



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

• SRI GM Monthly Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of SRI activities for the month of May 2026

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Goal: Execute CAMP4W Implementation Strategy to Integrate Climate Adaptation District-wide

Staff brought Working Memorandum 11, an update on CAMP4W Assessments, Lessons Learned, and Low Regret Recommendations, to the CAMP4W Subcommittee. Staff continues to refine CAMP4W Assessments for projects and is developing a portfolio approach to present to the Board in August to inform near-term decisions on Pure Water Southern California and Sites Reservoir. Staff also presented annual report data on water supply reliability signposts and progress on time-bound targets. Understanding new information and data points is essential to board decision-making.

Goal: Decide on Sites Reservoir and Protect Bay-Delta Interests

1. Implement risk reduction strategies to protect Delta assets and minimize supply disruption

For the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project, Environmental Planning Section staff continued preparing the preconstruction submittals in accordance with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Restoration Management Permit, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District Regional General Permit 16, Regional Water Quality Control Board Statewide Restoration General Order, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Restoration Programmatic Biological Opinion. In addition, staff prepared cost estimates for the environmental construction monitoring budget in support of a future board action to consider award of the project construction phase.

For the Delta Conveyance Project, Environmental Planning staff continued representing Public Water Agencies in a coordinator role, working with the Department of Water Resources on regulatory permitting efforts.

Goal: Complete Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Planning for Board to Consider Pure Water Southern California

(1) Complete EIR analysis and public process

Environmental Planning Section staff assisted with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation large-scale grant invoicing and the preparation of the Proposition 4 grant application for the Pure Water Southern California Program.

Additional SRI Activities

The Chief SRI Officer participated on a panel entitled *Resilience is Now a Critical Asset for Water Utilities* at ACWA's spring event in Sacramento. The discussion focused on efforts to operationalize resilience into

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infrastructure planning and the need for emergency preparedness for extreme weather events. The SRI Officer also participated in LA County's Water Resiliency Summit with water utilities and NGOs from throughout the county. Discussions focused on LA County's four-pronged Water Plan, including strategies for stormwater capture and nature-based solutions.

Climate Action Plan

On May 11, 2026, Sustainability and Resilience (SR) staff presented the 2025 Climate Action Plan Implementation Fourth Annual Progress Report to the One Water and Adaptation Committee. The progress report highlights Metropolitan's accomplishments in 2025 and tracks progress in implementing the Climate Action Plan and advancing our long-term climate goals. It presents updated 2024 GHG inventory results and the carbon budget used to measure emission reductions. The report also showcases standout successes from the past year, highlights operational innovation and investments that improve resilience and reduce emissions.

On May 16th, staff participated in a Habitat Restoration Day in partnership with the Friends of the LA River. During this day, volunteers removed invasive species, learned about the local ecosystem, and enjoyed a nature-filled walk around the Nature Reserve with the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. For over 30 years, Friends of the LA River has mobilized tens of thousands of volunteers to remove invasive species, plant native habitat and protect the river and the communities that surround it. For Earth Week 2026, staff from SR and External Affairs mobilized a volunteer recruitment effort at Metropolitan, where staff interested in volunteering could easily sign-up either during Earth Week events or online. Efforts continue with another Habitat Restoration Volunteer Day in June. Additionally, staff that participated in the Earth Week challenges (Connect with Nature, Go Zero Waste and Refill-a-rama) in April received an MWD water bottle as an appreciation gift for participating.



Figure 1. Photo of a Red-tailed Hawk with Lake Skinner in the background, provided by Tom O'Brien



Figure 2. Garden image provided by Kevin Perez



Figure 3. Arlington Garden in Pasadena, photo taken by Sal Vasquez, provided by Lizeth Martinez

SR staff is compiling the 2025 GHG Inventory and preparing for third-party verification to commence in late May. Mandatory verification for California Air Resources Board Electric Power Entity reporting will continue through June, with a deadline of August 10th.

Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies

During May, the Innovation Unit prepared for the launch of Metropolitan's new Innovation Pilot Fund. Preparatory activities focused on refining program structure, identifying priority opportunity areas, and coordinating internal processes to support future pilot solicitation, evaluation, and implementation. The fund is intended to provide a more straightforward pathway for testing and evaluating emerging technologies and process innovations that can improve operational efficiency, resilience, and service delivery across the organization. The Innovation Unit also continued follow-up activities associated with the March Technology Needs Assessment.

Additionally, staff participated in the May Southern California Water Coalition stormwater monthly meeting, which featured demonstrations of two digital tools designed to support groundwater recharge planning and implementation. The session highlighted emerging approaches for improving data integration, project prioritization, and regional coordination to advance stormwater capture and enhance long-term water reliability throughout Southern California. Lastly, the Innovation Unit continued supporting the enterprise data analytics initiative and related digital transformation efforts.

Zero-Emission Vehicle Transition

On May 14, 2026, the cross-organizational Zero-Emission Executive Task Force met to discuss pending regulatory changes that may impact Metropolitan's transition to battery-electric vehicles. The Advanced Clean Fleets regulation mandates that California public agencies purchase ZEVs for 50 percent of its medium and heavy-duty vehicles, increasing to 100 percent beginning in 2030. Staff also presented updates on current and planned ZEV purchases and the status of new chargers that are being installed while the long-term charging infrastructure project is underway.

Staff from Metropolitan's SR Section, Fleet Services Unit, and the Operations Planning and Project Management Unit attended the Advanced Clean Transportation (ACT) Expo in Las Vegas on May 4-7, 2026, checking out the latest in zero and near-zero-emission vehicles and charging infrastructure. As part of its Climate Action Plan, Metropolitan is replacing fossil fuel vehicles with zero-emission models, and the ACT Expo provides opportunities for public agencies and private companies to share their fleet electrification journeys while exploring new technologies.

