

Metropolitan Public Comment

SDCWA Board Meeting, May 25

Imported Water Committee

Good morning Chair Weston and members of the committee.

I am Meena Westford, your local special projects manager for the Metropolitan Water District.

On Tuesday Chairman Record sent you a response to a letter sent by your chair and vice chair on May 2 to local leaders in the portion of the Metropolitan service area outside of San Diego County. That letter criticizes Metropolitan's water planning efforts.

The allegation is that Metropolitan - via our Integrated Resources Plan and Urban Water Management Plan - is overlooking water development that is planned at a local level. The allegation is incorrect and has led your leadership to reach the inaccurate conclusion that Southern California faces the prospect of too much water in the decades ahead.

In our IRP, Metropolitan identifies real "wet water," which includes existing and supply projects under construction. In addition we survey all the future water initiatives provided by the Member Agencies - whether planned or conceptual - as potential projects. With this complete set of information, Metropolitan then sets regional targets for new local development and conservation. As we presented to our board last summer, to date we as a region are behind in meeting Metropolitan's target for local supply development.

Chairman Record's response details how your own Urban Water Management Plans have counted on new local supplies that were not developed in the quantity or timeline that was originally expected.

In closing Metropolitan works closely with you and our other Member Agencies to frequently update our IRP and Urban Water Management Plan so that the targets for imported water supplies, local supplies and local conservation are made with the best information possible. If development of local supplies does accelerate, that fact will be captured with the targets adjusted accordingly.

Despite the misplaced criticism, Metropolitan continues to work in a spirit of collaboration with Southland water districts to prepare the region for its water future through careful and realistic planning.