



Sent via electronic mail

April 14, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
Office of the Governor
1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 2023-24 Budget Request for Funding of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Infrastructure System

Dear Governor Newsom, President pro Tem Atkins and Speaker Rendon:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), together with the undersigned group of member agencies, respectfully requests \$50 million in state funding to construct and upgrade vital infrastructure that will help prevent the recurrence of severe regional water shortages in the Metropolitan service territory.

During the past three years, our region experienced the dramatic effects of climate change on our water supplies with worsening drought conditions on the State Water Project (SWP). For the first time in history, six of Metropolitan's 26 member agencies that are dependent on SWP supplies were subject to a severe emergency water shortage, with some communities forced to

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cut deliveries over 70 percent or face significant penalties. These six member agencies that supply almost seven million people in Southern California were allocated human health and safety supplies that Metropolitan borrowed from the state to meet basic customer drinking and sanitary needs.

While we are grateful for the vital lifeline provided by the state, it is unacceptable to continue to plan to operate under these conditions as the expected practice or performance of the state's water system.

Your Water Resilience Portfolio initiates an aggressive strategy to protect the state's water supplies from the impact of climate-driven extremes in weather. Consistent with that effort, investments are needed now to ensure the SWP can better capture, convey and store water during wet periods, so we are prepared to withstand the punishing droughts or other emergency conditions we face in the future. And, investments are needed locally to help communities adapt to this new reality.

Last year, the state provided \$50 million for emergency drought projects to help Metropolitan reroute pipelines to stretch our supplies further across our system. This important funding is a down payment on reliability and will help us should 2024 return to dry conditions. However, significantly more work is needed if our communities are to withstand future SWP allocations of 5 percent.

In August 2022, Metropolitan's Board of Directors [resolved](#) to provide equitable reliability across its service area through a combination of infrastructure, storage, demand management, and water supply programs. We embarked on an expedited planning and project delivery schedule to meet that challenge. Initial estimates suggest these investments could cost close to a billion dollars. This comes at a time when we are also facing the need to make multi-billion-dollar investments in additional local supplies and conservation to reduce reliance on our imported supplies from both the SWP and the Colorado River, threatening the affordability of water supplies for this region.

Additional state funding is critical to adapt our regional system to extremely low SWP allocations while we work collectively to address the long-term reliability of the state system. We are asking for the state to provide \$50 million in FY 2023-24 to help us accelerate these needed improvements to our regional conveyance infrastructure to provide our SWP dependent areas access to available water supplies and storage reserves.

As the largest state water contractor, Metropolitan invests hundreds of millions of dollars each year in the SWP. We have long advocated for project improvements that will protect supplies from myriad risks and harmonize its operations with the environment. The pace and scale of climate change is accentuating those risks requiring an urgent response with state and local partnerships to advance these projects.

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Climate change is making the goal of providing reliable water to our ratepayers much harder to achieve without a more flexible and interconnected system of infrastructure. It is imperative we make these investments now to eliminate the vulnerabilities of the SWP-dependent areas and bring equitable water supply reliability for all Metropolitan member agencies and ratepayers.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of our funding request.

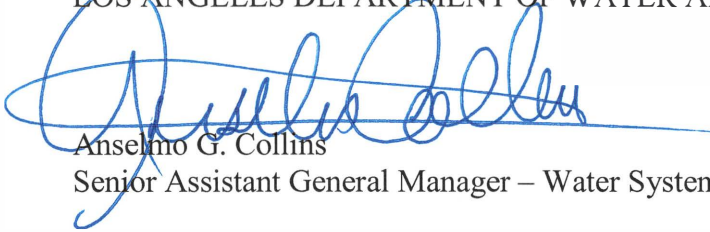
Sincerely,

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA




Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER



Anselmo G. Collins
Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System

CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



Anthony Goff
General Manager

LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



David W. Pedersen, P.E.
General Manager

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The Honorable Anthony Rendon
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THREE VALLEYS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



Matthew H. Litchfield, P.E.
General Manager/Chief Engineer

INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY



Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E.
General Manager

UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



Thomas A. Love
General Manager

Attachment – MWD Drought Project List for State Funding

cc: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
The Honorable Philip Ting, Assembly Committee on Budget
Ann Patterson, Cabinet Secretary, Governor Newsom
Karla Nemeth, Director, Department of Water Resources
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance
Erika Li, Chief Deputy Director Department of Finance
Christine Aurre, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Nick Hardeman, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Christopher Wood, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Kip Lipper, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Cesar Diaz, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Carrie Cornwell, Office of Speaker Anthony Rendon
Jason Sisney, Office of Speaker Anthony Rendon
George Wiley, Office of Speaker Anthony Rendon

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Proposed List of Water Supply Resiliency Projects for State Funding 2023-24 Budget
Connections to Non-State Water Project (SWP) Sources of Supply

The following projects collectively allow for reliable delivery of an alternative source of water from Metropolitan’s Diamond Valley Lake and Colorado River to SWP-dependent areas in the San Gabriel foothills and San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties potentially mitigating drought impacts.

NEW PROJECTS:

1. Badlands Tunnel Surge Protection

Project Description: Construction of surge protection infrastructure to protect the Inland Feeder when pumping from DVL to Metropolitan’s Rialto Feeder allowing for critical delivery of other sources of water to the area for reduced drought vulnerability.

How the project mitigates drought: As the SWP is currently the only source of supply to Metropolitan’s Rialto Pipeline, the areas that receive water from this pipeline are greatly impacted by low SWP allocations. This is one of four projects that when constructed will collectively allow for pumping of water from DVL to the Rialto Feeder.

