



# Community and Workplace Culture Committee

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Activities

Item 7b  
July 7, 2025

# Item 7b

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities

### Subject

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities

### Purpose

Update on key activities of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



# Understanding The Intricacies Of Water

An online introduction to water resources, quality and affordability



Panel Moderator, Liji Thomas  
Metropolitan chief diversity, equity and  
inclusion officer

June 16  
5 -7 pm

In partnership with the Southwest Area of the NAACP, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California invites you to learn together in a special education series about our shared water resources, challenges and opportunities to adapt to a changing environmental and financial climate.

#### What to Expect

- Straight talk on where your water comes from and how it's protected, monitored and tested
- Engaging conversations with water experts and community leaders
- Space to ask questions, share concerns, and connect with each other

*Access to clean, safe and affordable water is a human right and our mission.*

This workshop will be the first in a series committed to creating new partnerships and awareness of shared goals with the communities we serve.

## Understanding Your Water

Noosha Razavian  
Resource specialist, Resource Planning  
& Development Section

## Safeguarding Water Quality and Public Health

Paul Rochelle  
Manager, Water Quality Section

## Understanding Water Affordability

Sam Smalls  
Manager, Treasury and  
Debt Section



ACWA  
FOUNDATION

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## EMERGING STRATEGIES TO BUILD & SUSTAIN YOUR FUTURE READY WATER WORKFORCE

**FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2025  
10-11:30 AM (VIRTUAL)**

California's water sector is facing a major workforce shift—and the need for skilled talent has never been more urgent. Join the ACWA Foundation for this 90-minute training that brings together experts and water leaders from across the industry to share fresh data, new tools, and actionable strategies to help agencies recruit, retain, and train the next generation of water professionals.

### Topics Include

Key trends and future workforce needs  
A new workforce planning tool for agencies  
Innovative approaches to hiring, training, and retention  
Case studies from successful agency partnerships

### Who Should Attend

Water agency leaders, HR professionals, hiring managers, and workforce planners.

### Speakers



**Jennifer Persike**

Jennifer Persike & Co.; Vice  
Chair, ACWA Foundation



**Wendi Brown**

President, WPCP, Inc.



**Brenda Martinez**

Workforce Development Officer,  
Metropolitan Water District



**Toya Cooper, Esq.**

Manager, Workforce Strategies,  
Contra Costa Water District



**Danielle Blacet-Hyden**

Executive Director, California  
Municipal Utilities Association

**\$75 Registration (Up to 3 per Organization)**

[www.acwa-foundation.org](http://www.acwa-foundation.org)



