



# General Manager's Monthly Report



**Activities for the Month of March 2024**

# Table of Contents



Message from the GM	3
Strategic Priorities Update	4-10
Executive Summary	11-13
Reflections	14
Water Supply Conditions Report	15
Reservoir Report	16

# Message from the General Manager

On a recent trip to Washington D.C., I was buoyed by the support on Capitol Hill for developing a shared vision of future operations of the Colorado River. At the same time, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation chose the proposal by California, Arizona, and Nevada to be analyzed as its preferred alternative for Colorado River operations through 2026. This vision promises additional cuts of three million acre-feet while recognizing that all parties have a role in ensuring a more sustainable approach to Colorado River water.

The Biden Administration is providing a historic infusion of funds that will drive near-term water savings toward stabilizing the reservoirs of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, and Metropolitan is actively pursuing its share of this funding to implement conservation projects.

A year ago, we were in a starkly different place, with more than two decades of drought conditions causing reservoirs to plummet to levels that threatened water deliveries and power production. Protracted litigation looked more likely than agreement among the states that depend upon Colorado River water.

Now, due to record conservation investments as well as improved hydrology, Lake Mead levels have begun to recover, buying additional time to develop long-term solutions.

But what plan will guide operations after 2026? California, Arizona and Nevada have again jointly submitted a proposal that represents a comprehensive conservation initiative and that emphasizes a collective responsibility. While the three states would commit to addressing most of the structural supply deficit, all users must share in further cuts and in adjustments demanded by a changing climate.

These proposals go further than anything previously done to protect the Colorado River, but all parties have to work together to bring long-term health and sustainability to the river system. While using less, we must also make proactive investments to augment our supplies. This vision is of a future where we don't just endure scarcity but where we create abundance.

We are one,

Adel



*“Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning.”*

*- Thomas A. Edison,  
American Inventor and  
Businessman*



# 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 FY23-24](#) and the "[SMART Tracker](#)" dashboard of specific actions that advance the Strategic Priorities.



## Empower the workforce and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion



### Goal Dashboard

9 of 9 Outcomes in process 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.**

National Safety Council (NSC) is developing a roadmap for future safety initiatives, with input from focus group sessions of employees. This month we conducted focus group sessions to introduce the safety vision, guiding principles, and supporting commitments to Metropolitan employees, management, and bargaining units. The NSC will present outcomes of their assessment to Executive Management in April.

■ **Prepare and support the workforce by expanding training and skill development and updating strategies to recruit and retain diverse talent at a time when Metropolitan's needs are evolving and employee expectations about the workplace are changing.**

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion is working with a number of community colleges and partners (San Bernardino Valley Community College, College of the Canyons, Mayor of Compton, etc.) to expand testing centers for the apprenticeship program beyond the traditional in-person option.

The Organizational Development & Training Unit will be assessing Metropolitan employees' interest in a Masters' of Public Administration provided by CSU Northridge as it prepares for the next cohort of Metropolitan Management University and training program for Interim Managers starting in May.



### EEO Training

**Four training sessions held on complaint and investigative process.  
163 employees participated.**



## Sustain Metropolitan's mission with a strengthened business model



### Goal Dashboard

5 of 5 Outcomes in process and on target

- **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.**

As a contribution to including fairness in the ongoing business model discussion, our next panel discussion regarding affordability will be at the April Equity, Inclusion and Affordability Committee. As a further lead-in to the business model discussion, staff presented additional Pure Water cost recovery alternatives at the Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance in March. The Business Model discussion will gain focus through the CAMP4W process in the April meeting of the Joint Task Force, which follows on to the extensive budget discussions over the past couple of months.

- **Manage rate pressure on member agencies through attention to programmatic costs, organizational efficiencies, and efforts to secure external funding for projects with broad and multi-purpose benefits.**

The Centralized Grants Management Office, in coordination with Legal and Finance, satisfactorily responded to the US Bureau of Reclamation's 2021 Single Audit. Outstanding items for the 2021 Audit had included updates to Metropolitan's Grants Procedures manual and trainings for staff and were satisfactorily completed in 2022 and 2023.



