



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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INITIAL METROPOLITAN WATER SUMMIT TAKES UP CALIFORNIA'S BIGGEST WATER CHALLENGES

Personal water-saving pledge part of "20 x 2020: Building the Momentum" Water Summit

LOS ANGELES—More than 350 people today participated in a first-ever water summit convened by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to promote meeting the statewide goal of reducing per-capita water use by 20 percent over the next 10 years.

The one-day summit at historic Union Station in downtown Los Angeles brought together federal and state regulators, water industry officials, municipal planners, environmentalists, climatologists and other experts to address the extensive work being done throughout the state to help ensure supply reliability through the year 2035.

"Despite the recent rains, we are still on the brink of a water crisis," said Metropolitan board Chairman Timothy F. Brick. "This summit carries on the momentum started by our state leaders by asking people to pledge that they will be more mindful of our water use."

As part of the "20 x 2020: Building the Momentum" summit, participants signed postcards and posters pledging to be more aware of their water consumption at home and at work, and to make every reasonable effort to use less water daily. As part of the pledge, they vowed to make others more aware of the importance of water conservation and encourage them to make the phrase "be water wise" a permanent way of life at home, at work and at play. The pledge also called on them to support policies and programs in their community that achieve the 20 percent water use reduction.

The summit featured panel discussions on three of the largest water challenges facing California. Dr. Anthony R. Fellow, Metropolitan board vice chair and MWD representative for the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, moderated a panel of Art Baggett of the State Water Resources Control Board; Gloria Gray, Delta Stewardship Council member and MWD director representing West Basin Municipal Water District; and Jay Ziegler, The Nature Conservancy's state director of external affairs and policy, on "The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Resolving a Crisis."

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Metropolitan Director Glen Peterson, representing Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, joined Debra C. Man, Metropolitan assistant general manager and chief operating officer; Richard Atwater, executive director of the Southern California Water Committee; and Walt Wadlow, general manager of Alameda County Water District in a panel discussion "The Integrated Resources Plan: Roadmap for Water Supply Reliability through 2035."

Dr. Mark Bernstein, professor and managing director of the University of Southern California's Energy Institute; Robert Renner, the Water Research Foundation's executive director; and Lorraine White, energy policy advisor for the California Energy Commission, addressed "Water & Energy: The Critical Nexus."

In closing the summit, Brick said, "This is a time of transition, where we can look to old ways and new ways to manage our available supplies. That means we need to dust off the tricks of the trade and integrate them with new technologies to blend past and present and take us towards a more reliable future."

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.