Project cost: \$18 Million

Estimated online date: End 2024

2. Sepulveda Canyon and Venice Pump Stations (Sepulveda Feeder Pumping Project)

Project description: This project would construct two new pump stations, one at the Sepulveda Canyon Pressure Control Structure (PCS) and one at the Venice PCS, to deliver up to 22 thousand-acre-foot (TAF) per year to the west region agencies that rely heavily on SWP supplies. The proposed facilities can initially pump 30 cfs of treated water from the Weymouth and Diemer Treatment Plants to the West Valley Feeder through the Sepulveda Feeder. The scope of work includes two pumps (one for normal operation and one for backup) at each facility, connecting pipes, power and control equipment, surge protection tanks, and other isolation and check valves to protect the facilities in cases of pressure surge due to pump tripping. At this flow, no change is needed to the existing pre-stressed concrete cylinder (PCCP) pipelines, allowing for early project delivery. Expansion of the pumping capacity requires relining the existing pipeline and is possible to meet future demands.

How the project mitigates drought: The recent drought in California resulted in a severe cut to the Metropolitan’s allocation of SWP water. Three member agencies in the west region of the Metropolitan service area (City of Los Angeles, Las Virgenes MWD, and Calleguas MWD) are heavily reliant on SWP supplies due to hydraulic limitations in the Metropolitan system that prevents treated water from the Weymouth and Diemer Treatment Plants from

reaching the region. The two treatment plants can receive sources other than SWP, such as Colorado River water and DVL storage. The project would deliver up to 30 cfs of treated water to the west region but would effectively offset up to more than 50 cfs of SWP supplies, as a minimum of approximately 20 cfs of SWP supplies must currently be delivered on the Sepulveda Feeder in order to maintain water quality objectives in the pipeline during low SWP allocation conditions. This project would provide drought relief to the west region agencies and create operational flexibility in the system by supplying an alternative water source to the SWP-dependent agencies.

Project cost: \$88 Million

Estimated online date: Early 2026

CURRENT PROJECTS (UPDATED):

3. Wadsworth Pumping Plant Bypass Pipeline

Project description: Construction of 600 feet of 96-inch diameter pipe, isolation valve, and vault structure to connect Metropolitan’s Wadsworth Pumping Plant discharge line to the Inland Feeder, allowing for continuous pumping operations and delivery of stored water from Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) to multiple, drought-vulnerable locations.

How the project mitigates drought: DVL is Metropolitan’s largest reservoir with a capacity of 810,000 acre-feet. Increasing the ability to deliver water stored in DVL to more areas provides flexibility and mitigates impacts of reduced supplies from other sources due to drought (e.g., low SWP allocation). For example, the reservoir can supply Metropolitan’s Mills Water Treatment Plant, which only other source of water would be from the SWP. However, when the lake water surface elevation is below 1670 feet, water must be pumped from the DVL forebay (Wadsworth Pump Plant). The existing piping at Wadsworth Pump Plant does not allow for continuous pumping of DVL water due to the short circuit of the supply and the discharge pipes. The pumping operation must be stopped periodically to refill the forebay. The discontinued flows would inhibit the Mills plant from meeting demands while the forebay is being refilled. The issue is exacerbated when DVL storage is also used to supply other areas that are dependent on SWP supplies as part of water exchange programs with other agencies, such as San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, or via direct delivery during a drought. The new bypass line will allow for continuous pumping operations and improve reliability of water supplies to the Mills plant and other SWP-dependent areas. This is one of four projects that will allow pumping of water from DVL to the Rialto Feeder.

Project cost: \$23 Million

Estimated online date: End 2024

4. New Intertie Connecting Metropolitan's Inland Feeder and Rialto Pipeline

Project description: Construction of 200 feet of 96-inch diameter pipe, isolation valve, and vault structure to connect Metropolitan's Inland Feeder to the Rialto Pipeline, allowing for delivery of other sources of water to the area to mitigate drought vulnerability.

How the project mitigates drought: Metropolitan's Rialto Pipeline conveys water from the California Aqueduct East Branch at Devil Canyon for delivery to Metropolitan member agencies along the pipeline. Connecting Metropolitan's Inland Feeder to the Rialto Feeder allows for increased capacity to deliver water to the area from other current and future sources (e.g., pumped groundwater from Metropolitan's partnering agency, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, or previously stored water from Metropolitan's Diamond Valley Lake) when SWP supplies are limited due to drought. Without the intertie, water delivered from the Inland Feeder would flow to DWR's Devil Canyon Second Afterbay before entering the Rialto Pipeline, which could add 100 feet of hydraulic head to the operation. This project allows for more energy efficient deliveries of water by reducing the lift and provides operational flexibility with bypassing the need to use another agency's facility. This is one of four projects that will allow pumping of water from DVL to the Rialto Feeder.

Project cost: \$17 Million

Estimated online date: End 2024

5. New Interties Connecting Metropolitan's Inland Feeder and Existing Booster Pump Station

Project Description: Construction of pipes, isolation valves, vault structures, and surge protection infrastructure to connect Metropolitan's Inland Feeder Pipeline to either San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's Foothill Pump Station to boost water previously stored in Diamond Valley Lake to Metropolitan's Rialto Pipeline, allowing for critical delivery of other sources of water to the area for reduced drought vulnerability.

How the project mitigates drought: As the SWP is currently the only source of supply to Metropolitan's Rialto Pipeline, the areas that receive water from this pipeline are greatly impacted by low SWP allocations. This proposed connection to an existing pump station would significantly increase the amount of water from an alternative source (Diamond Valley Lake) that can be delivered directly to the Rialto Pipeline when SWP supplies are limited due to drought or other emergencies. This is one of four projects that will allow pumping of water from DVL to the Rialto Feeder.

Project cost: \$27 Million

Estimated online date: Early 2025