## Adapt to changing climate and water resources



### Goal Dashboard

8 of 11 Outcomes in process and on target

2 Outcomes behind schedule

1 Outcome completed

■ Provide each member agency access to an equivalent level of water supply reliability through the development of a Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4) that integrates water resource, financial and climate adaptation planning.

The CAMP4W Task Force reviewed and discussed the first installment of the CAMP4W Year One Progress Report. The Executive Summary and Sections 1–2 reflect conversations to date on the development of the Climate Decision-Making Framework, the Evaluative Criteria, and the Time-Bound Targets. The Task Force provided comments which will be incorporated into an updated Draft for next month’s Task Force; the upcoming draft will also include sections focused on project selection and portfolios, business model next steps, policy development, and the adaptive management framework.

The staff team also continues to test the evaluative criteria with an initial set of projects and programs. This includes the recommended drought mitigation actions portfolio, in accordance with the implementation plan presented to the Board in February. The projects identified in that plan are either directed to Project Management for implementation or sent to be evaluated as part of the CAMP4W process. In March, the Board approved adding two projects to the Capital Investment Plan. These projects improve the supply reliability for State Water Project dependent agencies: the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Stage 2 and the Inglewood Lateral Improvements.



### Supply Reliability

Implementation Plan for State Water Project Dependent Areas was presented to the Board and two early projects were added to the CIP.



■ 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 changing climate.

USBR released the Final Supplemental EIS for Near-Term Colorado River Operations and selected as the preferred alternative the Lower Basin States proposal. This proposal would conserve an additional 3 million acre-feet of water through 2026, with more than half of that additional conservation coming from California. We’re well on our way to fulfilling that commitment, after conserving a record amount of Colorado River water last year.

Metropolitan and the Walton Family Foundation collaborated to bring together a first meeting of leading Colorado River advocates from across the West.

Staff continued to lead and support efforts on salinity management and control, particularly on the Colorado River, by attending the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Technical Work Group and the Multi-State Salinity Coalition annual conference.

Staff transferred floating tules from a previous study and introduced cultured Delta smelt in cages in the West Bouldin Pond as part of the Floating Wetland Pond study, set to be completed in April, and the Floating Wetland Cage study, which is an ongoing study. Metropolitan executed the Delta Conservancy Grant to advance the Webb Tract Rice Conversion Project and the Wetland restoration project, consistent with the Board's action to accept this grant.

Staff is incorporating improved terms in farming leases on our Delta islands, including to shift certain crops to rice on Holland Tract. Relatedly, Metropolitan provided expertise and partner support for Restore the Delta’s creation of a Rice Farming Handbook for the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta Region, which is a practical tool in promoting the transition to rice. There are several co-benefits of the transition to rice, including financial, food for migratory birds, carbon sequestration, and countering land subsidence.

Department of Water Resources has completed the submission of the State Water Board's change in point of Diversion Petition. The State Water Board issued a public notice on February 29; any protest must be filed by April 29.

Metropolitan announced that the “Treebate” added to turf replacement program. This incentive encourages the planting of climate appropriate trees, through a \$100/tree rebate for up to five trees, within the guidelines for relandscaping.



## Colorado River

**USBR selects proposal from California, Nevada and Arizona as its preferred alternative for operations through 2026.**



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



### Goal Dashboard

6 of 7 Outcomes in process and on target

1 Outcome completed

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

Emergency Preparedness staff is preparing for a joint training exercise with Los Angeles Fire Department at the Jensen plant in April and May.

All of Metropolitan's 13 state required Dam Emergency Action Plans (EAP) have been completed and officially approved by CalOES. The required annual exercises and updates have been completed for two of the EAPs and will require ongoing effort for all 13 EAPs as these annual updates are due.

Cybersecurity staff is preparing for a test of Cybersecurity Operations Center processes and detection capabilities in May, and the Office of Cybersecurity is in the early stages of launching a new cyber governance model in preparation for adoption of the new national cybersecurity standards, NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2.0. The number of cyber threat investigations remains consistent between 220 and 250 per month.



### Dam Safety

The state has approved all 13 of Metropolitan's Dam Emergency Action Plans.

#### Apply innovation, technology, and sustainable practices across project lifecycles (design, construction, operations, maintenance, and replacement).

The SCADA pilot phase is approximately 75 percent complete, with full completion expected in April.

