

Metropolitan Public Comment

SDCWA Imported Water Committee, April 27

UWMP Process

Good Afternoon Chairman Weston and Members of the Committee.

I am Meena Westford, special projects manager for the Metropolitan Water District based here in San Diego.

I am here to correct a misstatement by staff made at your March 23 board meeting about the process employed by Metropolitan to develop its 2015 Urban Water Management Plan. At this meeting staff stated, and I quote, "MWD does not seek any input from their Member Agencies about what is your expectation, what are you planning to do and so forth. They do it independently." This statement was made as part of a staff presentation analyzing Metropolitan's urban water management plan as well as those of Metropolitan's 26 Member Agencies.

To state that Metropolitan develops its urban water management plan without input from the Water Authority and our other Member Agencies is a gross misrepresentation of the facts. Metropolitan engaged in a highly collaborative process with our Member Agencies to develop our Urban Water Management Plan and our updated Integrated Resources Plan. We did not begin assembling our first draft until we had held meetings with our Member Agencies and began collecting the necessary information. In all we held 21 total coordination meetings with the Member Agencies. The meeting records show extensive attendance and participation by Water Authority representatives.

In addition Metropolitan engaged in ongoing communications with Member Agency participants on six different subject areas to review data and provide comments on plan drafts. We offered the opportunity to groundwater basin managers, retail water agencies and other stakeholders to have individual consultation meeting with Metropolitan staff. Our extensive outreach process is fully detailed in Section Five of the Plan.

It is simply untrue for your staff to state that Metropolitan did not seek any input in developing our Urban Water Management Plan when Water Authority staff attended numerous meetings seeking that input. The detailed record of collaboration speaks for itself.

In closing, water planning requires collaboration and partnership for all of us to meet our reliability needs in the face of climate change and other challenges facing our supplies. Our urban water management plan like yours was reviewed and approved by the state. Meanwhile our water resource management staff is

reviewing your new analysis that makes the novel suggestion that the region already has too much water for future droughts. We will be reporting our findings to our member agencies and our Board.

Thank you.