



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Sustainability, Resilience, Innovation Group

• Sustainability Resilience, and Innovation Group Manager Report

Summary

To report on Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation activities for January 2025.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

SRI Core Activities

SRI and the Core Planning Team for the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) issued the draft 2024 CAMP4W Annual Report. This first report provides the template for annually reporting on CAMP4W Signposts, Time-Bound Targets, and Implementation Highlights. Working Memorandum #7 on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Metropolitan's Planning Processes and Working Memorandum #8 on Signposts and Time-Bound Targets were completed. Working Memorandum #10 on the Climate Adaptation Policy Framework was provided for review. This completes the series of Working Memoranda that will be incorporated in the upcoming draft CAMP4W Implementation Strategy. An Environmental Listening Session is planned for early February to address questions and seek input on the draft Annual Report.

SRI collaborated with External Affairs to host a CORO Public Affairs Fellow in January. The Fellow helped to engage young civic leaders in the CAMP4W process and identified concepts for sustainable operating strategies from other large public organizations that Metropolitan could consider in the future.

Sustainability and Resilience

Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Transition: SRI coordinated with the Fleet Services Unit and other Groups to continue Metropolitan's transition to ZEVs.

ZEV Purchases: Metropolitan currently has 14 zero emission vehicles in its fleet with purchase orders pending for six additional ZEVs and has 15 vehicle chargers installed. Fleet ZEV drivers now have access to Ford's Blue Oval Charge Network which is a public charging network for Ford ZEVs.

Vehicle Trials: Metropolitan tested a Mack Class 7 electric truck to use for deliveries across Metropolitan's service area. Fleet is currently working on an agreement for trial of a Volvo Class 8 electric truck in February.

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**Heavy Duty Electric Mack Truck
Charging at Weymouth**



**Employees at Weymouth with Mack Class
7 Electric Truck**

ZEV Availability: To assist public agencies to comply with the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation, CARB released its “unavailability” list of vehicles that are not available in zero emission models. Metropolitan will evaluate this list for alternative purchase options in 2025.

ZEV Driver Handout: Staff developed a ZEV driver handout that is now included in all of its ZEVs. This handout provides information on the how to drive a ZEV, charging options, and safety precautions. SRI and Fleet are working with Training on a video that provides this same information and should be available in February.

CARB Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) rule Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) waiver: On January 13, 2024, CARB withdrew its EPA waiver request that would have granted CARB the authority to enforce the ACF rule on private transportation companies. Metropolitan is closely monitoring any changes in the ACF which still requires that public agencies purchase zero emission medium and heavy-duty vehicles that meet operational needs and are available in the marketplace.

Sustainable Procurement: SRI is partnering with the Contracting Services Unit to evaluate its current janitorial supplies and Office Depot contracts for more sustainable purchase options. A “Green Purchasing 101” presentation for employees with purchasing responsibilities is planned for the first quarter of 2025.

Centralized Grants Management Office

On January 23, Metropolitan hosted a virtual SoCal Water Grants Network (SCWGN) meeting. The SCWGN is now made up of over 70-member agency, sub-agency, and consultant agency grant professionals and managers. At the latest meeting attendees received the following presentations:

- a. New Administration and BABA (Buy American, Build American) Update by Witt O’Brien
- b. EVenergi (BetterFleet) and National Fleet Electrification Network Grants
- c. Upcoming grant and partnership opportunities
- d. Grants, Research, and Innovation Projects (GRIP) List

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Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies

Peer-2-Peer Engagements: Innovation staff hosted staff training on the Knowledge to Implementation (K2i) peer-2-peer exchange. K2i facilitates the exchange of actionable information between global leading utilities, by matching agencies sharing common strengths and needs through structured conversations. Around twenty staff members participated in the training and offered feedback on both the K2i platform and Innovation at Metropolitan. Interesting feedback included: “I’ve used the K2i platform quite a lot. The water resource management topics are most relevant to my day-to-day activities (Source of Supply, Ops, Water Quality).”

Environmental Planning Services

Core Business: Environmental Planning and Regulatory Compliance Support

Environmental Planning Section staff continued to prepare California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for capital projects, including preparation and internal review of the second screen check. Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Pure Water Southern California program. For the Inland Feeder/Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project, work continued on state and federal Endangered Species Act permitting, including continued development of the mitigation strategy and coordination with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) regarding review of the Biological Assessment and USBR’s consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Staff continued to provide environmental planning support to the progressive design build efforts for the Lake Mathews Pressure Control Structure and Electrical Upgrades Project and the Sepulveda Feeder (Venice and Sepulveda Canyon) Pump Stations Project. Environmental monitoring of construction activities continued for the Rialto Pipeline Rehabilitation, Perris Valley Pipeline, Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B, Weymouth Basins 5 to 8 Rehabilitation, Weymouth Asphalt Rehabilitation, and La Verne Shops Upgrades projects.

Critical operations and maintenance activities were supported by the Environmental Planning Section. Staff provided CEQA and regulatory clearances and conducted pre-construction biological resource surveys and construction monitoring for operations and maintenance activities throughout the service area, including the February 2025 Rialto Feeder shutdown. Staff continued to participate in planning efforts for the upcoming March 2025 Colorado River Aqueduct shutdown. Staff reviewed eight external project CEQA notices and prepared comment letters for proposed projects or actions that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.

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, theft and to protect the reserves’ natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment. Specific activities at the Lake Mathews Reserve included removal of invasive vegetation and targeted mowing to remove dense populations of invasive vegetation; application of pre-emergent herbicide to prevent regrowth of invasive vegetation; and repairs to patrol roads and fencing. Activities at the MSR included coordinating with researchers conducting burrowing owl surveys and approving new proposals for rare plant and biodiversity surveys; conducting tree maintenance and removal along Reserve roads; planting mulefat cuttings in the Tualota Creek restoration site; and installing perimeter fencing to prevent trespassing. The Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center at the MSR was open on Saturdays and hosted 65 visitors during the month.

Land Management

Nothing to report