



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Operations Group

• September Operations Groups Monthly Activities Report

Summary

This monthly report for the Operations Groups provides updates to the General Manager's Business Plan and a summary of activities for August 2025 in the following key areas:

- Enhance Workforce Safety and Security
- Manage Business Operations, Budget, and Staffing
- Ensure Resilient and Reliable Operations
- Advance Pure Water Southern California
- Develop New Supplies and Optimize System Flexibility
- Protect Source Waters
- Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution Operations
- Ensure Water Quality and Environmental Compliance
- Optimize Maintenance and Asset Management
- Support Capital Project Development and Implementation
- Ensure Power and Environmental Regulatory Compliance
- Engage in Legislative and Regulatory Processes
- Advance Education and Outreach Initiatives
- Engage with Member Agencies and Other Stakeholders on Technical Matters

Purpose

Informational by the Operations Groups on a summary of key activities and updates for the month of August 2025.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Detailed Report – Operations Groups' Monthly Activities for August 2025

Operations Groups

GM Business Plan Updates

GOAL: Develop a Biennial Budget that Meets Metropolitan's Needs

OUTCOME: Implement risk-informed capital investment planning to ensure reliable critical infrastructure

UPDATE: Work continues for the updated Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP), as well as the beginning of a comparative industry review.

OUTCOME: Budget for enhanced mission-critical capabilities

UPDATE: An agreement with Allied Reliability was approved by the Board that will help accelerate the improvements needed to support the management of system reliability as well as risk at best value.

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

OUTCOME: Assess climate risks and vulnerabilities

UPDATE: (1) Continued working with an independent transmission developer on assessing potential projects; (2) Agreement with a consultant for hydro valuation services is in process; and (3) Work continues as part of updating the SAMP and comparative industry review.

OUTCOME: Evaluate projects and programs using the CAMP4W assessment criteria

UPDATE: Operations staff continued participating in the assessment of two CAMP4W projects – Pure Water (45 MGD, 75 MGD, and 150 MGD) and Sites Reservoir.

OUTCOME: Integrate climate considerations and implement adaptation strategies

UPDATE: Protective measures to guard against nitrification included increasing disinfectant residual and pH, leaving the three treatment plants serving the central pool portion of the distribution system, increased monitoring of water quality in the distribution system, and limited flushing at one location in August to maintain water quality.

Operations Groups

GOAL: Complete EIR and Planning for Board to Consider Pure Water Southern California**OUTCOME:** Prepare for possible implementation through contractor outreach and water quality research

UPDATE: (1) System modification and baseline monitoring continued at the demonstration plant in preparation for the next phase of testing, and additional membrane modules were installed to increase the capacity of the treatment train; (2) On August 19, the Independent Science Advisory Panel draft report on the July 2 workshop was distributed to the project team; comments and recommendations will be addressed and incorporated into the program as appropriate; and (3) The project team met with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water and Los Angeles Regional Board on August 25 to discuss PWSC program testing results, plans for the next phase of testing, and planning for direct potable reuse.

GOAL: Achieve Equitable Supply Reliability for State Water Project Dependent Areas**OUTCOME:** Evaluate further potential investments toward addressing State Water Project Dependent Areas

UPDATE: Operations staff continue to analyze future drought sequences and identify potential vulnerabilities to State Water Project (SWP)-dependent areas.

GOAL: Provide Organizational Stability and Deliver Operational Excellence**OUTCOME:** Maintain excellence in daily operations and reliability

UPDATE: (1) Individual teams within the multidisciplinary District-wide golden mussel response taskforce held many meetings and workshops throughout August to continue assessing strategies and approaches for protecting infrastructure and groundwater replenishment deliveries, including coordination with potentially impacted member agencies; (2) Bench tests on specific invasive mussel control measures were initiated in August; and (3) Water continues to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management principles and operational objectives according to the Annual Operating Plan, with an emphasis to position SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP-dependent areas.

