



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

## Sustainability, Resilience, Innovation Group

### • Sustainability Resilience, and Innovation Office Group Monthly Report

#### Summary

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Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Office June Monthly Activities

#### Purpose

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Informational

#### Detailed Report

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##### SRI Core Activities

The Chief SRI Officer joined Bay Delta Initiatives staff and the Board Chair on a site visit to the Upper Feather River Watershed where we have invested in several pilots to measure the water supply and quality benefits of forest and watershed restoration. New partnerships with Plumas and Sierra County Supervisors, USFS and other local officials provide opportunities for expanding Metropolitan's involvement in source water protection activities. The team is also working on the first CAMP4W Assessment of Pure Water Southern California and setting up tracking systems for the CAMP4W Implementation Strategy. The SRI Officer also presented the CAMP4W Implementation Strategy to the Eastern Municipal Water District Board and the San Diego County Water Authority Board and participated in a Roundtable Discussion with Morgan Stanley on Infrastructure Funding and Climate Resilience.

##### Sustainability and Resilience

##### Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV Transition)

On June 17, IOPPS and SRI hosted management from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for a discussion and site visit at Weymouth to share the specifics of Metropolitan operations and fleet needs and challenges. On June 12, 2025, the Office of the SRI Manager and the Integrated Operations Planning and Program Group Manager conducted the bi-monthly Zero Emission Task Force meeting. The Task Force is a cross organizational collaboration established to transition to a zero-emission fleet to meet both the goals of Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan and the regulatory requirements of CARB's Advanced Clean Fleets Rule. Topics discussed included Metropolitan's two-year vehicle purchasing strategy and progress, intermediate and long-term charging projects, enrollment in CARB's Low Carbon Fuel Standard Credit Program, and a review of recent decisions from the federal government on electric vehicles that may potentially impact Metropolitan.

##### Sustainable Procurement

On June 25, 2025, the Office of the SRI Manager partnered with the Procurement Services Unit to present a "Lunch and Learn" on sustainable procurement for employees. Employees learned how Metropolitan is implementing sustainable procurement to purchase goods and services in support of Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan goals. The new Sustainable Procurement Guidebook was introduced which outlines how Metropolitan employees can identify and purchase cost-effective products that are energy efficient, reduce waste, have lower toxicity, protect human health and the environment, and meet state, regional, and local environmental laws and policies.

Date of Report: 7/7/2025

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## Climate Action Plan

On June 2nd, 2025, SRI staff hosted SCS Global Services at Union Station Headquarters for a site visit to comply with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Mandatory Reporting Regulation (MRR) regarding Metropolitan's 2024 Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Power Operations staff were also on hand during this greenhouse gas audit to answer questions from SCS regarding Metropolitan's wholesale electricity consumption along the CRA. During the month of June, SRI staff attended various Safety Fairs throughout the district, presenting and providing information on the Climate Action Plan Implementation and 2024 Annual Progress Report.

## Centralized Grants Management Office

During the month of June, the Centralized Grants Management Office (CGMO) provided support for the federal Single Audit and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) report. Additionally, CGMO staff participated in the kick-off of the Inland Feeder-Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project Grant with USBR and Engineering Services Group.

On June 2, staff submitted a pre-proposal to the Water Research Foundation's (WRF) Tailored Collaboration Program. Metropolitan is the sponsoring utility on a project entitled "Bridging the Execution Gap: Enabling Successful Implementation of Plans and Strategies." The CGMO will be working with Cello Vitasovic and the 9D Analytics Team, as well as other interested water utilities. This collaborative project will build on insights and lessons learned from two previous WRF projects led by 9D Analytics to focus on the centralization, tracking and reporting of grants, research, and innovation projects at Metropolitan and other water utilities. Eastern Municipal Water District and Crescenta Valley Water District have partnered with Metropolitan for this grant. Confirmation from additional partner utilities across the country are pending. The full proposal is due in the Fall 2025.

