THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Operations Groups

- **Operations Groups' Monthly Activities Report for April 2025**

Summary

This monthly report for the Operations Groups provides a summary of activities for April 2025 in the following key areas:

- Enhance Workforce Safety
- Manage Business Operations, Budget, and Staffing
- Provide Reliable Water Deliveries and Manage Storage
- Develop New Supplies and Optimize System Flexibility
- Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner
- Protect Source Waters and Ensure Water Quality Compliance
- Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution
- Protect Infrastructure and Optimize Maintenance
- Optimize Asset and Maintenance Management
- Enhance Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulations
- Advance Education and Outreach Initiatives

Purpose

Informational by the Operations Groups on a summary of key activities for the month of April 2025.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Detailed Report – Operations Groups' Monthly Activities for April 2025

Date of Report: May 13, 2025

Operations

Operations Groups

Core Business Objectives

Enhance Workforce Safety

Desert staff attended Incident Command Post training at the Gene facility as part of Metropolitan's emergency response readiness program. Each operational Incident Command Post completes three training exercises per year to keep staff apprised of emergency response communications and provide an opportunity for simulating real-life scenarios through tabletop and functional exercises.

Staff attending ICP training

Staff completed the installation of two new exterior lights at the Palos Verdes Reservoir site. The new lights will enhance safety when staff is completing work at night, such as staging equipment or completing operations and maintenance activities.

Staff pouring concrete base (left) and installing new light fixture (right)

Manage Business Operations, Budget, and Staffing

The Business Management Team (BMT) worked with Operations Groups sections and units to analyze staffing needs and prepare respective Fiscal Year 2025/26 staffing plans. BMT also worked with the Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Office to identify research and innovation projects that would be good candidates for external grant funding support.

Provide Reliable Water Deliveries and Manage Storage

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 122,000 acre-feet (AF) for April, with an average of 4,100 AF per day, which was about 1,800 AF per day higher than in March. Treated water deliveries were 35,100 AF higher than in March, for a total of 73,700 AF, or 60 percent of total deliveries for the month. This increase was primarily due to the activation of service connection LA-25 by LADWP due to a scheduled outage of their filtration plant. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) is back in service after a regular shutdown and pumped a total of 71,800 AF in April. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 2,500 AF per day, totaling about 75,500 AF for the month. The target SWP blend increased to 25 percent for Diemer and Weymouth to accommodate Lake Mathews tower chlorination, while Skinner remained at 0 percent.

Metropolitan has sufficient SWP, Colorado River, and storage supplies to meet demands in 2025 while putting additional water into storage. Water continues to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management principles and operational objectives with an emphasis on positioning SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP-dependent area. The California Department of Water Resources increased the SWP Allocation from 35 percent to 40 percent in late March. Metropolitan is continuing to minimize the use of Table A supplies to preserve supplies for the SWP-dependent area. At the same time, Metropolitan is shifting operations to manage surplus supplies, including starting deliveries to member agency cyclic programs and to Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District.

Develop New Supplies and Optimize System Flexibility

Staff completed a shutdown of the Eastside Pipeline and Wadsworth Pump Plant to allow a contractor to install an 84-inch butterfly valve for the newly constructed Wadsworth Bypass. This valve completes the bypass project, which allows the pump plant to simultaneously release water from Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) into the forebay and pump the water back up the Inland Feeder toward Devil Canyon. This is one of four drought mitigation projects under construction that will allow DVL water to reach areas along the Rialto Pipeline that are currently dependent on SWP supplies.

Staff lowering an 84-in butterfly valve into position for the Wadsworth Bypass

Staff continued baseline monitoring for tertiary membrane bioreactor nitrification-denitrification testing and continued working with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) to prepare for procurement and installation of snail mitigation and prevention measures at the Pure Water Southern California Napolitano Innovation Center demonstration plant. A reconfiguration plan was developed to separate the current two-pass reverse osmosis (RO) system into two trains to allow testing of different types of RO membranes. Staff collected microbiological samples from multiple water sources throughout the demonstration plant.