Operations Groups

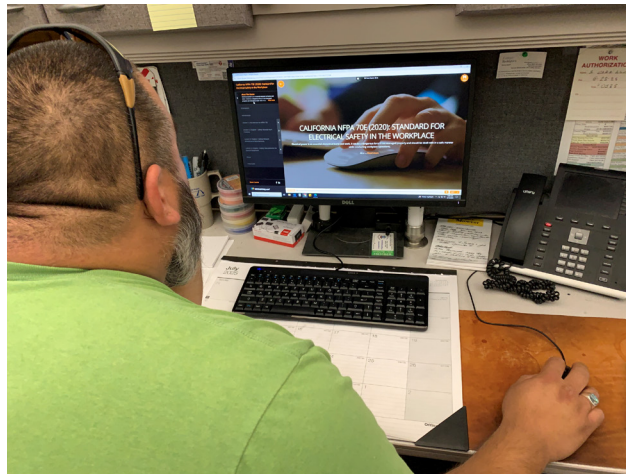
Operations Groups Business Plan Strategic Priorities & Objectives

Strategic Priority #1: EMPOWER

Enhance Workforce Safety and Security

Diemer plant staff identified an emergency stop on equipment that did not notify personnel when activated. Currently, work is underway so that the activation of the emergency stop will alert the control room, informing personnel to perform a check of staff working around the equipment.

Desert staff are piloting new National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70E training. This training provides staff with information related to arc-flash and electrical safety topics. This training is critical for staff who perform high-voltage switching and electrical work.



Desert staff member taking new NFPA 70E training class

Strategic Priority #2: SUSTAIN

Manage Business Operations, Budget, and Staffing

Business Management Team staff continue to work with the Operations Groups to develop and review non-fleet operating equipment requests, staffing plans, and biennium budget development for FY 2027/28, as well as partnering with IT and Finance to streamline BVC reporting timeframes. Staff is also working to redesign the Operations Groups' SharePoint site to distinguish each Group, its respective sections, and to provide content-rich, user-friendly platforms.

Develop Solutions to Enhance Operational and Business Processes

In collaboration with AFSCME Local 1902, a voluntary pilot program was completed to evaluate the effectiveness of converting the O&M Assistants based at Gene Pump Plant to regular part-time employees. The pilot program ran for 18 months and provided positive feedback from both participants and desert management. In August, the Board authorized permanent adoption of the pilot program, providing staff with predictability in their schedule and management with a greater ability to cross-train staff and redeploy resources as necessary.

Operations Groups

Strategic Priority #3: ADAPT

Ensure Resilient and Reliable Operations

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 140,000 acre-feet (AF) for August with an average of 4,500 AF per day, which was about 300 AF per day higher than in July. Treated water deliveries were 4,300 AF lower than July for a total of 67,900 AF, or 49 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) pumped a total of 96,000 AF in August. SWP imports averaged 2,900 AF per day, totaling about 90,000 AF for the month. The target SWP blend is currently 40 percent for Diemer, Weymouth, and Skinner plants.

Metropolitan has sufficient SWP, Colorado River supplies, and storage to meet demands in 2025. Water continues to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management principles and operational objectives, with an emphasis on positioning SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP-dependent area. The SWP Allocation is expected to remain at 50 percent for the calendar year. Metropolitan is continuing to manage Table A supplies to preserve supplies for the SWP-dependent area. At the same time, Metropolitan has shifted operations to manage surplus supplies. With the additional supplies, Metropolitan is delivering to member agency cyclic programs and to Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District in 2025.

Staff began unloading pipe sections at the Etiwanda Reservoir that will be used to reline the Lakeview Pipeline in San Jacinto. The Lakeview Pipeline was installed in 1973 to enable the Skinner service area to receive supplies from the SWP. The line conveys untreated water to the Skinner area through the Department of Water Resources' Santa Ana Valley Pipeline and Lake Perris facilities. In combination with the Inland Feeder, Metropolitan uses the Lakeview Pipeline to balance salinity levels in the Skinner area by blending flows from the SWP and the CRA. The Lakeview Pipeline also delivers untreated water to two service connections.

Since its construction, the 11-foot-diameter Lakeview Pipeline has been shut down numerous times to repair leaking joints. The pipeline is approximately 11.5 miles long and comprises 1,520 steel pipe segments with rubber-gasket bell and spigot joints. To date, 139 of the 1,520 pipeline segments have received remedial repairs.



Staff unloading 120-inch diameter pipe (left) and pipe storage area (right)

Operations Groups

Advance Pure Water Southern California

Staff continued baseline monitoring for nitrification-denitrification tertiary membrane bioreactor (MBR) testing and continued working with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) to procure and install snail mitigation measures at the Napolitano Innovation Center demonstration plant. With the support of LACSD staff and their crane, Metropolitan staff installed additional modules to increase the capacity of one of the MBRs in the demonstration treatment train in preparation for the next phase of testing. Staff partnered with LACSD staff to complete piping installation for the above-ground waste activated sludge system and continued coordinating with the Weymouth Electrical team and SCADA team to finalize electrical connections.