On June 4, staff attended the Infrastructure LA Water Committee meeting at the Water Replenishment District's Albert Robles Center. Agenda items included an update on active grant opportunities and a discussion of current strategies and best practices to secure grant funding at the federal level, as well as the release of the State Water Resources Control Board's draft Intended Use Plan and the inclusion of Prop 4 funds for recycled water projects.

On June 17, the CGMO presented at California Water Efficiency Partnership's (CalWEP) inaugural Grant Ready: 2025 Webinar Series on the Lifecycle of Funding. Metropolitan's presentation focused on the development of the CGMO, trainings, and tools to assist staff with grant strategy and finding the right grants to pursue.

## Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies

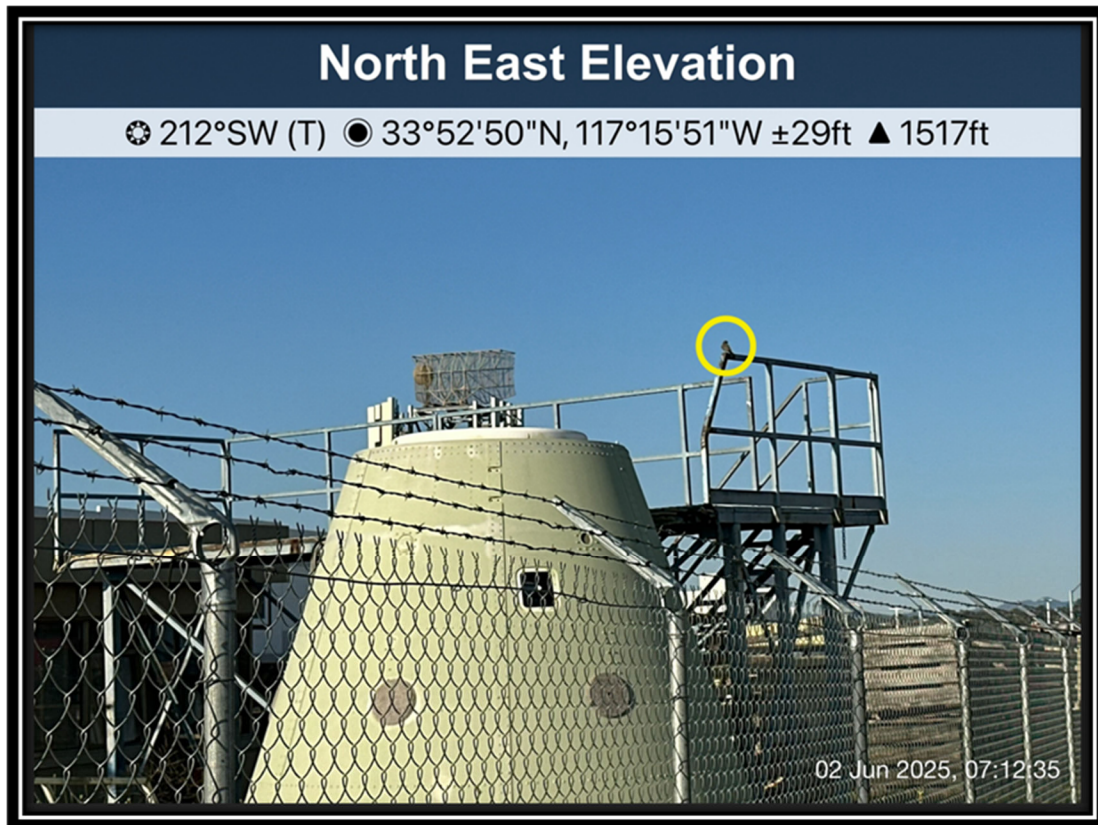
The Innovation Unit completed the new "Process Matters" 90-day initiative to gather valuable input from employees on how to improve Metropolitan's policies and procedures. The Process Matters was led by staff from Ethics, External Affairs and SRI. This initiative gathered and curated over 160 innovative process submissions from staff through on-line submissions, lunch & learns, facility visits and Process Matters Office Hours. Recommendations were organized and presented to Group Managers and Executive staff for implementation. This month the Innovation Unit continued fostering peer-2-peer engagements between Metropolitan and Mekorot through the "Knowledge to Implementation Platform" (K2i Platform) which allows "Bottom-Up & Top-Down" information sharing between leading utilities across the globe. Metropolitan shared its motivations and current thinking around the development of a Revolving Innovation Fund, Mekorot shared its perspective and experiences with investment models, innovation partnerships, and scaling water technologies.

