles County Flood Control District, the Main San Gabriel Basin Water Master, Upper San Gabriel Municipal Water District, and Three Valley Municipal Water District to explore the alternative recharge basin options.

Development of request for qualifications (RFQs) for progressive design build (PDB) of the advanced water purification facility and Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) for the initial two pipeline reaches is in progress. A market sounding for pipeline Reach 1 and Reach 2 CM/GC was conducted in March, to be followed by advertisement this summer.

The Conceptual Design Report for Pure Water Conveyance Facilities is anticipated to be complete in the next couple months. 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.



## 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.

The installation for the DVL emergency monitoring system upgrade began on March 10, and its forecasted completion is on target. The monitoring system for Garvey has been installed, as previously reported.

Staff are finalizing a Risk and Resiliency Assessment with outside professional support.

The final preliminary design of the Water Quality Lab seismic retrofit was completed this month, and the request to proceed with final design will be presented to the Board in April.

Staff is preparing for an April workshop to prepare the CIP and have incorporated climate impacts and benefits into the updated CIP scoring criteria to better prioritize projects for the next biennium.

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

Contracting Services is finalizing training materials for a new procurement policy that prioritizes sustainable products and practices, currently under Legal review; a Unit-level training is planned in April.

This month Innovation Program staff hosted the Spring Western Water Technology Approval Group (TAG). With over 300 participating utilities globally, TAG's peer collaboration helps reduce the risk of adopting new technologies. The meeting included a guided visit to areas impacted by the Altadena fires to illustrate the criticality of emergency preparation and climate resiliency.

Innovation staff also partnered with Dr. Seyoum Gebremariam in Water Quality to present his real-time remote sensing work on cyanobacteria detection to the Utility Innovation Network, a group of peer water managers across the country.

Meanwhile, the second internal Met Data Group meeting fostered cross-organizational collaboration by showcasing excellent staff-led data work. Met's Innovation team has begun collaborating with business units to develop the Met Innovation Strategic Plan, ensuring alignment with organizational priorities.

A Member Agency Water Quality Managers meeting this month attracted over 140 participants. Presentations and discussion covered quagga and golden mussels in the State Water Project, a newly identified chloramine disinfection byproduct called chloronitramide, a regulatory update and the wildfire impacts on water systems. Our annual nitrification workshop will be scheduled for summer.





## 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 hosted a hybrid virtual and in-person lunch discussion with environmental, community-based and environmental justice organizations on March 20. The focus was on Metropolitan's climate resilience initiatives, including the CAMP4W Implementation Strategy, the Climate Action Plan Annual Progress Report, and the upcoming release of the Pure Water Southern California Draft EIR. Participants left with a call to action to be engaged in these efforts in the coming months.

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

Metropolitan's water conservation advertising and outreach campaign strategies are informed by audience demographics and metrics, including census tract data for disadvantaged communities throughout Southern California. Under the media placement services agreement requirements, 30 percent of all media buy expenditures must be allocated to reaching underserved and underrepresented communities within the district's service area. The FY 24-25 media plans are designed to engage diverse audiences across multiple platforms and languages, from digital spaces to community-based approaches that meet residents where they live, work and play.

To promote opportunities in the water industry among Tribal communities, staff participated in outreach events across the service area and in the desert communities, including at Mohave Community College, the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Establishment Days, the Hemet Unified School District Technical Career Fair, and a Job and Resource Fair in Needles, CA, hosted by San Bernardino County and the Employment Development Department. Metropolitan sponsored and staff attended the CRIT Mega Throw cultural event to share workforce opportunities, and staff continued engagement with the Chemehuevi language class, discussing our industry and job opportunities.

Metropolitan launched the Consultant Bench Workshop, in support of the Equity in Infrastructure Program. The Bench connects small and large construction firms in a mentor-protégé program. In this inaugural partnership, ten small business enterprises were rigorously vetted for a one-to-one with Jacobs Engineering, to learn about small business teaming opportunities, so that firms can be invited to register with the large prime. This ultimately supports the growth of small business utilization in Metropolitan contracts.

# 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**

Staff submitted the draft Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects application for the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for comment. Staff received the 60 percent design drawings for the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project. Bay Delta Resources, Engineering, Construction Management, and Environmental Planning have provided review.

## **Chief Financial Officer**

In February, an informational report was provided to the Finance and Asset Management Committee to review Second Quarter Financial Results and projections for Fiscal Year 2024/25. In addition, the Committee provided an update from the Business Model Review and Refinement Ad Hoc Working Group on treated water cost recovery, fixed versus volumetric revenues, and unrestricted reserve policy.