Metropolitan and LACSD staff in a safety meeting prior to MBR installation (left), using a crane to remove an MBR cassette (middle), and installing MBR modules (right)

Operations Groups

Develop New Supplies and Optimize System Flexibility

With the completion of the Perris Valley Pipeline that crosses under the 215 Freeway, Metropolitan can now supply high-quality drinking water from the Mills plant to Eastern Municipal Water District's Eastern Branch through Service Connection EM-24. To ensure accuracy and reliability of the service connection, staff replaced the billing meter.



Crane on-site waiting to lift new flowmeter in place at EM-24

Strategic Priority #4: PROTECT

Protect Source Waters

Individual teams within the District-wide golden mussel response task force held many meetings and workshops throughout August to continue assessing strategies and approaches for protecting infrastructure and groundwater replenishment deliveries, including coordination with potentially impacted member agencies. Bench-scale tests on specific control measures were also conducted in August.

On August 20, the California Department of Water Resources treated Silverwood Lake with copper sulfate to control a cyanobacterial bloom that was producing the taste and odor compound geosmin and elevated levels of microcystin, a non-regulated cyanobacterial toxin. Following the treatment, levels of geosmin and microcystin dropped in the lake.

Operations Groups

Optimize Water Treatment & Distribution Operations

Jensen plant staff completed preventative maintenance on field water quality analyzers. These online analyzers provide real-time chlorine, turbidity, and pH levels throughout the distribution system, providing data to the Operations Control Center and Water Quality. They also act as early warning systems to help maintain high water quality standards.



Staff performing maintenance on field water quality panel at Beverly Hills PCS

Skinner plant staff repaired an acoustic flowmeter, which measures the flow of water by sending sound signals upstream and downstream, comparing travel times. The difference is used to calculate velocity and flow rate—critical for water accounting, process control, and hydroelectric operations. Technicians troubleshooted the unit, replaced a circuit board, and returned the flowmeter to service.



Staff replacing a flowmeter circuit board

Operations Groups

Weymouth plant staff made critical repairs to the ozone contactor analyzer sump pump system after discovering one of the two pumps had failed. The issue was traced to a malfunctioning foot valve. Staff coordinated with Safety, Operations, and Control Systems teams to create an outage that allowed safe repairs while keeping the ozone system online. The pump was repaired and returned to service, optimizing the treatment process and ensuring reliable ozone operations.



Repaired ozone analyzer sump pump system at Weymouth plant

The SWP target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants decreased from 100 percent to 40 percent after a brief maintenance-related outage at Lake Mathews and remained at 40 percent in August 2025. The SWP target blend entering Lake Skinner remained at 40 percent in August 2025. Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from July 2024 through June 2025 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the CRA were 580 mg/L, 561 mg/L, and 562 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

A variety of actions have been taken throughout the summer to maintain water quality in the distribution system and guard against nitrification. These protective measures included increasing disinfectant residual and pH leaving the three treatment plants serving the central pool portion of the distribution system, increased monitoring of water quality in the distribution system, and limited flushing at one location in August to maintain water quality.

Ensure Water Quality and Environmental Compliance

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during July 2025.

Staff met with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water on August 7 to discuss updates to the required Colorado River Watershed Sanitary Survey for the years 2021 through 2025.

Operations Groups

Optimize Maintenance and Asset Management

Weymouth plant staff conducted annual oil sampling of the oil-filled transformers at the on-site electrical substations. The reliable operation of these transformers depends on the quality of the insulating oil, which functions both as an insulator and a coolant. Monitoring and assessing oil condition through dissolved gas analysis is vital for ensuring the health and longevity of the transformers. These maintenance activities are essential for identifying and addressing potential problems before they occur and ensuring the reliability of the treatment processes.



Oil-filled transformer (left) and taking an oil sample for dissolved gas analysis (right)

Staff addressed issues with the perimeter lighting at the Etiwanda Hydroelectric Plant, which surrounds the reservoir. Pull boxes at the light poles had been buried by natural land erosion, and recent weather events damaged the power supply to the fixtures, causing the lights to fail. To resolve this problem, staff removed the old pull boxes, rebuilt the bases, and repaired the conduits and wires. The repairs will restore lighting, allowing staff and security to see the area clearly at night.