Staff provided representatives from Sydney Water with an overview of the Pure Water Southern California program and a technical tour of the demonstration facility on April 2 at the Napolitano Innovation Center. Sydney Water also has a demonstration facility and is exploring adding recycled water to supplement water supply.

Operations (continued)

On April 30, the PWSC project team and partners from the LACSD met in person with the state's Division of Drinking Water to further the dialogue on regulatory requirements, continued testing, and permitting considerations for the future full-scale advanced water treatment plant.

Discussion and facility tour with staff from Sydney Water at the PWSC Napolitano Innovation Center

Preparing microbiological samples for analysis (left) and replacing cartridge filters (right) at the PWSC Napolitano Innovation Center

Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner

Staff continued work on Metropolitan's first-ever affected system cluster study for generation developers wishing to connect to transmission systems adjacent to the CRA transmission system. This study encompasses seven generation projects connecting to the Southern California Edison and Western Area Power Administration systems, which impact Metropolitan's 230 kV transmission system. Preliminary results were released on April 17, and a stakeholder meeting was held on April 30 to review the results and field questions from the generation developers. Staff concurrently worked on developing preliminary interim mitigation agreements, or "bridge agreements," to allow generation developers to secure funding by demonstrating a provisional agreement with Metropolitan to allow them to reach commercial operation while permanent mitigations are in development.

A site demonstration coordinated at the Jensen plant allowed a vendor to showcase its portable solar power generation system, demonstrating its capability to deliver up to 1,000 kW of power. The innovative solution aligns with Metropolitan's energy sustainability goals while also serving as a reliable source of emergency power.

Staff viewing the Dragon Wings portable power system demonstration at the Jensen plant

Protect Source Waters and Ensure Water Quality Compliance

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during March 2025.

Metropolitan's Annual Water Quality Report for calendar year 2024 was provided to member agencies ahead of the April 1 deadline. As a wholesale water system, Metropolitan is required to provide its member agencies with the previous year's water quality monitoring data for source waters, plant influents, and plant effluents for use in their annual water quality reporting.

Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution

The SWP target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants increased from zero to 25 percent in April 2025. The SWP blend target for Lake Skinner is zero percent; however, due to an unscheduled temporary outage on the CRA, the SWP blend entering Lake Skinner increased to 40 percent in April 2025 for a period of time.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from February 2024 through January 2025 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the CRA were 590 mg/L, 579 mg/L, and 569 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Staff replaced several damaged baffle boards on an out-of-service basin at the Mills plant. This repair will help ensure proper mixing of coagulants for a more effective water treatment process. The basin was not immediately placed into service but is available for operation in anticipation of higher seasonal flows during the warmer months.

Newly replaced baffle boards (left) and crane support lowering new boards into place (right) at the Mills plant

Diemer plant staff installed an automatic transfer switch on the plant sodium hypochlorite feed system. Sodium hypochlorite provides disinfection of water in the event of an ozone outage, such as during a power outage. This automatic transfer switch will allow the sodium hypochlorite feed system to switch to secondary backup power in the event there is a loss of power to both the utility power and the primary backup emergency generator. This addition will provide additional redundancy to ensure reliable operations.

Staff installing an automatic transfer switch on a chemical feed system at the Diemer plant

Skinner plant staff completed refurbishment of the launder troughs at the washwater reclamation plant. Launder troughs skim clarified water from the surface after tube settlers remove solids. The Coatings Team in La Verne refurbished the fiberglass-reinforced polymer troughs, while Skinner staff fabricated and installed new bracket assemblies to protect the joint seals from leaks. This improved configuration will reduce wear on the seals and enhance the long-term reliability of the washwater reclamation plant.