## **Colorado River Resources**

In response to Texas farmers not receiving their full deliveries from Mexico on the Rio Grande, the United States Department of State informed Metropolitan that planned deliveries to Tijuana, Mexico, through Metropolitan's system have been canceled for the month of April.

## **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

In March 2025, Metropolitan actively participated in multiple industry and community events to strengthen workforce development and business partnerships and to increase industry awareness. These engagements provided valuable networking opportunities, fostered collaboration with government and business entities, and supported small and diverse businesses. Key highlights included participation in the Palo Verde Career Technical Advisory Committee, NAWIC-LA Week, SAME-LA Industry Day, the Western Winter Workshop, and the Black Business Association's Salute to Black Women Business Conference, which Metropolitan also sponsored.

## **Engineering Services**

Following the Eaton Fire, Metropolitan Engineering services assisted sub-agencies in Altadena through damage assessment, emergency planning, and restoration support. Several reservoirs of the subagencies (Rubio Canyon and Las Flores) were damaged, severely limiting water deliveries to their service areas. To resolve one such supply issue, Engineering designed a new pressure-reducing station to connect existing pipelines among agencies. The new facility enables water flow from an operational higher-pressure zone to a non-operational lower-pressure zone. Engineering also provided field support during construction by Met Construction Services. This facility was completed and operational in early March 2025 to provide the needed relief for the affected communities.

## **Equal Employment Opportunity Office**

EEO worked in partnership with DEI and General Counsel to identify potential changes to the EEO office resulting from a series of executive orders signed by President Trump in January 2025. An update on the current state of Equal Employment Opportunity, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Metropolitan in light of the recent executive orders was presented at the Ethics, EEO, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Board presentation on March 10. This included the rescinding of Executive Order 11246, the underlying authority requiring annual Affirmative Action Programs for minorities and women at the federal level, Executive Order 14151 "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing," and Executive Order 14173 "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity."

## External Affairs

Metropolitan named the San Jacinto Tunnel in honor of former board chair and longtime director Randy Record in tribute to his many years of service and strong leadership. In attendance were Chair Ortega, former Chairwoman Gray, Vice Chair Camacho, Directors Armstrong, Dennstedt, Erdman, Fellow, Faessel, Kurtz, and McMillan, GM Upadhyay, Chief Counsel Scully, Ethics Officer Salinas, AGMs Bednarski, Chapman and Zinke and many other local officials, water industry leaders and Metropolitan staff. The event garnered press coverage including KABC TV and the Los Angeles Times.

## Human Resources

The Business Support Team planned, organized, and coordinated a “Plant-Based Meal Planning” wellness webinar. The live webcast was held on March 19, 2025, and was hosted by Kaiser Permanente. The webinar provided employees with the opportunity to learn how to create healthy plates by using plant-based proteins and identified ways to meet their nutritional needs. Employees were invited to create a realistic action plan to design plant-based meals.

## Information Technology

Our Pasadena Microwave project will serve as a new communication link for Metropolitan’s Eagle Rock Operations Control Center (OCC), Metropolitan’s Headquarters building at Union Station, and Garvey Reservoir Site by improving the reliability of Metropolitan’s microwave communications network. We recently completed Phase 1 of the project, which involved completing a fully executed lease agreement between the City of Pasadena and Metropolitan for us to use space within Pasadena’s property. Phase 2 of the project is underway with our engineering services group, which is conducting the pre-work activities required for their upcoming design task.

## Operations Groups

After months of planning and collaborating, Metropolitan staff completed the annual Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) and San Diego Canal shutdown. During this month-long shutdown, staff maintained high-voltage transmission and distribution systems at the CRA pumping plants, performed corrosion and condition inspection of key facilities, and recoated delivery line isolation gates. Along the CRA, staff cleaned tunnel and conduit sections of the aqueduct using a custom-made tunnel cleaning machine. During the San Diego Canal shutdown, a contractor removed and replaced concrete panels for a section of canal. All these efforts help ensure continued reliability and efficiency of Metropolitan’s water system.

## Safety, Security, and Protection

The Security and Emergency Management Unit (SEMU) continues to strengthen collaboration with local, state, and national partners in the water sector. Through industry events, joint training, and interagency efforts, SEMU enhances intelligence sharing, emergency preparedness, and security strategies, reinforcing Metropolitan’s role as a leader in critical infrastructure protection.

Emergency Management staff is analyzing lessons from the January 2025 wildfires and developing an After Action Report (AAR). Regular emergency exercises resumed, including a drill at the Skinner Water Treatment Plant and a Seismic Resilient Water Task Force workshop with DWR and LADWP. Staff also continue updating Dam Emergency Action Plans, with the Garvey Plan completed this month.