Toward instituting an Enterprise Content Management System, contract negotiations were finalized, and a new agreement has been fully executed with the recommended consultant. A kickoff meeting will be held to officially launch the project.



Envision assessment has been completed for the Casa Loma Siphon Seismic Upgrade Project, and staff has authorized the consultant to proceed with Envision submittal. Envision is a sustainability rating system for civil infrastructure.



## Partner with interested parties and the communities we serve



### Goal Dashboard

5 of 7 Outcomes in process and on target

1 Outcome completed

1 Outcome behind schedule

■ **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.**

Strong progress is being made on all assignments. Community Partnering Program interest remains high, and staff is mapping sponsorships to assess opportunities in the future with a particular goal of expanding the program in disadvantaged and underrepresented communities.

Staff held a successful and well-attended environmental listening session with a special focus on time-bound targets for community equity within CAMP4W. This is an area to be developed for the full plan to be presented to the Board by the end of 2024.

The CAMP4W web page is being updated with new content on the Joint Task Force, the new information sheet, and recent board documents. The web page is a communication tool to engage the public and to ensure transparency.

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

More than 600 people attended the MetWorks event, held in partnership with others including West Basin MWD, LA County Sanitation Districts, and the City of Carson. This was an industry outreach and networking event centered around Pure Water Southern California, and it highlighted the progressive design-build contract opportunity for the Pure Water Program's advanced treatment RFQ.

Metropolitan and the Pechanga Nation are fostering a knowledge-sharing partnership. Efforts focus on learning and adaptation in water resource management by facilitating reciprocal tours and knowledge exchange. Previously Pechanga water department personnel toured the Lake Skinner facility. In March, Metropolitan Lake Skinner managers and technicians toured the Pechanga Water Operations and Systems. This tour focused on helping enhance the Tribe's water system operations and management through technical expertise and knowledge transfer, and for Metropolitan to gain insights from the Tribe's traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and their approach to water resource resiliency.

Metropolitan technicians provided:

- Infrastructure Assessment: Identifying areas requiring repair or replacement based on the district's expertise.
- Operational Optimization: Sharing best practices for system maintenance, monitoring, and efficient water use.
- Capacity Building: Discussing potential grant opportunities and technical training programs through AWWA to enhance the Tribe's water system management skills.

Pechanga in turn shared their knowledge of local water sources and how they interconnect with their systems.

# Executive Summary

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

## **Bay-Delta Resources**

The California Department of Water Resources submitted a Change in Point of Diversion Petition to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on February 22, 2024. The State Water Board issued a public notice on February 29 noting that any protests against the change petition must be filed by April 29, 2024.

Staff presented at the National Academy of Sciences' review of the Long-term Operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. Staff presented on Metropolitan's support for the review and the need to examine the monitoring enterprise in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Watershed and the debate on the efficacy of Fall X2 to support Delta smelt.

## **Chief Financial Officer**

In February, staff presented the proposed biennial budget, which includes the Capital Investment Plan and revenue requirements for fiscal years 2024/25 and 2025/26; proposed water rates and charges for calendar years 2025 and 2026 to meet revenue requirements for fiscal years 2024/25 and 2025/26; ten-year financial forecast; and Cost of Service Report.

## **Colorado River Resources**

On March 6, the lower basin states submitted a proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation to be analyzed in the post-2026 Colorado River Operational Guidelines Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The proposal includes significant water use reductions to help stabilize the reservoir levels in the Colorado River Basin and provide a more reliable water supply from it. The Lower Basin States will continue to work with the upper basin states to attempt to craft a seven-state proposal that could be included in the Final EIS sometime next year.

## **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

On March 7, 2024, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) presented MetWorks Pure Water Southern California (Pure Water) Networking in an in-person event at the Carson Event Center. Over 520 attendees, including exhibitors like Metropolitan's Business Outreach Program, Pure Water Southern California Program, Metropolitan's Construction Management and Metropolitan's Project Labor Agreement, West Basin Municipal Water District, Los Angeles County Sanitation District, and various construction and contractor companies participated in making the event a success. The event focused on a morning agenda to provide the construction and consulting community an opportunity to foster partnerships and business networking while learning about the status, scope, and schedule for a Progressive Design-Build contract opportunity for the Pure Water Program's Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) RFQ. The total value of the new treatment facility is approximately \$2B, with multiple contract awards expected. Presenters included Mayor Lula Davis-Holmes—City of Carson; E.J. Caldwell—General Manager, West Basin Municipal Water District; Sam Espinoza—Engineering Department Head, Los Angeles County Sanitation District; Dennis Erdman—Metropolitan Director; Adel Hagekhalil—General Manager, Metropolitan; Bruce Chalmers—Pure Water Southern California Program Manager; and John Vrsalovich—Construction Contracts, Unit Manager.

