



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- **DEI Activities Report**

Summary

This report provides a summary of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group activities for June 2026

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group activities for June 2026

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

In June 2026, DEI staff continued to advance Metropolitan's strategic priorities through workforce development, business outreach, community engagement, and regional partnerships that raise awareness of career and contracting opportunities in the water industry while strengthening relationships with key stakeholders throughout Southern California.

GM Strategic Priority #1: EMPOWER the Workforce and Promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Staff continued workforce development efforts through partnerships with educational institutions, workforce organizations, and member agencies to increase awareness of careers in the water sector and with Metropolitan. Workforce Development staff presented Metropolitan's workforce initiatives, regional branding campaign, and Carson MOU collaboration at the West Basin Municipal Water District Caucus Meeting and the Member Agency Education meeting, highlighting collaborative efforts to expand career awareness and workforce pathways throughout the region.



Staff also participated in the Goodwill Job Fair and the Los Angeles County Office of Education's 7th Annual Hiring Spree, connecting directly with job seekers and community members about careers in water. Workforce Development, in partnership with Metropolitan's Education Unit, supported the Water Replenishment District Career Intensive Program by hosting students at Headquarters and participating in a career panel focused on opportunities within the water sector. Additional outreach included engagement with graduating participants at the Unite LA Cleantech Academy Graduation and the Women in Non-Traditional Roles (WINTER) Graduation, promoting careers in water and skilled trades to emerging talent.

To support long-term workforce planning and regional collaboration, staff participated in the Climate Ready Employment Council Convening hosted by Long Beach City College, engaging with workforce and education partners to explore strategies that strengthen alignment between education, training, and employment opportunities in the water sector.

GM Strategic Priority #5: PARTNER with Interested Parties and the Communities We Serve

Staff continued to strengthen relationships with business organizations, industry associations, and regional partners through strategic outreach and supplier engagement activities. Metropolitan participated in the VerdeXchange Conference, which convened public- and private-sector leaders to discuss sustainability, clean technology, and innovative approaches to environmental stewardship. Metropolitan was prominently represented through participation by Board Chair Adan Ortega and General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh as conference speakers.

Business outreach efforts also included participation in networking and supplier engagement events hosted by the Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Development Center of Inland Empire and Orange County, and the Southern California Contracting Conference. These events provided opportunities to connect with small businesses, promote contracting opportunities, and strengthen Metropolitan's presence within the regional business community.



Additionally, staff attended the Asian American Architects and Engineers (AAA/e) Scholarship Fundraiser, supporting efforts to encourage educational and professional advancement for students and emerging professionals pursuing careers in architecture, engineering, and construction.

Collectively, these activities reflect Metropolitan's continued commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, in accordance with the law, through

workforce development, strategic partnerships, supplier engagement, and community outreach initiatives that support both organizational objectives and regional economic opportunity.