



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Sustainability, Resilience, Innovation Group

• Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation GM Monthly Report

Summary

Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Office August 2025 Monthly Activities

Purpose

Informational

Activities in Support of the GM Business Plan

GOAL: Execute CAMP4W Implementation Strategy to Integrate Climate Adaptation District-Wide

1) Assess Climate Risks and Vulnerabilities

SRI staff is conducting several climate risk and vulnerability assessments for specific projects and facilities, including Pure Water Southern California, while also specifically assessing fire risks at critical Metropolitan facilities.

2) Set and Refine Targets and Policies

SRI is developing a set of policy recommendations to include climate adaptation and sustainable agriculture in the State Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund expenditure plan. Staff is also preparing for the next presentation on potential affordability approaches for Board consideration.

3) Identify Climate Adaptation Strategies

The SRI Office tracks progress on studies and initiatives to adapt to climate change throughout the District. Progress will be regularly reported through the relevant groups and/or the CAMP4W Quarterly Report. The SRI team is also developing a work plan for fire management planning and pursuing state funding opportunities for planning and implementation.

4) Evaluate projects and programs using CAMP4W Assessment Criteria

The CAMP4W Assessment Team is currently conducting assessments for Pure Water Southern California and Sites Reservoir in preparation for the September 30 CAMP4W Task Force.

5) Integrate climate considerations and implement adaptation strategies

SRI is developing sustainable landscaping guidelines for Metropolitan facilities that consider water use, energy use, extreme heat and fire risk. SRI is also working with groups through the District to integrate climate adaptation into the daily operations, planning, and decision-making.

6) Monitor and report progress

N/A

GOAL: Decide on Sites Reservoir and Protect Bay-Delta Interests

1) Implement risk reduction strategies to protect Delta assets and minimize supply disruption

SRI and Bay-Delta staff presented, and the Board approved, agricultural leases for two of our four Delta islands for rice cultivation that will reduce subsidence and provide multiple environmental benefits, including carbon sequestration and bird habitat.

Date of Report: September 9, 2025

Board Report Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation GM Monthly Report

GOAL: Complete Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Planning, for Board to consider Pure Water Southern California

1) Complete EIR analyses and public process

Environmental Planning staff continued drafting responses to public comments and preparing the Final E for the Pure Water Southern California Program, as well as supporting the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) assessment of the program and Senate Bill (SB) 149 certification coordination.

GOAL: Improve the Workplace and Promote START Values

SRI held its monthly SRI Connect, bringing together all SRI staff for coffee and networking.

GOAL: Provide Organizational Stability and Deliver Operational Excellence

1) Support a smooth and efficient transition to the next GM

N/A

Additional SRI Activities

Sustainability and Resilience

MWD partnered with the US Water Alliance on the Net Zero Fundamentals series, a new resource designed to help water utilities advance climate action and cut emissions in practical, meaningful ways. The series shares real-world examples and practical guidance to help water utilities make climate action part of their strategy, culture, and daily operations while boosting performance and long-term sustainability. The full series can be viewed here: <https://lnkd.in/efyUb7bT>

Metropolitan was also featured in the Alliance's briefing paper spotlighting Metropolitan's approach to GHG inventory, target-setting, and disclosure. The briefing paper can be viewed here:

<https://uswateralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Net-Zero-Fundamentals%E2%80%9494GHG-Inventory-Target-Setting-and-Disclosure.pdf>

SRI continued to work with the Contracting Services Unit of the Finance and Administrative Group to implement sustainable procurement practices at Metropolitan. A workshop for all Metropolitan procurement staff is scheduled for September. The workshop will include sustainable best practices and a review of the Sustainable Procurement Guidebook.

The Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Task Force met on August 14, 2025, to discuss the latest progress on Metropolitan's transition to ZEVs. Staff presented information on recent and pending legislative and regulatory issues that impact the transition, including AB 1594, which proposes changes to the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation. The ACF mandates that Metropolitan 50 percent of Fleet's medium and heavy-duty vehicles be ZEVs, and in 2027, 100 percent. Metropolitan continues to review and provide feedback on the ACF and other EPA and CARB regulatory changes that may impact public fleet ZEV requirements. Other items discussed were proposed communications to the Board on ACF compliance, recent Fleet ZEV purchases, charger infrastructure capital project, and Metropolitan's recent enrollment in CARB's Low Carbon Fuel Standard Credit Program.