## **Engineering Services**

During March, Engineering Services staff supported the Colorado River Aqueduct shutdown through the inspection of 46 miles of canals, pump delivery lines at all five CRA pumping plants, Eagle Mountain Headgates and Cabazon Radial Gate Facility; procurement of meters to monitor cracks in West Iron Mountain Tunnel; providing technical support for panel replacements at Eagle and Iron Mountain pumping plants; and managing contractor construction work for the rehabilitation of Freda Siphon and the installation of conduit structural protection along the CRA.

In March 2024, a planned shutdown of the Sepulveda Feeder was also initiated to install carbon fiber reinforced polymer (CFRP) lining to rehabilitate three distressed PCCP segments. Engineering Services staff coordinated

activities to obtain traffic permits for work on and adjacent to Sepulveda Boulevard in the Van Nuys, Sherman Oaks, and Brentwood neighborhoods of the City of Los Angeles.

## External Affairs

External Affairs staff hosted a news conference with board Chair Ortega, GM Hagekhalil, and TreePeople to announce the launch of the new tree rebate, in memory of Cindy Montanez, as part of district's turf replacement incentive. (March 5)

## Human Resources

The Business Support Team planned, organized, and coordinated a "Moving from Burnout to Brilliance" wellness webinar. The live webcast was held on March 19, 2024, and was hosted by Kaiser Permanente.

## Information Technology

The Café's audio visual system was recently upgraded to meet fire, life, and safety codes. This new system leverages existing board and committee room technology, providing the option to use the Café as an overflow space for people to view board or committee meetings when needed. The system also features rich audio and video quality, making every celebratory event or function at the Café an enjoyable experience.

## Safety, Security and Protection

In partnership with various stakeholders and community leaders, Metropolitan continues to uphold its commitment to safety, resilience, and community engagement. Through collaborative efforts and shared dedication, we are proud to highlight the following initiatives and accomplishments:

At the request of Los Angeles City 7th District Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, Metropolitan staff from Security, Valley Conveyance and Distribution (C&D), and Real Property visited and assessed two homeless encampments encroaching on Metropolitan fee property located in Sylmar. Security and Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation (SRI) partnered to conduct a hybrid Lunch and Learn presentation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) available to all district employees.

Emergency Management (EM) staff conducted various exercises and supported a field public information event. All required Dam EAPs have been approved by Cal OES, and EM staff is now carrying out the required annual reviews of all plans this year.

Safety, Regulatory, and Training (SRT) published the 2024 version of the Talk Safety with Me book. The National Safety Council (NSC) continued to roll out the safety vision and guiding principles by hosting a series for focus group sessions. Approximately 150 Metropolitan-wide environmental regulatory compliance reports and fees were submitted to various regulatory agencies by their due dates. SRT hosted a site walkthrough of the La Verne ozone system and chlorinator building for South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to provide critical information for the upcoming amendments to the solvent use regulation that affects Metropolitan's operations. Apprenticeship continued training efforts and provided a tour and overview of the Apprenticeship Program to Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). Training is planning the repurposing of decommissioned chlorine trailers for use as training equipment.

## Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

In March 2024, the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) Task Force conducted a board training workshop led by renowned climate experts. The training was aimed at bolstering Metropolitan's preparedness through enhanced understanding of climate adaptation planning, including scenario planning and adaptive management. The SRI Office facilitated a Lunch and Learn session discussing Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) to Metropolitan staff, emphasizing strategies to reduce criminal opportunities and foster positive interactions in the built environment. Additionally, the General Manager Environmental Listening Session provided updates on CAMP4W and Time-Bound Targets, ensuring that equity considerations were integrated into Metropolitan's initiatives. The CAMP4W Task Force reviewed the draft CAMP4W Year One Report, charting progress since February 2023 and outlining forthcoming steps for 2024, such as funding strategies, policy

recommendations, and an adaptive management framework. SRI spearheaded Metropolitan's Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) Transition and sustainable procurement efforts, while the Environmental Planning Section continued its crucial support for environmental compliance across various capital projects. These core activities underscore Metropolitan's commitment to sustainability, resilience, and innovation in water resource management.

