



## Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Group

### • Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Group Manager Report

#### Summary

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To report on Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation activities for February 2025

#### Purpose

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Informational

#### Detailed Report

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##### SRI Core Activities

SRI and the Core Planning Team for the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) finalized the 2024 CAMP4W Annual Report providing updates on Signposts, Time-Bound Targets, and Implementation Highlights. The initial draft of the CAMP4W Implementation Strategy and Working Memorandum #10 on the Climate Adaptation Policy Framework were discussed with the Task Force at the February 26, 2025 meeting. An Environmental Listening Session was held on February 3 to seek input on the draft Annual Report and address questions. The Chief SRI Officer participated in an episode of the Talking Water Podcast on California Water issues and attended the *Innovate Locally to Inspire Change Globally Summit*, co-hosted by the Governor's Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation, University of California, and Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

##### Sustainability and Resilience

**Sustainability and Resilience** section staff coordinated the Water Energy Climate Sustainability (WECS) team meeting on February 4. WECS meets bimonthly and provides an opportunity for staff in different disciplines across the district to share project updates and collaborate on ideas.

**Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Transition:** On February 13, the ZEV Executive Task Force met to discuss progress on Metropolitan's transition to electric vehicles. The cross-organizational management team and staff discussed the latest vehicle purchases and charger installations, financing options for ZEV purchases, and potential regulatory and legislative impacts resulting from changes implemented by the new federal administration.

##### Centralized Grants and Research Management Office

Staff developed a Fire Recovery/FEMA resources SharePoint site and held a meeting on February 5, 2025 with Foothill Municipal Water District and sub-agency staff. The meeting agenda included:

Overview of Altadena and Pasadena Water infrastructure

Recovery experience from 2017 Tubbs Fire

- Ben Sherwood, Sonoma Water, Assistant General Manager for Business Services & External Affairs
- Emma Walton, Operations Manager, Sonoma Water



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Critical operations and maintenance activities were supported by the Environmental Planning Section. Staff provided California Environmental Quality Act and regulatory clearances and conducted pre-construction biological resource surveys and construction monitoring for activities throughout the service area, including upcoming shutdowns (CRA, Yorba Linda Feeder, San Diego Pipeline Nos. 1 and 2, and Rialto Feeder). EPS staff provided subject matter expert reviews of legislative bills, including AB 295 (Macedo), AB 300 (Lackey), AB 362 (Ramos), AB 367 (Bennett), AB 372 (Bennett), SB 231 (Seyarto), and SB 232 (Seyarto). In addition, staff reviewed and analyzed CEQA notices for four external projects to determine the potential impacts on Metropolitan and protect Metropolitan's right-of-way and facilities; comments letters were prepared and submitted for those projects that had the potential for impacts.

**Environmental Planning Section** continued oversight of reserve management activities to protect valuable natural resources and meet Metropolitan's mitigation obligations. Security patrols were conducted throughout the Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve and the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve (MSR) to prevent trespassing, vandalism, poaching, and theft and to protect the reserves' natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment. Activities at the Lake Mathews Reserve included the application of pre-emergent herbicide to prevent the regrowth of noxious weeds in the 2025 growing season, servicing wildlife cameras at artificial burrowing owl mounds north of Lake Mathews to document burrowing owl/wildlife activity, and repairing patrol roads and fencing. Activities at the MSR included processing the 2024 Christmas Bird Count data from the event at Diamond Valley Lake (117 species and 4,911 individual birds were observed, including 11 of 12 of the species covered by the MSR's Multi-Species Habitat Protection Plan), coordinating with researchers conducting Quino checkerspot butterfly and northern harrier surveys, approving a herpetology/small mammal project, and planting in the Tucalota Creek restoration site and in upland restoration sites across the reserve.



**Burrowing owl and artificial burrow at the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve**

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### **Land Management**

A new lease has been executed with Bouldin Farming Company comprising the entirety of Webb Tract in the Bay Delta. The lease is for an eight-month term to allow the farming of a winter wheat crop and to offset Metropolitan's land maintenance costs. Staff is working towards securing a long-term lease through an RFP process.