



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

## Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Activities for September 2024**

### **Summary**

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This reports provides a summary of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group activities for September 2024.

### **Purpose**

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Informational

### **Attachments**

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Attachment 1 – Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group activities for September 2024.

# Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## Business Outreach & Community Engagement

On September 11, Seminar one of the Contractor Academy was held at Metropolitan's headquarters in Los Angeles.

On September 12, Staff attended the Asian Business Association - Inland Empire annual small business development conference.

On September 17-19, Staff attended the Women Business Enterprise Council-West 21st Annual Procurement Conference.

On September 18, Seminar Two of the Contractor Academy was held at Metropolitan's headquarters in Los Angeles. Topics included a Project Labor overview and how to complete a statement of qualifications.

On September 18, Staff attended the Asian Business Association - Orange County BizMatch Business Matchmaking conference. An ultimate business matchmaking event included a keynote speaker, panel discussion, matchmaking session, and an opportunity to meet buyers and suppliers to learn from industry experts.



On September 20, Staff attended the 48th Annual IMPACT Awards hosted by the Asian Business Association - Los Angeles.

On September 24, Staff attended the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce Go Green & Health Expo in Orange County. Over 200 attendees and 35 exhibitors attended to learn and experience technology and sustainable solutions. A fireside chat discussion from Metropolitan and Irvine Ranch Water District included areas of the latest innovations in the water industry that business owners should be aware of and the potential return of investment for upgrading water systems.



On September 25<sup>th</sup>, Seminar Three of the Contractor Academy was held at Metropolitan's headquarters in Los Angeles.

On September 25, Staff attended the Small Business Development Network Second annual PROCON-OC's Procurement Conference.

On September 26, Staff attended the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Awards dinner hosted by the Black Chamber of Commerce - Orange County

### **Workforce Development**

September 4, 2024, Workforce Development staff met with partners (City of Carson, LACSD, and West Basin MWD) to discuss the City of Carson MOU and agreed to bifurcate the MOU and focus on Workforce Development efforts through community outreach of industry awareness, K-12 education focused on career pathways and young adult (18 & over) internship program in partnership with the South Bay WIB. The MOU is currently under review with legal, and the next step is a meeting with the South Bay WIB to review the internship program, in which they administer, recruit, manage, and pay for the internships. A separate MOU will be in development to further discuss a partnership with CSUDH for a Water Treatment Operator training program and a career center in partnership with LACSD on Pure Water Southern California location.

September 4, 2024, staff met with California Urban Water Agencies to discuss Workforce Development (CUWA) opportunities.

September 10, 2024, staff attended the Water Workforce Ad Hoc Committee meeting, in which an update was provided regarding the Long Beach City College (LBCC) award of more than \$10 million in grants to help lead efforts to build a qualified workforce supportive of climate resiliency in Los Angeles and Orange counties. LBCC will receive \$9.5 million from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Inflation Reduction Act Climate-Ready Workforce (CRW) for Coastal and Great Lakes States, Tribes, and Territories Initiative. The college will also receive \$750,000 from the California Water, Wastewater and Energy Workforce Development Program of the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA). MWD Workforce Development DEI staff has registered to be part of the grant committee to learn how we can partner.

September 18, 2024, staff attended the EUM Workforce Webinar: Workforce Community Partnerships. The Webinar provided insight of a Fast-track grant-funded, hands-on program in Northwest Ohio. Upon successful completion, students will earn the Water Treatment Professions Certificate from Owens Community College. This 17-credit certificate is approved by the Ohio Department of Higher Education and may be applied to further study towards an Associates or Bachelors degree.

September 19, 2024, staff met with JVS regarding a partnership with a Digital Equity Competitive Grant Proposal. The grant would be hosted by IE Works and MWD would assist in providing one or more of the following: 1) Act as an employer expert for the Water/Wastewater industry; provide feedback and input about the specific digital skills required/desired for employment at IEWorks signatory agencies, 2) Actively partner with JVS to provide training opportunities where digital skills training can be offered, 3) Facilitate connections between JVS and other organizations whose population served could benefit from digital skills training, 4) Promote JVS's digital skills training offerings to appropriate audiences, 5) Distribute digital literacy related resources (developed by JVS) to community members in your network and/or 6) Keep project partners apprised of progress on the project. Meeting with the Information Technology group to further discuss partnership.

September 18, 2024, staff met with the Los Angeles Metro Women and Girls Governing Council to learn about their program, in which their goals are: to have a gender-balanced workforce; to accelerate change because progress for women is progress for everyone; and to not seek just one solution, but a comprehensive strategy to address the complex and inter-related causes of gender inequity, mobility and economic challenges.

September 20, 2024, staff met with Boyle Heights Technology Youth Center to learn about their workforce development programs for youth and young adults.

### **Tribal Outreach & Engagement**

On September 3, 2024, staff attended CRIT Chemehuevi language meetings and conducted workforce development outreach on the apprenticeship program.



On September 6, 2024, staff attended the Chemehuevi and Southern Paiute gathering at MT Charleston. MWD sponsored Chemehuevi from CRIT and Havasu Landing.



MWD DEI staff Gina Chavez with basket weaving cultural demonstrator

September 6, 2024, DEI and SRI staff met with the Chemehuevi and AES partnership representatives to continue discussions on the proposed MWD Interconnection project. The partnership advised that they are now ready to comply with the MWD interconnectivity requirements and protocols and are planning to submit an application soon.

Staff continues to provide pre-apprentice testing assistance through follow-up with candidates on testing appointments, locations, and online registration.

On September 18, 2024, staff met with the local high school weld shop and CTE committee leader. Invited to a meeting on September 26, 2024 to discuss set up of a job tour before December for weld and automotive class.



Visit with Tom Moore at Parker High School Weld Shop

On September 19, 2024, staff attended a Chemehuevi meeting in Havasu Landing. Discussed MT Charleston gathering and luncheon event with MWD DEI staff on September 26, 2024.





Meeting at Chemehuevi Havasu Landing Reservation with Alicia Adams and Ron Escobar

On September 23, 2024, staff will meet with CRIT education to discuss partnership and collaboration on education grants towards water industry career pathways.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2024, staff is scheduled to meet with CRIT regarding workforce development opportunities and support the NatiVisions Film Festival, sponsored by MWD DEI.