Launder trough with joint leakage (left) and refurbished launders with new joint seal (right)

Newly refurbished launder troughs at Skinner Washwater Reclamation Plant

Operations (continued)

For the last two and a half years, construction to rehabilitate Basins 5-8 and Filter Valves 25-48 at the Weymouth plant has been taking place. These portions of the treatment process, constructed in 1962, have been in continuous operation for over 60 years. This project, scheduled to be completed in September 2025, will enhance plant reliability through the installation of new basin influent gates, flocculator paddles and motors, a solids removal system, five new valves on each of the 24 filters, and upgrades to the electrical system. During this project, there were several equipment outages and reductions in flow, and Weymouth is currently in its final 45-day "half-plant shutdown." Plant staff partnered with Water Quality and System Operations to ensure that member agency demand would be met during all the outages.

Existing equipment removed from the sedimentation basins at the Weymouth plant

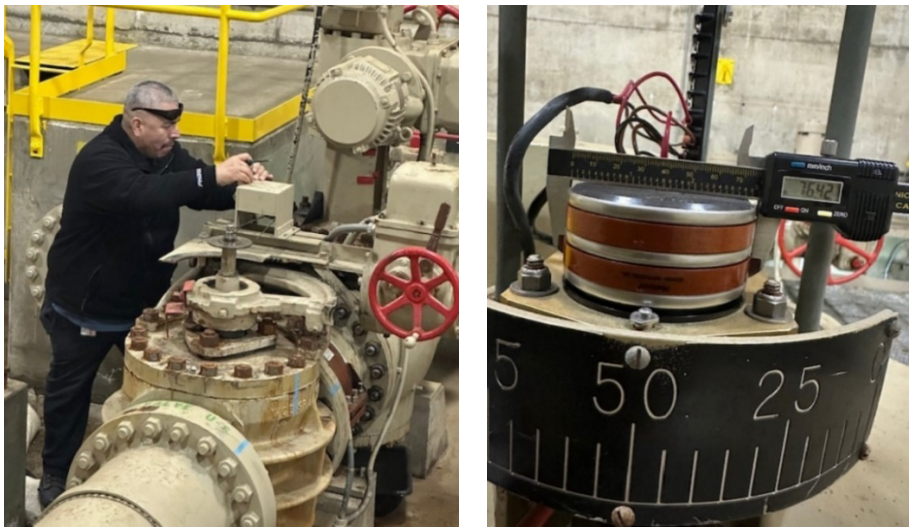
New equipment installed in sedimentation basin (left) and new filter valves installed (right)

Operations (continued)

Staff completed an unscheduled shutdown of the Middle Feeder from the Weymouth plant to the Covina Pressure Control Structure (PCS) to accommodate the installation of 16 valves. Staff set operational limits for the valve actuators, rewired and tested the electrical functionality of the newly refurbished valves, and updated the valve position indicators at the PCS. During this work, staff also upgraded the 70-year-old original valve potentiometers, which provide SCADA readings of water pressure, flow, and hydraulic grade data essential for operating Metropolitan's distribution system. This rehabilitation effort will support system operations while Garvey Reservoir remains offline for cover replacement.

Staff installing a new 12-inch lubricated plug valve (left) and hoisting a refurbished 16-inch hydraulic globe valve for installation (right) at Covina PCS

Staff setting valve limits (left) and rewiring and testing valves (right) at Covina PCS



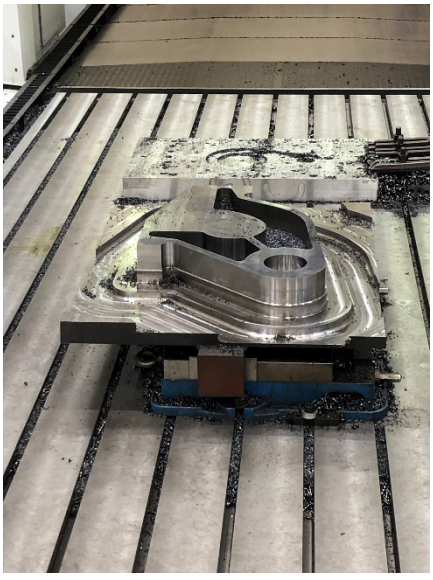
Staff measuring existing potentiometer (left) and potentiometer (right) at Covina PCS

