



Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee

1/12/2026 Committee Meeting

6b

Subject

Pure Water Southern California Quarterly Update

Executive Summary

Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) has made steady progress in advancing environmental planning, engineering studies, CAMP4W assessments, financial analysis, and collaboration with member agencies and program partners to prepare for upcoming board decisions on the program. This report provides updates on various program activities and next steps to advance PWSC.

Fiscal Impact

Not applicable

Applicable Policy

Not applicable

Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

January 2026 – Approve Guiding Principles for PWSC Partnerships

February 2026 – Certify the PWSC program environmental impact report and approve the program for CEQA purposes

March 2026 – Award five equipment procurement contracts and amend the agreement with Stantec to support the final design for the direct potable reuse demonstration testing facility

April 2026 – Appropriate initial capital investment plan funding to advance PWSC

Details and Background

Background

PWSC is a large regional recycled water program that will provide a new local source of safe and reliable drinking water for Southern California. PWSC currently focuses on five key areas: program management, environmental planning, planning for an advanced water purification facility (AWPF), demonstration testing, and preliminary design of initial pipeline reaches. Staff is also engaged in collaboration with member agencies and other program partners to develop agreements for water purchase.

At full build-out, PWSC will produce up to 150 million gallons per day of purified water from the AWPF in Carson for indirect potable reuse (IPR) and direct potable reuse (DPR) applications. The AWPF will purify treated wastewater from the Los Angeles Sanitation Districts' (LACSD) A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility using membrane bioreactors (MBRs), reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet/advanced oxidation. With its expertise in biological wastewater treatment, LACSD will be responsible for implementing the AWPF pretreatment process, including the MBR facilities. The PWSC conveyance system consists of the backbone pipeline that may extend

39 miles from the AWPF, repurposing an existing pipeline, and constructing a new DPR pipeline to convey water from the backbone eastward for raw water augmentation at Metropolitan's Weymouth plant.

Program Updates

- **Program Management** – Program management activities encompass project controls, scheduling, budget development, risk management, coordination with program partners and stakeholders, grants and funding administration, and preparation of various plans and studies. The PWSC Program Management team was engaged in the following activities during this reporting period:
 - **Grant Status** – Staff continued coordination and grant reporting efforts with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the \$125,472,855 Large-Scale Water Recycling Program grant. Metropolitan has received approximately \$25.5 million to date from this grant. The \$80 million state grant is also used to support the current phase of program work; as of the end of November, approximately \$46 million of the state grant has been spent.
 - **Environmental Planning** – The final EIR is scheduled for publication in January 2026. A board action to consider certification of the final EIR is scheduled for February 2026.
 - **SB 149** – On December 15, 2025, the PWSC Project was certified by Governor Newsom for Judicial Streamlining under the SB 149 Infrastructure Streamlining Program. SB 149 provides CEQA-related judicial streamlining for major infrastructure projects that advance climate, water reliability, and environmental resilience. The PWSC project is the second public infrastructure project to receive this certification.
 - **CAMP4Water Assessments** – Completed the development of information to support the CAMP4Water assessments for 45-, 75-, and 150-mgd scenarios.
 - **Partnership** – Met with the Southern Nevada Water Authority to further explore their interest in Pure Water.
- **Advanced Water Purification Facility** – A final draft of the conceptual facilities report has been prepared. This document records key assumptions of AWPF components and would be used for a request for qualifications for the progressive design-build contracts to design and construct the full-scale AWPF.
- **Demonstration Testing** – Operational improvements have been made at the Napolitano Innovation Center for the continued testing of the IPR processes, including the installation of a snail mitigation system.
- **Preliminary Design of Initial Pipeline Reaches** – A conceptual design report for the conveyance system has been completed. A draft preliminary design report for the Reach 2 pipeline has been prepared for review by the project team.

Direct Potable Reuse Planning

A key step for DPR planning is testing at the Napolitano Innovation Center. Planning of pilot-scale and demonstration-scale testing of DPR processes is in progress. Key testing equipment will be procured in the coming months to facilitate the design of the DPR testing facility, with a board action for procurement planned for early next year. Information from this testing will allow Metropolitan to assess both treated water augmentation and raw water augmentation alternatives.

Upcoming Technical Studies

Some technical studies are underway to address the program's planning needs, as well as the specific questions previously raised by the Board, including:

- Operating Scenario Analysis
- Envision/LEED Certification Analysis
- DPR Implementation Analysis

- Traffic Study
- Pump-in Policy Considerations for DPR

Next Steps

Staff will seek approval of the program's guiding principles for agreements with program partners in January 2026. Currently, it is planned that environmental planning documents, including certification of the Final EIR and approval of PWSC for CEQA purposes will be presented to the Board in February 2026 for approval. The CAMP4W assessment will continue, including assessments of staged implementation approaches of the program, in parallel with other ongoing PWSC efforts. Subsequent board informational items on PWSC will report on technical studies, provide information on program staging options, and respond to board information requests. These activities are designed to provide the key information necessary for the Board to make informed implementation and funding decisions regarding PWSC.



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12/30/2025
Date



Shivaji Deshmukh
General Manager

12/30/2025
Date

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