



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Activities for February 2025**

Summary

This reports provides a summary of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group activities for February 2025.

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group activities for February 2025.

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Business Outreach & Community Engagement

On February 5, 2025, Metropolitan staff attended the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce 2025 Inaugural.

On February 7, 2025, Metropolitan staff attended the Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Business Development Series in Long Beach, CA. The business luncheon series included the Department of General Services creating a dynamic connection with Small Business Enterprises (SBE), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE), Nonprofit Veteran Service Agencies (NVSA), and Nonprofit Organizations (NP). This unique event is dedicated to empowering unrepresented groups and uplifting underserved communities.



On February 18, 2025, Metropolitan staff attended the Small Business Diversity Network exclusive invitation to Orange County's 2025 Leadership Luncheon. What better way to bring together the small business and community leaders of Orange County to discuss how to improve collaboration? The event offered a unique opportunity to connect, share updates, and collaborate on events and programs that impact all small businesses of Orange County.

On February 25, 2025, Metropolitan staff attended the Black Business Association of Orange County for the Black History Month Future Leaders luncheon in Anaheim, CA.

On February 26, 2025, Metropolitan staff attended the CalTrans Procurement Fair – Small Business Unit in Tustin, CA. This event is for Small Business Enterprise (SBE), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE), and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) who are interested in learning about opportunities to do business with local agencies in the area of construction and procurement.

Workforce Development

On February 5, 2025, staff participated in the Courses to Careers in Water webinar, hosted in collaboration with CUWA and CSU-WATER. This event featured water agencies from Northern, Central, and Southern California, including MWD. Over 120 CSU students from various campuses across California attended, gaining insights into career pathways in the water industry.

On February 6, 2025, staff conducted an industry awareness session and presented the apprenticeship program at United American Indian Involvement, Inc., a non-profit organization in downtown Los Angeles. This session aimed to provide job readiness resources and employment opportunities for American Indian and Alaskan Native communities in Los Angeles.

On February 8, 2025, staff met with the Red Foot Committee to discuss details regarding the upcoming desert apprenticeship program. Similarly, on February 10, 2025, staff met with the Hopi Sinom Committee to further plan and coordinate efforts for the same apprenticeship initiative.

On February 11, 2025, staff met with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) lead at Palo Verde College. During this visit, they toured the campus and successfully scheduled cooperative education events for the next three months, strengthening partnerships and career development opportunities.

On February 12, 2025, staff conducted an informational session at Parker High School in Parker, Arizona. This session provided students with insights into careers in the water industry, and staff also facilitated a resume and interview skills workshop for junior and senior students to help them prepare for future job opportunities.

On February 18, 2025, staff met with the Navajo Language Group to discuss the upcoming desert apprenticeship program and continuing engagement with key stakeholders to expand apprenticeship opportunities.

On February 19, 2025, staff attended the Education to Workforce Tour, hosted by MWDOC and the San Diego County Water Authority. As part of the event, MWD Workforce Development participated in a panel discussion focused on early career education, emphasizing pathways for students to enter the water industry.

On February 20, 2025, staff attended the BizFed Workforce Development Summit and Career Fair. This event provided valuable networking opportunities and insights into workforce development strategies, supporting efforts to connect job seekers with career pathways in the industry.

On February 24, 2025, staff is scheduled to present on the apprenticeship program at Needles Community College, continuing outreach efforts to promote career development in the water sector.

On February 27, 2025, staff will attend the California Water Virtual Career Fair, hosted in partnership with West Basin and the San Diego County Water Authority. This virtual event aims to connect job seekers with employment opportunities in the water industry, further expanding workforce engagement efforts.