The Safety Team released the 2025 Safety Toolbox Book and the Union Station Headquarters Newsletter. The Environmental Team submitted various regulatory compliance reports for wastewater discharge. Apprenticeship continued recruiting for the Desert Region and began inviting candidates for written testing, and Technical Training met with all training coordinators to provide instructions on managing training records in the MyLearning database.

## **Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation**

Environmental Planning Section continued oversight of reserve management activities to protect valuable natural resources and meet Metropolitan’s mitigation obligations. Security patrols were conducted throughout the Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve and the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve (MSR) to prevent trespassing, vandalism, poaching, and theft and to protect the reserves’ natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment.

## **Water Resource Management**

WRM staff continued efforts to promote outdoor water use by holding landscape training and certification classes for nearly 150 attendees. Staff attended and presented at a multi-day tour of the Colorado River hosted by the Water Education Foundation and participated in a working meeting with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and California parties to coordinate information on Quantification Settlement Agreement activities in 2024. Staff provided outreach and coordination in the service area through presentations to groups in the Upper Water service area and in San Diego County.



# Reflections



Metropolitan's Colorado River Aqueduct



Metropolitan staff worked in the emergency command centers during the January 2025 wildfires in Los Angeles County, providing technical and operational support.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Colorado River Aqueduct was built at the height of the Great Depression, costing approximately one-tenth of the entire assessed valuation of the Southern California region at that time. Regional leaders looked to the future with clear-eyed conviction, focusing not only on current needs but on those of tomorrow, while Metropolitan staff pioneered the necessary steps to bring that bold vision to life.

That historical yardstick is the foundation for Metropolitan's innovation program. In November 2024, Metropolitan hired its first Innovation Program Manager, Patrick Atwater, to build on past work by other Metropolitan staff to promote innovative approaches to water management.

In January, the Innovation Program facilitated a discussion with Metropolitan's executive team on implementing management best practices. In March, Metropolitan hosted the Western Regional Technology Advisory Group (TAG) to scout frontier technologies for useful pilot projects.

## IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

Southern California's water industry faces major challenges. Climate change upends century old assumptions. Aging infrastructure and the "silver tsunami" of retirees in the workforce compound cost pressures. Extreme weather like January's hurricane force firestorms and other "known unknowns" like the next big earthquake require increased resiliency.

Therefore, simply maintaining the status quo is unsustainable. Pioneering new practices is mission critical. By working together smartly and collaboratively, Metropolitan's talented staff can ensure our region is prepared for whatever the future holds.

## MEMORABLE MOMENT

On the first day of the March TAG meeting, Metropolitan's Innovation Program led water managers from other utilities on a tour of Altadena's fire scar. Seeing that devastation firsthand offered a sobering reality and an urgent imperative to safeguard the region's future.