## **Water Resource Management**

Water Resource Management staff supported current year supply reliability by identifying willing sellers for water transfers in the event supplies are needed. Metropolitan continued to lead and support efforts on salinity management and control, particularly on the Colorado River by attending the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Technical Work Group and the Multi-State Salinity Coalition annual conference. Metropolitan advanced conservation efforts by providing a presentation on proposed conservation legislation at the California Water Efficiency Partnership Plenary.

## **Water System Operations**

After months of planning, collaborating, and allocating resources, Metropolitan staff completed the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) shutdown to allow for capital improvements and maintenance work along the aqueduct. Crews from across Metropolitan mobilized to perform their own work and support contractor work for this important annual effort. Work included ensuring safety, dewatering, dredging, NERC compliance testing, electrical maintenance, leak repairs, inspections, cleaning, quagga control, cable terminations, crane replacements, and siphon repairs. Staff built a custom-made tunnel cleaning machine, which was used to clean about 97 miles of tunnels. All of this shutdown work is important to ensure that the aqueduct is reliable and ready to run full when the next drought occurs.



Western GM Craig Miller moderates the event with Senator Roth and Assemblymember Cervantes



Western Water Director and Metropolitan Board Member, Brenda Dennstedt, with Luis Cetina.

***“It was such an honor to feature two respected Inland Empire policy makers in coordination with Western Water as our inaugural post-pandemic event.”***

***Luis Cetina, Principal Government & Regional Affairs Representative and 37-year employee***

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Unique in Metropolitan, the Legislative Services Section (LSS) is comprised of three distinct, coordinated offices: administration and local outreach in Union Station Headquarters, and lobbying in Sacramento and Washington, DC.

Every year, hundreds of legislative bills are introduced that could affect Metropolitan operations, projects and initiatives. Working collaboratively, the local outreach team – six government and regional affairs representatives – support Metropolitan’s advocacy work by promoting the legislative, policy, and project priorities to local community leaders, business groups, and legislative district offices in Southern California.

## IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

The local government affairs team is the grass-roots advocacy team for Metropolitan in the community. The team develops strong relationships in the community, so that Metropolitan is an accessible, trusted advisor on regional water issues.

Every year, we connect with more than 100 legislative and Congressional offices, dozens of local policymakers and 125+ civic and business groups.

Working in partnership with our member agencies, we help organize public educational events and speak to local organizations on current water issues.

## MEMORABLE MOMENT

Community leader briefings (a Metropolitan signature event in partnership with the local member agency and local state/federal legislators), brings together the elected policy makers and community leaders from various public, private and non-profit sectors in an educational setting to discuss current water policy and legislative issues impacting their communities.

In 2023, LSS hosted its first CLB since the pandemic with Western Water, featuring Senator Richard Roth and Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes in Riverside. Currently, we are planning several more CLBs this fiscal year across the Metropolitan service area.