Centralized Grants Management Office

In late July, Palo Verde College received an award notice from the CA Community Colleges Chancellor's Office for the grant proposal, entitled "Canals to Careers: Industry-Led Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathways into Water, Agriculture, and Transportation." For this grant, Metropolitan staff provided industry expertise and technical support in the development of a new CTE program, and the ACWA Foundation will lead a statewide water workforce survey. The program seeks to address staffing shortages at Metropolitan's desert facilities, in addition to meeting other local hiring demands.

This month, in partnership with the Finance Group, the Centralized Grants Management Office (CGMO) coordinated the kick-off of a Federal Single Audit for federal grant programs. Staff also presented on the Signe audit process and provided guidance documents and training videos to CalWEP's Grants & Funding Task Force.

Board Report Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation GM Monthly Report

Throughout the month, CGMO staff attended several webinars and coordination meetings relating to CALSTART, the California Energy Commission's EPIC grant, and Pure Water Southern California funding.

Innovation, Pilots and Emerging Technologies

Innovation has continued to work collaboratively across the organization to implement the *Process Matters* suggestions that received strong positive executive feedback in June. As a follow-up to the Q2 90-day sprint, the team is piloting the IdeaScale platform as an ongoing continuous improvement initiative. IdeaScale is enabling staff from across Metropolitan to share, refine, and elevate ideas for process improvements, technology pilots, and other innovations that directly advance Metropolitan's mission, helping embed a culture of experimentation and operational excellence into daily work.

The Innovation Program Manager will represent Metropolitan on a panel at the California Water Data Summit, sharing successes and lessons learned from the past decade of the water data movement. This engagement aligns with the Innovation Strategic Plan's goals for partnership development and its priority to increase adoption and encourage participation in the California Water Data Collaborative. By expanding secure, shared access to high-value water data across the region, these efforts will directly support implementation of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W), enabling data-driven decision-making and enhanced regional resilience.

In parallel, the program has deepened its technology pilot collaborations and developed a robust pipeline of staff from across the District eager to participate in the Pilot Partnership. This initiative will help fund and accelerate promising ideas from the ground up, drawing on the expertise and creativity of field and office staff to deliver measurable benefits for operations, cost savings, and long-term resiliency.

Environmental Planning Services

Environmental Planning staff continued the preparation of two addenda to the Weymouth Improvements Program EIR for the Weymouth Wheeler Gate Security Improvements and Weymouth Water Quality Lab Building Improvements projects, and the preparation of an addendum to the PCCP Rehabilitation Program EIR for the Sepulveda Feeder Reach 2 South Project. Staff also continued to support the progressive design building process for the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Project. Staff submitted a revised Biological Assessment for the Inland Feeder/Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as part of the consultation process with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coordinated with CDFW for review of the Incidental Take Permit application under the California Endangered Species Act. Environmental monitoring of construction activities continued for the PCCP Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B, Weymouth Basins 5 to 8 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 biological resource surveys and environmental monitoring for activities throughout the service area. Staff provided subject matter expert review of Assembly Bill (AB) 1227 (Ellis): California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: wildfire prevention projects. In addition, staff reviewed and analyzed CEQA notices for 24 external projects to determine the potential impacts on Metropolitan and protect Metropolitan's right-of-way and facilities; comment letters were prepared and submitted for projects that had the potential for impacts.

The 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 installing artificial burrows for burrowing owl habitat on the north side of Lake Mathews, conducting weed abatement, and applying invasive plant herbicide treatment to Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub. Activities at the MSR included removing invasive plants, maintaining greenhouse container plants, maintaining wildlife cameras and guzzlers, conducting vegetation maintenance for fire and habitat management, and removing seasonal brown-headed cowbird traps. The Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center was open on Saturdays.

Board Report Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation GM Monthly Report

Land Management

The Board approved long-term agricultural leases for Webb Tract and Bacon Island for rice cultivation to reduce subsidence, generate revenue, and provide environmental and climate benefits.

An entry permit has been issued to Southern California Gas Company (SCG) for access and construction staging purposes near the Sepulveda Feeder in Van Nuys. The permit area will accommodate SCG's space requirements for its pipeline maintenance project in compliance with state regulations.

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission has entered into a license agreement for access purposes along Painted Hills Road to traverse the Colorado River Aqueduct in the Whitewater area of Riverside County.

Staff has partnered with local authorities and contractors to resolve encampments in Mead Valley and dumping in Eagle Valley. Encroachments on Metropolitan land involving trees in Fontana and equestrian uses in Santa Clarita have been resolved.