A buried pull box (left) and staff making repairs to a new raised unit (right) at Etiwanda HEP

Operations Groups

Eagle Mountain pump plant staff replaced the granular activated carbon (GAC) media for the domestic water system. The spent media was vacuumed out of the vessels and disposed of before new media was added. Periodic maintenance and replacement of the GAC media is required to ensure safe drinking water for local staff and families.



Staff replacing the GAC media for the domestic water system at Eagle Mountain pump plant

Unpaved patrol roads throughout the desert region experience erosion from wind and water over time. Staff perform periodic maintenance to keep patrol roads safe and easily navigable. Staff completed compaction of roads, banks, and repaired erosion issues around the Eagle Mountain pump plant.



Staff repairing road banks and erosion areas near Eagle Mountain pump plant

Operations Groups

Pipeline isolators are used at the desert pump plants to separate pipeline sections so staff can safely repair equipment. An isolator was installed for the repair of Iron Mountain Unit 5 discharge valve. When removed, the isolator is replaced with a spool piece. Staff repaired eroded coating and mortar lining prior to installation of the spool piece. Repairs were completed, staff removed the isolator, installed the spool piece, and successfully tested the newly rebuilt discharge valve.



Spool piece prior to repair (left) and spool piece after coating repair (right)



Staff remove pipeline isolator fitting from Iron Mountain Unit 5

Operations Groups

Support Capital Project Development and Implementation

In an effort to support the Sepulveda Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 9 project, staff are preparing the valves, currently stored at the Lake Mathews facility for a 3D scan to assist in the planned installation. The scan requires the valve storage crates to be disassembled and the protective wrapping to be removed. After the scan, the valve and its components will be re-crated and protected for storage.



Staff positioning valves (left) and fall protection scaffolding (right) at the Lake Mathews storage facility

Enhance Emergency Preparedness and Response

In early August, staff supported the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) when local water service was cut off due to a failed valve in LADWP's system. While the permanent repair was being made, Metropolitan staff identified a location at the Jensen plant (LA-25 service connection) that served as a source of water for a temporary pumping operation. LADWP's contractor worked with Jensen staff to set up thousands of feet of hose and high-pressure pumps to deliver water to the trunk line that serves the impacted area. Metropolitan also activated its emergency operations center and Jensen incident command post during this period to enhance communication and response. This collaboration with LADWP highlights the importance of regional partnerships in maintaining water reliability, especially during emergencies.

Operations Groups

Ensure Power and Environmental Regulatory Compliance

The mid-summer operating period to date has been relatively mild across the CAISO and WECC operational footprints. Energy markets in August 2025 have seen adequate natural gas supplies and moderate energy prices. The CRA averaged slightly less than 7 pumps in August 2025. The CRA energy cost budget for fiscal year 2024/25 was \$71.4 million; the actual costs forecast for fiscal year 2024/25 came in slightly lower at \$64.3 million, due to moderate energy costs. The CRA energy cost forecast for fiscal year 2025/26 is \$83.8 million, and current forecasts are tracking significantly lower at \$70.4 million, due to lower forward cost curves and active management of Hoover scheduling to optimize for market conditions.

Staff continued work on the Metropolitan's first-ever affected system cluster study for generation developers wishing to connect to transmission systems adjacent to the Colorado River Aqueduct Transmission System (CRATS). This study encompasses seven generation projects connecting to the Southern California Edison (SCE) and Western Area Power Administration systems, which impact Metropolitan's 230 kV transmission system. Staff are currently working on developing preliminary interim mitigation agreements, or "bridge agreements", to allow generation developers to secure funding by demonstrating a provisional agreement with Metropolitan. This would allow the developers to reach commercial operation while permanent mitigations are in development. This would also include an agreement with the California ISO to temporarily limit the amount of energy generated by these projects until permanent system upgrades are in place.

In 2024, Metropolitan received a first-ever formal request to interconnect independent generation directly to the CRATS from a generation and transmission developer and proceeded with execution of an interconnection study agreement and study deposit in accordance with Metropolitan's interconnect study process. In early August, the developer requested a suspension of the interconnection study process due to evolving energy markets and regulatory developments.

Staff is currently investigating potential participation in a real-time pricing pilot program offered by SCE. This has the potential to reduce retail energy costs at several retail services supplied by SCE. The program is authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission and would have no net cost to participating customers.

Following approval by the Board in June 2025, staff is developing an agreement with a firm for the purpose of managing and reducing retail electric energy costs. This firm will review Metropolitan's retail energy usage at each retail meter point with SCE, LADWP, and City of Riverside Public Utilities, and recommend optimum rate strategies for each location. Metropolitan's retail electric energy costs have typically run about \$12-15 million per year but are trending sharply upwards due to recent rate increases.