**INNOVATE TO PROVIDE A RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY**

**INNOVATE THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS**

**INNOVATE WITH TECHNOLOGIES, PILOTS AND RESEARCH**

**INNOVATE WITH EMPLOYEES**

# Water Supply Conditions Report

Water Year 2024-2025

As of 03/31/2025

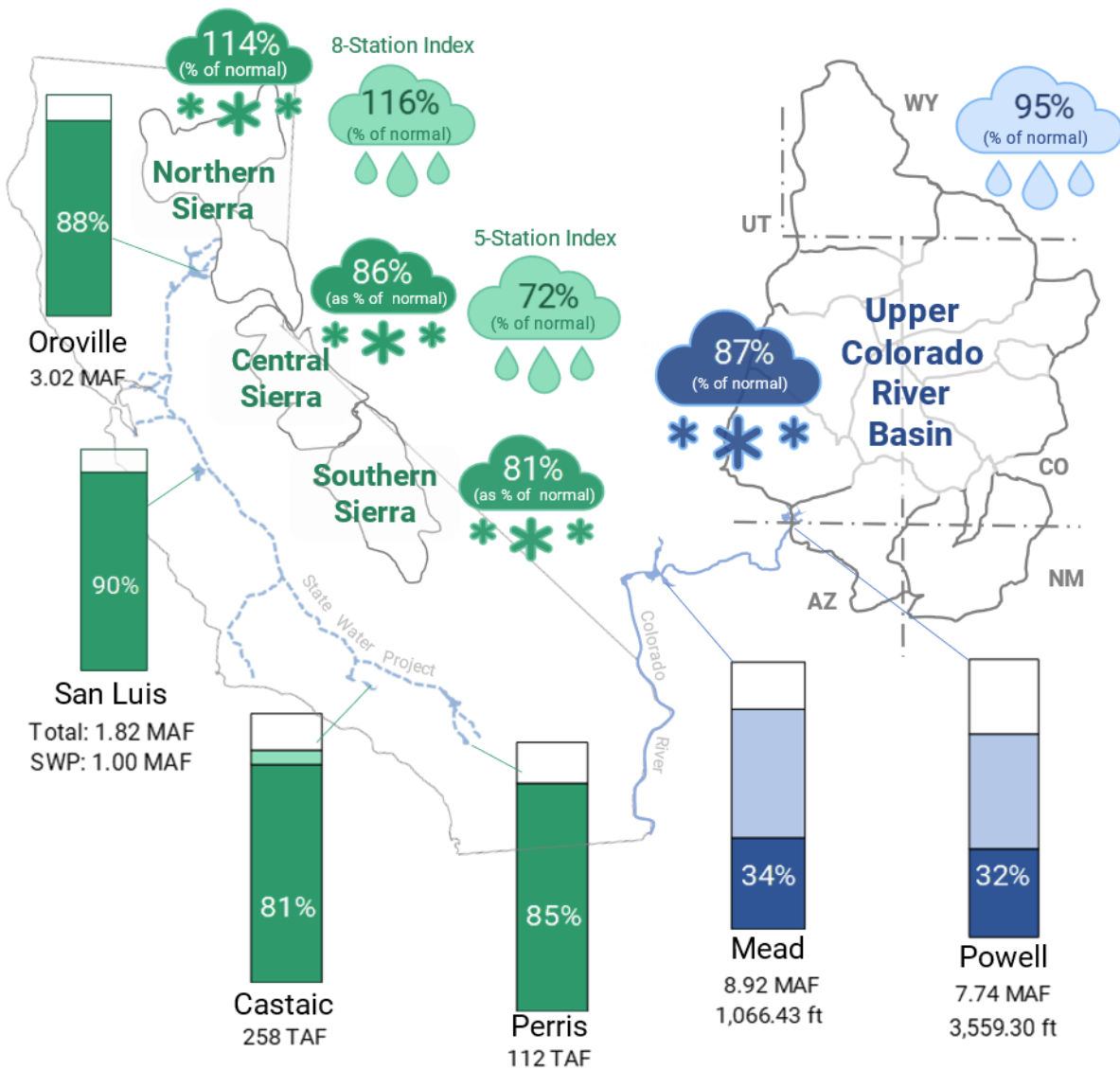
Extended Report: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

## State Water Project Resources

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

## Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions  
994,000 acre-feet



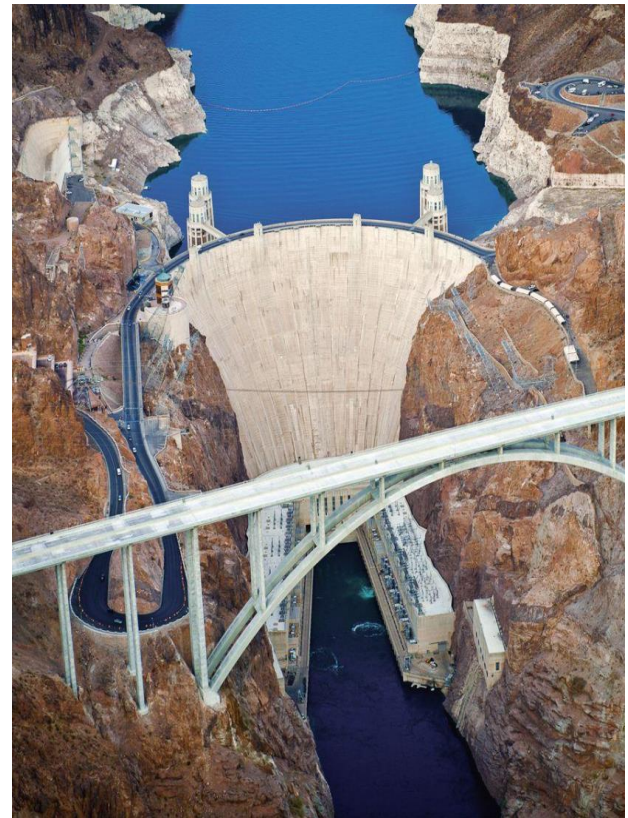
# Reservoir Report

## End of Month Reservoir Report

Monthly Update as of:

3/31/2025

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<b><i>Colorado River Basin</i></b>		
Lake Powell	7,737,232	32%
Lake Mead	8,918,000	34%
<b><i>DWR</i></b>		
Lake Oroville	3,023,561	88%
San Luis CDWR	998,855	94%
Castaic Lake	258,376	80%
Silverwood Lake	67,927	91%
Lake Perris	112,255	85%
<b><i>MWD</i></b>		
DVL	783,608	97%
Lake Mathews	141,394	78%
Lake Skinner	26,067	59%



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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