Jensen plant staff completed the installation of new valve position displays at the Beverly Hills PCS. The upgraded displays will provide onsite operators with real-time information on valve operation to make quick and accurate adjustments. Previously, valve position was not visible to onsite operators, requiring field adjustments to be closely coordinated with Operations Control Center staff at Eagle Rock, who relayed valve position feedback over the phone. The installation was successfully completed and will streamline local operations of the facility.

Staff installing valve position displays at Beverly Hills PCS

The La Verne Shops manufactured replacement parts for an Iron Mountain Unit 5 Discharge Valve. Staff collaborated to identify all components in need of replacement due to failure of the plug shaft and to develop the technical requirements for each part. The newly manufactured parts, including the plug shaft, rotator, lift nut, and lift lever, replace parts that are more than 70 years old and will be installed in the coming months to help ensure CRA resiliency and reliability.

Broken discharge valve plug shaft



Fractured rotator (left), machining new rotator (center), and test fit of new lift nut to new plug shaft (right)

Protect Infrastructure and Optimize Maintenance

Staff sawcut and trenched for a new electrical feed at the Iron Mountain fuel island to accommodate fuel-pump upgrades. During extreme summer temperatures, the fuel islands vapor lock and will not dispense fuel unless kept almost completely full. These upgrades will provide greater operational flexibility and improve the reliability of the fuel pumps.

Staff installing a new conduit run for the Iron Mountain fuel island

Staff installed new radio and antenna equipment to facilitate additional gauging stations along the CRA. Gauging stations allow staff to monitor the depth of water in the CRA. This is critical data for monitoring and maintaining a consistent flow along the canal. The new gauging stations will provide additional data to the Desert Operations Control Center to better monitor CRA operations.

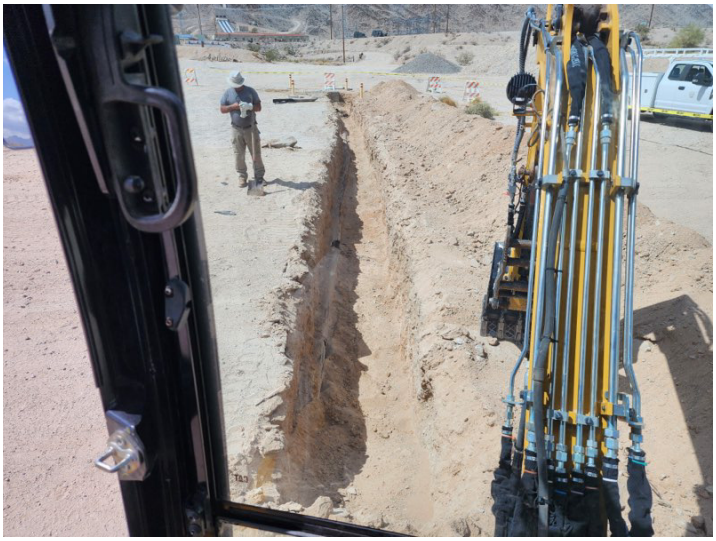
Staff installing new radios and antennas for CRA gauging stations

Operations (continued)

Staff continue the refurbishment of the Gene Unit 1 Discharge Valve, including coating equipment needed for the discharge valve operations and maintenance. Along with the discharge valve components, staff are coating related equipment such as handrails. Components were blasted and then coated to ensure corrosion resistance for many years.

