



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Sustainability, Resilience, Innovation Group

• Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation GM Report

Summary

Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Office April 2025 Monthly Activities

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

SRI Core Activities

The Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) Implementation Strategy was adopted by the MWD Board on April 8, 2025. This completes the planning phase for this important process, and staff will now begin implementation activities. As part of the implementation process, several project and program assessments will be prepared in the coming months. In addition, new initiatives are being planned, such as developing community engagement standards and partnering with community-based organizations to advance water efficiency programs. A new information sheet on CAMP4W is being developed that will be used for public outreach and engagement.

Chief SRI Officer Crosson participated in a panel discussion on ensuring resilience amidst climate challenges at Infraday, California, on April 23, 2025.

Sustainability and Resilience

The Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Executive Task Force met on April 11, 2025, to discuss Metropolitan's continued efforts to transition to a cleaner fleet. Staff presented updates on federal and state regulatory changes that may impact ZEV availability, Metropolitan's vehicle replacement strategy, financing options for vehicle purchases, and charger installations.

On April 2, 2025, SRI hosted a demonstration of Dragon Wings, a portable solar generator, at the Jensen Water Treatment Plant that was attended by multiple public agencies, including Metropolitan, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles Airports, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, and Southern California Edison. The generator provides an off-the-electrical grid alternative to charge ZEVs and power tools at shutdowns or other sites while the long-term charging infrastructure is being built.

On April 22, 2025, SRI staff participated in Earth Day celebrations by providing employees with information on ZEVs and the opportunity to test drive an electric Ford Lightning truck. Also, in celebration of Earth Day, SRI and Procurement hosted the first sustainable procurement training workshop that introduced the Sustainable Procurement Guide and provided information on how to choose more environmentally friendly goods and services.

On April 22, 2025, in celebration of Earth Day, SRI released the 2024 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Annual Progress Report. This third Annual Progress Report (APR) highlights Metropolitan's achievements in 2024 and details progress over the past year on a suite of measures designed to help Metropolitan achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. The report also updates the CAP Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory and carbon budget, which

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tracks how Metropolitan has advanced its GHG reduction goals. The APR highlights the success stories over the past year, including the turf replacement program and corresponding water savings; the success of the telecommuting program in reducing vehicle miles traveled and corresponding emissions; conversion to LED lighting across facilities; commuter fleet electrification; and carbon-free retail electricity purchases. Staff provided information on the 2024 CAP APR on Earth Day.

Centralized Grants Management Office

On April 16, 2025, the Centralized Grants Management office hosted a SoCal Water Grants Network (SCWGN) meeting. Over 60 representatives from Metropolitan, utilities, community colleges, foundations, and consultants were in attendance. This quarter, attendees received presentations on California's Prop 4, Single Audit Preparation and Best Practices, and upcoming grant opportunities. The next SCWGN meeting will be held in July.

Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies

As part of Metropolitan's *Process Matters* initiative, which launched at the beginning of April and will continue over the next 90 days, the Innovation Team is supporting employee engagement and the development of cross-functional solutions to improve internal operations. Working in coordination with External Affairs, SRI, and Audit staff, the team helped design and promote mechanisms for staff to submit ideas. It facilitated lunchtime collaboration events to spark dialogue and surface opportunities. Through this work, the team advanced its mission to identify and accelerate practical improvements that enhance efficiency, reduce delays, and better serve Metropolitan's member agencies and ratepayers.

Environmental Planning Services

Core Business: Environmental Planning and Regulatory Compliance Support

Environmental Planning Section staff continued to finalize documentation and prepare for the public release of the draft Environmental Impact Report for the Pure Water Southern California program in spring 2025. Staff submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) the state Incidental Take Permit application for impacts to sensitive species (San Bernardino kangaroo rat) resulting from the project in compliance with the state Endangered Species Act. For the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project, staff participated in an interagency pre-application meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CDFW, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and State Lands Commission to obtain feedback on project regulatory permitting. Environmental monitoring of construction activities continued for the Perris Valley Pipeline, Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B, Weymouth Basins 5 to 8 Rehabilitation, Weymouth Asphalt Rehabilitation, and La Verne Shops Upgrades projects.

The Environmental Planning Section supported critical operations and maintenance activities. Staff provided California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and regulatory clearances and conducted pre-construction biological resource surveys, environmental awareness training, and construction monitoring for activities throughout the service area, including routine patrol road grading, as well as shutdowns of the Yorba Linda Feeder, Rialto Feeder, Glendora Tunnel, and LaVerne Pipeline. Staff provided subject matter expert reviews of legislative bills, including Assembly Bills (AB) 52 (Native American Resources), 454 (California Migratory Bird Protection Act), 746 (Urban Water Community Drought Relief Program), 975 (CEQA: Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Exemptions for Culverts and Bridges), 1227 (CEQA Exemption: Wildfire Prevention Projects), 1228 (Electricity: Expedited Utility Distribution Infrastructure Undergrounding Program), 1319 (California Endangered Species Act Emergency Listing), and 1455 (Certified Regulatory Program for 5-Foot Ember Resistant Zone); Senate Bills (SB) 676 (CEQA: Responsible Agency (Amended) – State of Emergency Administrative Record) and 746 (Urban Water Community Drought Relief Program: Small Community Drought Relief); and proposed amendments to the federal Endangered Species Act. In addition, staff reviewed and analyzed CEQA notices for nine 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 with the

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potential for impacts. Staff attended the Association of Environmental Professionals annual conference from April 6–9, 2025, and participated in a panel session entitled “CEQA for Complex Water Projects.”

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 the application of pre-emergent herbicide to mowed areas to prevent the regrowth of noxious weeds in the 2025 growing season, servicing of wildlife cameras at burrowing owl mounds north of Lake Mathews to document burrowing owl/wildlife activity, and repairing patrol roads and fencing. Activities at the MSR included planting coyote melon seeds as an experimental fire retardant; conducting herbicide treatments for invasive plants; coordinating with researchers to conduct surveys for Quino checkerspot butterfly, northern harrier, and small mammals; and conducting rare plant surveys for Parry’s spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*), Palmer’s grappling hook (*Harpagonella palmeri*), Munz’s onion (*Allium munzii*), and Payson’s jewelflower (*Caulanthus simulans*). The Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center hosted 14 visitors during the month.

Land Management

The agriculture lease with D&L Farms, Inc., comprising Bacon Island, was amended to extend the term for one additional year. Staff has commenced the RFP process to select potential tenants for a long-term lease.

Certified Credit Union and Metropolitan have entered into a new, five-year lease to replace the existing lease pursuant to new terms authorized by the Board. The Credit Union housed at Headquarters will continue to serve staff, retirees, and their families.