## Environmental Planning Services

Environmental Planning Section staff facilitated virtual public meetings on June 12 and 14, 2025 in support of the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Pure Water Southern California program. The draft EIR was released for public review in May, and the public review period extends until July 14, 2025. For the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project, staff responded to inquiries from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutory Exemption Restoration Program application package, which was submitted in May for review and concurrence. In addition, the permitting process was initiated for the project, with a site visit held with the regulatory agencies on June 23, 2025. CEQA review was initiated for the Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Sepulveda Feeder North Reach 9 project and

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preparation of addendums to the Program EIR for the Weymouth Wheeler Gate Security Improvements and Weymouth Water Quality Lab Building Improvements projects was also initiated. Environmental monitoring of construction activities continued for the Rialto Pipeline Rehabilitation, PCCP Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B, Weymouth Basins 5 to 8 Rehabilitation, and La Verne Shops Upgrades projects. Final environmental construction monitoring activities are occurring for the Perris Valley Pipeline Interstate 215 project as construction of the pipeline nears completion. Monitoring at Shafts 2, 3, and 4 is complete, while monitoring work continues at Shaft 1 for activities including backfilling and equipment demobilization. Biological monitors identified an active Say's phoebe nest just outside the main yard and established a buffer to ensure there were no impacts to the nest.



*Active Say's phoebe and nest near construction equipment at Perris Valley Pipeline*

Critical operations and maintenance activities were supported by the Environmental Planning Section. Staff provided CEQA and regulatory clearances and conducted biological resource surveys and environmental monitoring for activities throughout the service area. Staff conducted an environmental awareness training for Construction Services Unit managers and supervisory staff on June 18, 2025. Staff provided subject matter expert reviews of two amended legislative bills as follows: Assembly Bill (AB) 367 (Water: County of Venture: fire suppression) and AB 1319 (Protected species: California Endangered Species Act). Finally, staff reviewed and analyzed CEQA notices for 17 external projects to determine the potential impacts on Metropolitan and protect Metropolitan's right-of-way and facilities; comments letters were prepared and submitted for projects that had the potential for impacts.

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, and theft and to protect the reserves' natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment. Specific activities at the Lake Mathews Reserve included applying herbicide to mowed areas to prevent regrowth of noxious weeds, supporting prescribed burns carried out by CalFire on June 3-5 and



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June 11-12, and repairing patrol roads and fencing. Activities at the MSR included applying herbicide treatments to eliminate invasive plants (Sahara mustard, stinknet); coordinating with researchers to conduct Quino checkerspot butterfly, northern harrier, herpetology, and small mammal surveys; conducting rare plant surveys for Payson's jewelflower; conducting vegetation maintenance for fire and habitat management; and continuing operation of seasonal brown-headed cowbird traps. The Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center was open on Saturdays and hosted 93 visitors during the month. The MSR also hosted the Summer Nature Fest on June 7 at the Alamos Schoolhouse, which was attended by approximately 200 people and included booths sponsored by Metropolitan, CDFW, Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency, Sierra Club, and many more.



*Metropolitan water education booth at the Summer Nature Fest held at the MSR*

### Land Management

Orange County and Metropolitan have entered into a new, ten-year license agreement to replace the existing lease pursuant to new terms authorized by the Board. Orange County's Coroner and Sheriff's Departments will continue to operation a telecommunication site at the Lower Feeder right-of-way in Yorba Linda.