Power scheduling staff are closely monitoring the USBR 24-month forecast for Hoover generation following the announcement in January 2025 that USBR will severely curtail Hoover generation for Lake Mead elevations below 1,035 feet. Staff are evaluating potential cost impacts and mitigation strategies.

Operations Groups

Strategic Priority #5: PARTNER

Engage in Legislative and Regulatory Processes

On July 28, the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) met to discuss EPA's plan to rescind parts of its 2024 PFAS MCL rule. EPA intends to maintain the MCLs for PFOA and PFOS at 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) but will rescind the MCLs and Hazard Index for the other four PFAS (PFHxS, PFBS, Gen-X, and PFNA). NDWAC members raised concerns that this action could erode public trust, violate the Safe Drinking Water Act's anti-backsliding provision, invite legal challenges, and disrupt state-level PFAS regulations. Some also pointed out cost and feasibility issues for small systems. EPA officials confirmed plans to issue proposed rulemakings in the fall, followed by public comment and additional consultations with NDWAC before finalizing the rules in spring 2026. Staff will monitor developments in PFAS regulation efforts.

On July 29, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) released proposed amendments to the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). Key updates to the ACF regulation include the repeal of sections applicable to federal or private fleets, the introduction of the zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) Milestone option within the State and Local Government Agency Requirements, and amendments required by AB 1594 (Garcia, 2023) that allow early access for exemptions for "traditional utility-specialized vehicles." Proposed amendments to the LCFS aim to enhance crediting support for hydrogen stations and the development of stations that can accommodate larger medium-duty hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles. Public comments are due by September 15, with amendments set for adoption on September 25. Staff are currently reviewing the proposed language and will prepare comments during the rulemaking period.

On August 1, EPA proposed to rescind its 2009 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Endangerment Finding, a key factor in regulating emissions from new motor vehicles and engines. Without this finding, EPA would lack the authority under the Clean Air Act to set GHG emissions standards, which could result in the elimination of GHG regulations for light, medium, and heavy-duty vehicles. EPA plans to retain regulations for criteria pollutants, air toxic standards, Corporate Average Fuel Economy testing, and fuel economy labeling. Public hearings on the proposal took place from August 19 to 21, and comments on the proposed rulemaking are due by September 15.

On August 18, CARB released its report in response to Governor Newsom's June 2025 Executive Order N-27-25, directing CARB, along with other state agencies, to submit a plan to expand the adoption of ZEVs despite federal opposition. The report details actions in six areas, including (1) utilizing the LCFS program to maintain private investment in the ZEV market; (2) providing increased incentives and funding; (3) prioritizing charging and refueling infrastructure; (4) reducing electric vehicle charging costs; (5) creating a new statewide indirect source rule to reduce emissions from high-impact areas; and (6) directing state agencies to lead by example through ZEV-first purchasing policies and support for local government fleet electrification. Staff will closely monitor any regulatory outcomes derived from CARB's report.

Operations Groups

Advance Education and Outreach Initiatives

Staff provided an update on fluoridation of drinking water to a retail agency Community Advisory Group on August 7. The presentation covered the history and benefits of community water fluoridation, Metropolitan's operational practice, a federal district court ruling on water fluoridation in 2024, and recent activities around the country related to community water fluoridation.

On August 8, Metropolitan hosted a Weymouth plant and Water Quality Lab tour for high school students from the Los Angeles Service Academy (LASA). Participants gained valuable insights into the essential work of ensuring safe and reliable water for the region. It also sparked curiosity about careers in public service and environmental stewardship. On August 21, tours of the plant and laboratory were provided to Arizona Generation and Transmission.



Tour and presentation for Los Angeles Service Academy students at Weymouth plant

Operations Groups

Engage with Member Agencies & Other Stakeholders on Technical Matters

Jensen plant staff welcomed representatives from the District Office of Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, who serves communities across the San Fernando Valley, for an informative and hands-on plant tour. The visit started with a detailed presentation outlining the plant's water treatment process and a comprehensive walking tour. Throughout the visit, guests expressed strong interest in learning about water treatment and distribution operations, and the measures to ensure a consistent and reliable water supply to their constituents. Staff were enthusiastic about showcasing their work and highlighting the systems and safeguards that support dependable water service across the region.



Staff leading a tour of visitors from the District Office of Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel at Jensen plant