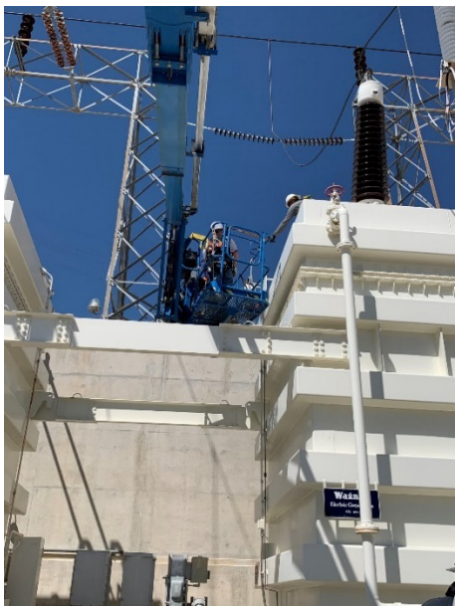
Gene Unit 1 discharge valve pit handrail before (left) and after (right) coating

Staff continue to replace sewer lines at Iron Mountain. The sewer system is scheduled for replacement, but the aging system requires frequent repair and maintenance. Sections of the system are being relined, and other portions are being replaced to minimize urgent repairs.



Staff replacing a section of sewer line at Iron Mountain

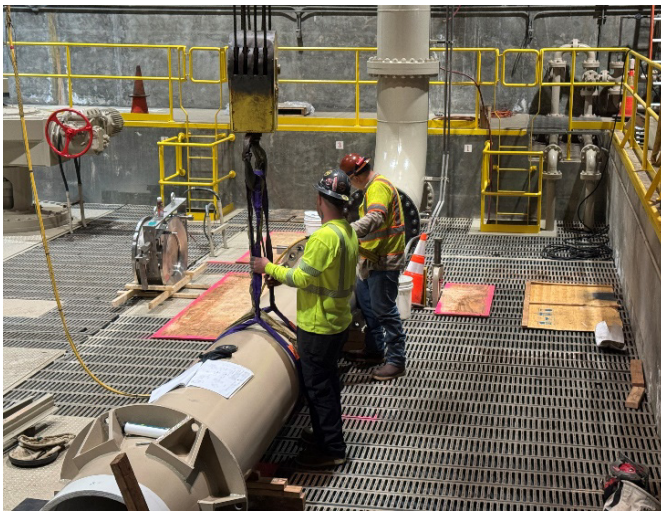
Due to a failure of the neutral bushing on the Hinds 1A 230kV transformer, the spare transformer was put in service. Staff fabricated new copper bus, completed all bus work connections, terminated associated control and auxiliary equipment, and removed the neutral bushing from the 1A transformer for repair. The failed bushing has been sent to the La Verne Shops for refurbishment so it can be used as a spare in the future to help ensure reliable CRA operations.



Staff connecting 230kV bus to Hinds spare transformer (left) and installing spare transformer neutral CT (right)

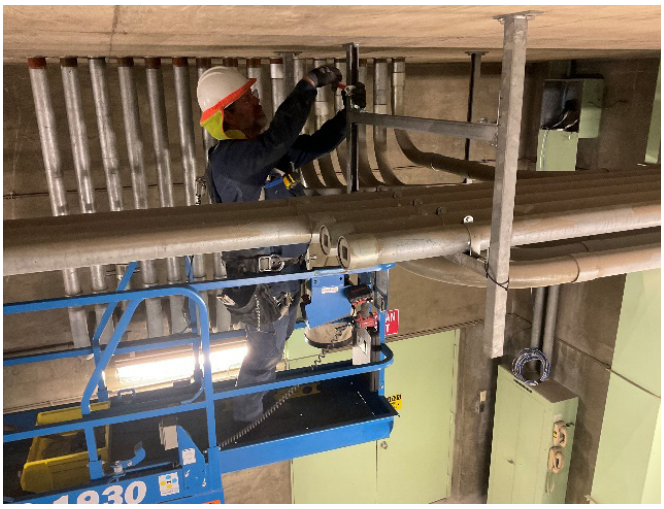
Staff installing spare transformer neutral CT (left) and fabricating bus for neutral CT connection (right) at Hinds pumping plant

