



May 6, 2024

CAMP4W Task Force

Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling

700 North Alameda Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012-2944

Subject: Member Agency Input on CAMP4W Year One Progress Report

Dear CAMP4W Task Force Members,

As participating member agencies in the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W), we value the opportunity to contribute to discussions vital for ensuring Metropolitan's ability to reliably serve customers amidst climate-related threats to water supply.

As we conclude the inaugural year of the CAMP4W process, we are pleased with the collaborative efforts and meaningful dialogue that has shaped our shared vision for Metropolitan's future. The Year One Progress Report underscores the benefits of agency collaboration while acknowledging the significant task ahead.

Since the inception of the Joint Task Force on November 21, 2023, substantial progress has been achieved across key areas including Time-Bound Targets, Framework for Climate Decision-Making and Reporting, and Business Models and Funding Strategies. While we commend the progress made, we offer the following comments to ensure the Year One Progress Report provides clarity in specific areas as the process continues into 2024.

Thank you,



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OUTSTANDING QUESTION

The Draft Report outlines progress since February 2023 and delineates the next steps for 2024. Progress to date encompasses efforts to establish the values and priorities of the Board and Member Agencies, components of a Climate Decision-Making Framework, Time-Bound Targets, and the process for identifying projects and programs for evaluation.

How will the Board action of a “Concurrence” impact the dynamic nature of this process? We seek confirmation that this action does not equate to a board-adopted policy.

TIME-BOUND TARGETS

PAGES 3-2, ES-7, AND 2-4

The description of the Joint Task Force Charter (page 3-2) references "Time-Bound Targets: Set targets to achieve by 2026, 2032, and 2045 for efficiency, conservation (including GPCD across the entire service area)." However, to align with the discussions and outcomes of the Task Force, footnote 5 on pages ES-7 and 2-4 states, "Specific [targets] will be identified later this year based on final SWRCB standards as well as Metropolitan’s overall demand management target. The target will be designed to track water use efficiency trends by sector over time and will take local conditions, including climate, into consideration."

We, the undersigned, express concern regarding the use of Gallons Per Capita Per Day (GPCD) as a time-bound target of value. Calculating a community's total water use per capita does not accurately measure water use efficiency. A gross GPCD value fails to account for the unique water needs of different communities within the Metropolitan’s service area. Arid communities requiring more irrigation for parks, fields, schools, and yards would be disadvantaged, as would communities hosting water-intensive businesses such as food and beverage production, manufacturing, and agriculture. Additionally, the GPCD metric favors population centers along the coast with milder climates and lower irrigation demands.

To maintain equity in measurement, any target involving GPCD should consider only indoor residential GPCD—total residential water use divided by total residential population. While not perfect, this approach would offer a more equitable comparison of communities within Metropolitan’s service area. Assigning a regional GPCD target that averages data from all communities within Metropolitan would not benefit the Metropolitan member agency family. Furthermore, dividing the total water produced or imported within the service area by the population lacks meaning, considering the dynamic factors of population growth, industrial changes, fluctuating weather patterns, and the increasing demand for outdoor irrigation due to climate change.

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA SCORING

PAGES ES-6 AND 2-3

We are pleased to note that Section 2.2.1 outlines the proposed Evaluative Criteria, which will undergo workshops with the Board and Member Agencies throughout 2024. Additionally, it specifies that the scoring components of each Evaluative Criteria category will be refined over the course of 2024, as depicted in the points distribution illustrated on pages ES-6 and 2-3.

It is important to highlight that the Evaluative Criteria Scoring will consist of quantifiable, meaningful, and measurable metrics. This approach supports a data-driven evaluation process for projects and programs.

PORTFOLIO EVALUATION

PAGE 3-4

Considering projects and programs as part of a portfolio will enable Metropolitan to grasp the comprehensive benefits of each project component in relation to the whole. Staff will furnish project and program evaluations as standalone assessments, coupled with insights into how a particular project or program would integrate within a portfolio.

We recommend the establishment of a scoring committee comprising Metropolitan staff and representatives from Member Agencies to conduct these assessments.

BUSINESS MODEL

PAGE 4-3

Section 4.2 includes a list of components that could be included in the updated Business Model discussions.

We suggest that the section initiates with (1) a clear understanding of Metropolitan's current Business Model; (2) identification of the problem Metropolitan is addressing, categorized as a factor of Metropolitan's role and core function, Rate refinement, or New revenue opportunities; and then (3) identification of the components Metropolitan will include in the Business Model discussion with respect to the problem(s) and goals.

In addition, updating the Business Model is foundational and critical to Metropolitan's future, therefore we encourage ample time and resources be allocated for the robust deliberation that needs to occur to accomplish the task successfully.

We offer the following graphic to illustrate the interrelation of the three primary problem/goal factors.