# Water Supply Conditions Report

Water Year 2023-2024

As of 03/31/2024

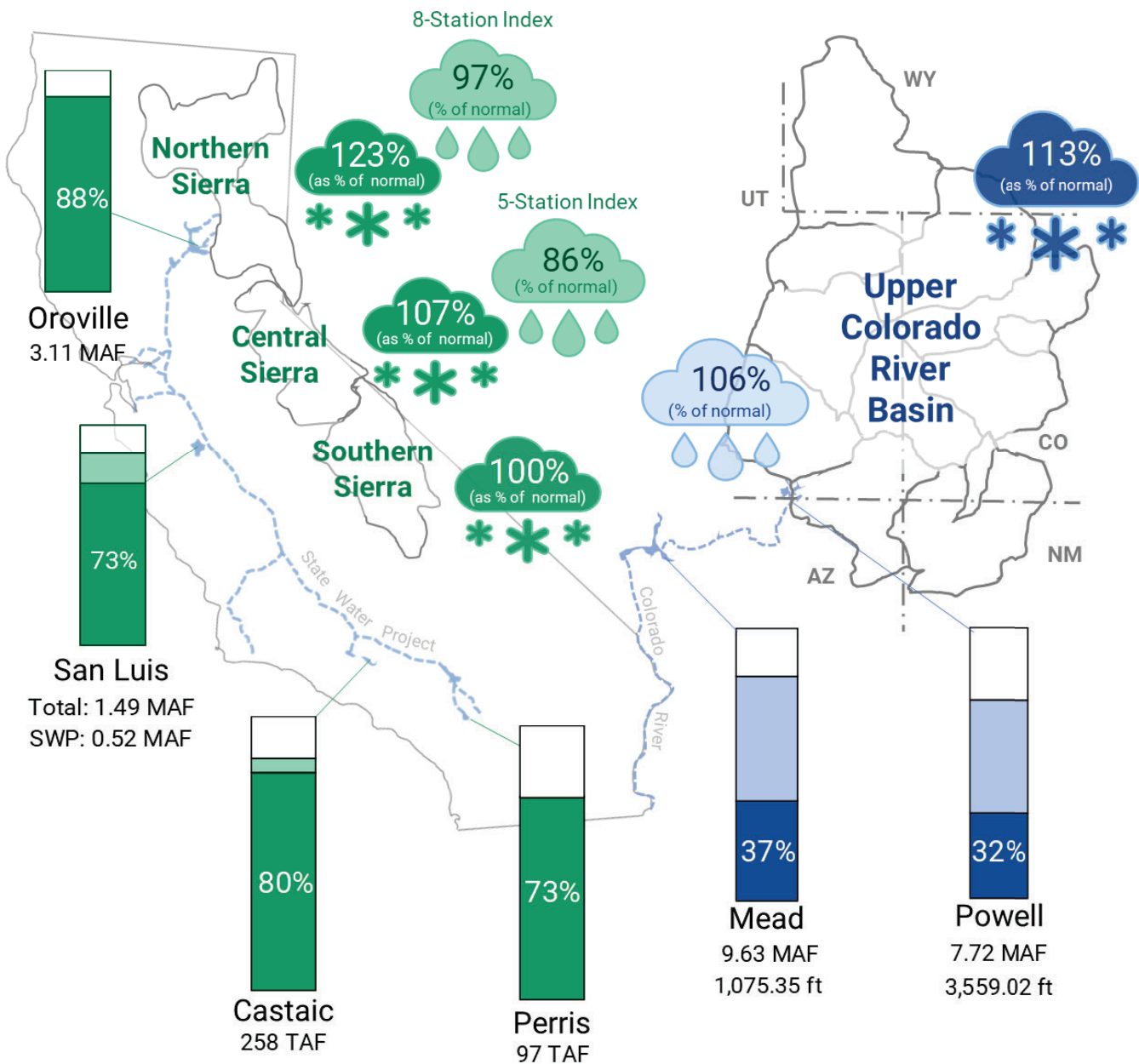
Extended Report: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

## State Water Project Resources

SWP Allocation  
30% Table A: 573,450 acre-feet

## Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions  
976,000 acre-feet



# Reservoir Report

## End of Month Reservoir Report

Monthly Update as of:

3/31/2024

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<b><i>Colorado River Basin</i></b>		
Lake Powell	7,717,482	32%
Lake Mead	9,628,000	37%
<b><i>DWR</i></b>		
Lake Oroville	3,109,317	88%
Shasta Lake	4,194,187	92%
San Luis Total	1,485,252	73%
San Luis CDWR	522,481	49%
Castaic Lake	258,376	80%
Silverwood Lake	69,650	93%
Lake Perris	96,511	73%
<b><i>MWD</i></b>		
DVL	728,724	90%
Lake Mathews	147,522	81%
Lake Skinner	32,731	74%



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.

700 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
General Information (213) 217-6000  
[www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com) [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)

General Manager: Adel Hagekhalil  
Office of the GM (213) 217-6139  
[OfficeoftheGeneralManager@mwdh2o.com](mailto:OfficeoftheGeneralManager@mwdh2o.com)