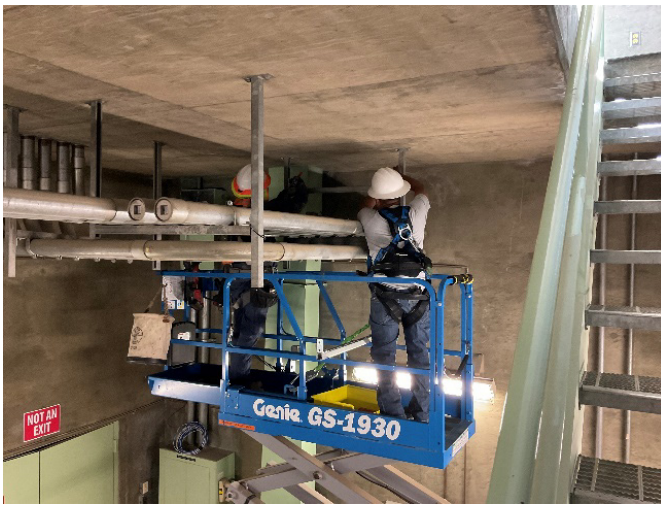
The Second Lower Feeder was returned to service following a lengthy shutdown for PCCP relining. To prepare the pipeline for service, staff reinstalled a replacement 16-inch lubricated plug valve, a 24-inch check valve, the rehabilitated pipe section, and a coupling on Service Connection WB-40 within the Oak Street PCS.



Staff hoisting pipe section into place at the Oak Street PCS

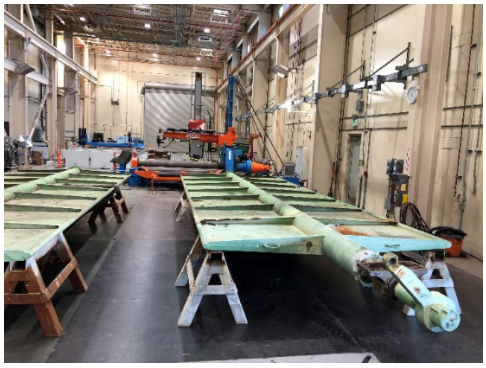
Staff continued work on replacing older copper communication lines throughout the district at remote locations. The new fiber optic cables will allow for higher bandwidths, enhanced security capabilities, and improved reliability in areas that frequently experience communication issues. A crew at the Temescal Hydroelectric Plant along the Lower Feeder began work to allow the fiber optic cable to be installed.





Staff installing new brackets and conduit for fiber optic cable at the Temescal HEP

The La Verne Shops completed a request to refurbish two flow control wing gates for the Department of Water Resources' John E. Skinner Delta Fish Protective Facility, a fish diversion facility that significantly reduces the quantity of fish passing through the Banks Pumping Plant. Each gate is 10 feet wide by 30 feet tall and weighs 8,000 lbs. This work included removing and replacing corroded sections of the gates, manufacturing various internal components and two 30-foot-long center shafts, and coating both gates with corrosion-resistant industrial coating. DWR plans to send another pair of gates for refurbishment after the installation of the recently completed gates.



As received condition of wing gates (left) and typical corrosion damage (right)

Completed manufacturing of center posts (left) and machining of the gate's lower bearing (right)

Test fit of internal components (left) and completed gate with finished coating (right)

Optimize Asset and Maintenance Management

Staff conducted eight workshops to evaluate the maturity of Metropolitan's asset management practices. Facilitated by a consultant, these sessions engaged managers and staff from key areas across the organization, including Operations, Engineering, Information Technology, Finance, Human Resources, Administrative Services, Office of Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation, and Office of Safety, Security, and Protection.