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Figures 4-8. Images of the Advanced Clean Transportation Expo provided by Lisa Gorman



Environmental Planning Services

Environmental Planning Section staff continued preparation of supplemental CEQA documentation for the PCCP Rehabilitation Sepulveda Feeder Reach 9 Project, as well as continued supporting the progressive design-build process for the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Project and the Lake Mathews New Pressure Control Structure and Electrical Upgrades Project. For the Inland Feeder/Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project, staff continued coordination with the USFWS and CDFW on the incidental take permits (ITP) under the federal and state endangered species acts. Staff continued developing an approach to mitigate impacts to protected species from the project in coordination with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and submitted a memorandum describing the conceptual mitigation approach to USFWS and CDFW. For the Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Access Road Improvements Project, coordination between Environmental Planning and CDFW staff continued for the ITP application pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 2081(b) and Senate Bill (SB) 147 for potential incidental take of the Fully Protected Species, desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*). Staff continued to support activities at the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant, including participation in the value engineering workshop for the La Verne Warehouse Facilities Upgrade Project, planning efforts for the new building for the Interim Water Quality Laboratory Project, and design support for the Water Quality Lab Building Improvements Project. In addition, staff submitted the final annual revegetation monitoring report to CDFW for the Whitewater River/Colorado River Aqueduct Siphon Scour Protection Project. Project construction and restoration were completed in 2020, with five years of monitoring required for post-construction restoration. Environmental monitoring of construction activities continued for the La Verne Shops Upgrades Project, Sepulveda Feeder Reach 2 PCCP Rehabilitation Project, and the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project. For the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project, staff provided guidance to Construction Management staff to protect an active killdeer nest identified during construction activities at the reservoir (see photos).

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Killdeer nesting area (circled in white)



Camouflaged ground nest with eggs Killdeer seen near its nest

Critical operations and maintenance activities were supported by the Environmental Planning Section. Staff provided CEQA and regulatory clearances and conducted preconstruction biological and nesting bird surveys for activities at water treatment plants and within the conveyance and distribution system throughout the service area. Staff provided subject matter expert review of the following legislative bills: Assembly Bill (AB) 1772 (Papan) – Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels; AB 1873 (Bennett) – County of Ventura: fire suppression: backup energy source; AB 1881 (Ramos) – California Indian Freedom Act of 2026; AB 1894 (Rubio) – Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water; AB 1960 (Bennett) – Wildfire Prevention Grants Program: identified cohesive fire communities; AB 2032 (Ransom) – Fish and wildlife: golden mussels; AB 2170 (Boerner) – CEQA: overburdened communities: notices and hearings: translations; AB 2218 (Kalra) – Water policy: California Native American tribes; AB 2590 (Gonzalez) – Resource conservation: sentinel landscapes; AB 2630 (Bennett) – Water diversion and use: adoption of regulations; SB 887 (Padilla) – CEQA: environmental leadership development projects: data centers: clean energy power plant projects; SB 899 (Grove) – Fire prevention: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force: wildfire smoke; SB 1085 (Durazo) – Water supply planning: housing developments; SB 1097 (Wiener) – CEQA: electrical distribution: exemptions; SB 1153 (Caballero) – Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water systems: wildfire; and SB 1297 (Allen) – Regional wildfire partnerships. In addition, staff reviewed and analyzed CEQA notices for 15 external projects to determine the potential impact on Metropolitan and protect Metropolitan’s right-of-way and facilities; comment letters were prepared and submitted for projects that had the potential for impacts. Finally, Environmental Planning collaborated with an on-call consultant to host an internal training for staff regarding the development of project descriptions for CEQA documents; this training is one in a series of trainings focusing on various CEQA topics.

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The Environmental Planning Section continued oversight of reserve management activities to protect valuable natural resources and meet Metropolitan's mitigation obligations. Security patrols and fence repairs were conducted throughout the Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve and the Southwestern Riverside County Multiple Species Reserve (MSR) to prevent trespassing, vandalism, poaching, and theft and to protect the reserves' natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment. Specific activities at the Lake Mathews Reserve included annual monitoring of grassland and sage scrub restoration sites to record vegetation composition, invasive vegetation management at restoration sites through herbicide applications and manual removal of invasives, and preparation and execution of a prescribed burn. Activities at the MSR included conducting herbicide treatments for invasive plants throughout the Reserve, installing cowbird traps in Tocalota and Middle creeks and along the south shore of Lake Skinner, and mowing non-native grassland within Reserve habitat management units. The Judy Abdo Wildflower Trail, which opened in February, was closed in early May. The Alamos Schoolhouse environmental education center was open to visitors on Saturdays.

Land Management

A lease amendment was executed to extend the tenancy on Bouldin Island West for an additional one-year period. Staff is finalizing an RFP for distribution in Summer 2026 for rice farming on the entire Bouldin Island.

Staff issued an entry permit to Helix Electric Inc. for the use of Metropolitan's fee-owned land for construction staging purposes in connection with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's Saugus Treatment Plant Project. The lease with Pepsi Bottling Group was extended for an additional ten years and is subject to the reappraisal of the rent, which was memorialized with an executed lease amendment.

The CDFW entered into a new license agreement to continue its Nutria detection and eradication activities within Metropolitan's Bay-Delta Islands pursuant to the statewide Nutria Eradication Project. This project is helpful to protecting Metropolitan's infrastructure and levees as the Nutria species are known to cause significant damage throughout the region.