Held both in-person and virtually to maximize participation, each workshop focused on increasing staff awareness of how asset management supports their daily work, assessing current practices, and defining target maturity levels to reach over the next five years. Discussions covered core areas such as planning, programming, project and O&M delivery, condition monitoring, culture, data, technology, and information systems. A briefing with executive management is scheduled for mid-May 2025 to provide an overview of the findings and gain additional insights. Participants collaboratively identified critical gaps and improvement opportunities to advance Metropolitan toward a best-in-class asset management program for the water industry. Insights from these workshops will directly inform the upcoming update to the Strategic Asset Management Plan, scheduled for completion in mid-2026.

Enhance Emergency Preparedness and Response

Weymouth plant staff and the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) participated in a Chemical Response Training as part of an Incident Command Post training exercise. The training scenario simulated a valve leak on a chlorine railcar. Participants donned the proper personal protective equipment, identified the leak, and applied specialized chlorine equipment designed to stop a leak. The purpose of the training was to ensure that Metropolitan and local fire officials were knowledgeable in implementing the latest standards to stop a chlorine leak and to build the relationship between Metropolitan staff and local first responders.

Staff inspecting C-Kit to stop a simulated chlorine leak (left) and installing C-Kit with LACFD observing (right)

Staff continued construction of the Diemer Helicopter Hydrant facility. The helicopter hydrant consists of an open-top tank and supporting infrastructure, allowing helicopters to collect water for firefighting quickly. Metropolitan collaborated with the Yorba Linda Water District to develop a project benefiting both agencies. The Yorba Linda Water District is providing up to $500,000 in grant funding, technical support during design and construction, and coordination with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and Orange County Fire Authority to ensure design and operational conditions are acceptable. Metropolitan will own and operate the facility upon its completion this summer.

Staff erecting the helicopter hydrant water tank at the Diemer plant

Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulations

In March, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers published their intent to revise the definition of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) following the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling in *Sackett v. EPA*. The agencies issued a guidance memo on interpreting the WOTUS definition and requested comments to guide any future actions by April 23, 2025. Staff have previously submitted comments urging a broader WOTUS definition during the 2015 Clean Water Rule, the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, the 2023 Rule, and the Amended 2023 Rule. Staff submitted a comment letter to EPA communicating similar themes (e.g., permit streamlining and source water protection) as the prior letters.

In April 2025, the EPA filed a motion with the DC Court of Appeals requesting an additional 30-day delay in the legal challenges to the EPA's final PFAS MCLs rule. In 2024, AWWA, AMWA, and several chemical industry associations filed Petitions for Review, asking a federal court to decide whether the EPA acted appropriately when setting the MCLs and MCLGs for the six PFAS. The DC Court agreed with EPA's motion "to allow new Agency leadership to review the underlying rule" and granted a stay in litigation challenges until May 12, 2025.

Advance Education and Outreach Initiatives

Staff gave technical presentations on detecting chemicals in recycled water through non-targeted analysis and simultaneous analysis of multiple carbonyl compounds at the AWWA Water Conference of the West in Anaheim. Presentations and technical exchanges at industry conferences provide an opportunity to showcase Metropolitan's innovative research and testing, stay current with emerging technologies and advancements in the field, and foster dialogue and explore potential collaborations with industry professionals and leaders.

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Staff presenting on developing improved chemical detection methods at an AWWA conference

Staff provided tours of the Water Quality Laboratory for Metropolitan employees on April 9 and legislative staff from Washington, D.C. on April 24. These tours and presentations highlight the extensive monitoring that is required to ensure Metropolitan delivers high-quality drinking water that meets or surpasses regulations, and the applied research that ensures Water Quality is properly prepared for future challenges and emerging constituents.

Diemer plant hosted a tour for the California Unified Program Annual Training Conference held at Anaheim. Among the tour attendees are representatives from various fire departments, water agencies, chemical producers, and the California Department of Water Resources.

Diemer staff hosting tour for the California Unified Program Annual Training Conference