



## Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Group

### • SRI GM Monthly Report

#### Summary

---

This report provides a summary of Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation activities for the month of February 2026.

#### Purpose

---

Informational

#### Attachments

---

None

#### Detailed Report

---

Activities in Support of the GM Business Plan

#### **Goal: Execute the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) Implementation Strategy to Integrate Climate Adaptation District-wide**

The Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) team made progress this quarter on testing and refining the Decision-Making Framework and underlying assumptions and on several other climate adaptation initiatives, including the Fire Risk Management Plan and Community Engagement Standards. Progress is detailed in the CAMP4W Quarterly Update Committee Info Item.

#### **Goal: Decide on Sites Reservoir and Protect Bay-Delta Interests**

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

For the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project, the proposed project qualifies for regulatory permits specifically intended for restoration projects, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Restoration Management Permit (RMP), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District Regional General Permit (RGP) 16, Regional Water Quality Control Board Statewide Restoration General Order, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Restoration Programmatic Biological Opinion. With the issuance of the RMP from CDFW and RGP 16 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in February, Environmental Planning Section staff has now obtained all required regulatory permits and/or authorization for the project for impacts to jurisdictional waters and species regulated under the California Fish and Game Code, Clean Water Act, and state and federal endangered species acts. The Environmental Planning staff continue to prepare Section 01065 (Environmental Requirements) of the construction specifications.

#### **Goal: Complete Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Planning for Board to Consider Pure Water Southern California**

1. Complete EIR analysis and public process

Environmental Planning Section staff completed preparation of the Final EIR, including the responses to public comments on the Draft EIR, Findings of Fact, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring

## Board Report SRI GM Monthly Report

and Reporting Program for the Pure Water Southern California Program, as well as prepared public notices and conducted public noticing per the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines in advance of the February Board of Directors meeting. On February 10, at the Board of Directors meeting, the Final EIR was certified and the project approved for CEQA purposes. Following EIR certification, staff prepared and filed the Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse and county clerks' offices.

### **Additional SRI Activities**

#### **Climate Action Plan**

Sustainability and Resilience staff participated in the Water Research Foundation's (WRF) Research Planning Summit to help WRF identify critical research needs and high-priority research ideas for the greenhouse gas (GHGs)/Climate Mitigation subtopic. Every year, the WRF brings together key stakeholders and partners from the water sector to identify critical research needs across 15 subtopics and prioritize research project ideas. The GHGs/climate mitigation research will provide best practices, methods, processes, and tools for effective planning and operational management to cost-effectively reduce and mitigate GHG emissions to contribute to carbon neutrality by water utilities and municipalities. By collaborating with partners beyond the water sector, this research will focus on advancement in GHG accounting and emission reductions, decarbonization strategies, carbon capture associated with water utilities and may support carbon emission trading.

The results of the Summit will be provided to WRF's Research Advisory Council for review and used to determine priority research projects to move forward in 2026. WRF research helps the water sector plan for and alleviate the impacts of climate change, from understanding potential impacts to implementing adaptation strategies and mitigating root causes.

Sustainability and Resilience staff advanced efforts to strengthen climate-resilient planning and design practices through participation in the Water Utility Climate Alliance's (WUCA) Climate Resilient Engineering Guidance Subcommittee. WUCA focuses on translating climate science into practical, implementable engineering practices for water utilities. By identifying tangible design strategies and leading practices, the initiative aims to modernize engineering design standards manuals and ensure infrastructure is built to withstand future climate impacts.

Staff collaborated with the Engineering Services Group to review and provide detailed comments on WUCA's proposed climate-resilient design guidance strategies across a range of project types to help align climate resilience considerations with existing engineering practices and to ensure the guidance reflects real-world utility designs.

#### **Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies**

Innovation staff participated in the Enterprise Data Analytics Steering Committee, contributing to the development of the new Data Governance Framework and associated operational planning dashboards. This work supports clearer data ownership, improved data quality and stewardship, and more consistent use of enterprise data assets to inform planning, performance monitoring, and decision-making across the organization.

Innovation staff participated in an aerial flyover to investigate potential pumped storage hydropower sites, supporting a preliminary assessment of regional energy storage opportunities. In addition, the team conducted a site visit to Lake Mathews to support improved water quality monitoring, including evaluation of enhanced sensor deployments to strengthen real-time data collection and operational visibility.

Finally, the Innovation team facilitated peer learning and knowledge exchange with external agencies, including Santa Margarita Water District, Long Beach Water Department, East Bay Municipal Utility District, and the Water Replenishment District. These discussions focused on innovation program design and practical approaches to piloting new tools and methods within large public water agencies.

## Board Report SRI GM Monthly Report

### Zero Emission Vehicle Transition

The Zero Emission Vehicle Executive (ZEVs) Task Force met on February 12, 2026, to discuss continued progress on Metropolitan's adoption of clean vehicles and equipment. Metropolitan currently has 20 ZEVs in its Fleet with a total planned inventory of 120 ZEVs by 2026 year-end, 166 in 2027, and 191 ZEVs by the end of 2028. Progress also continues in the build-out of ZEV charging infrastructure, with 31 charging ports currently installed, 7 in construction, and 92 in design by Metropolitan Water District staff. The number of ports is referenced instead of chargers due to the varying number of ports by charger manufacturer and capacity. By project completion, the total of planned charging ports is 642 for Fleet and 235 for the Rideshare Program. The ZEV transition complies with the California Air Resources Board's Advanced Clean Fleets regulation and supports Climate Action Plan goals to reduce GHG emissions that result from the use of Metropolitan vehicles and equipment, and employee commutes.

### Environmental Planning Services

Staff continued preparation of supplemental CEQA documentation for the PCCP Rehabilitation Sepulveda Feeder Reach 9 Project, as well as continued to support the progressive design-build process for the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Project and the Lake Mathews New Pressure Control Structure and Electrical Upgrades Project. For the Inland Feeder/Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project, staff continued coordination with the USFWS and CDFW on the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) applications under the federal and state Endangered Species Act and regarding potential mitigation for impacts. CDFW issued the state ITP for the project on February 10. For the Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Access Road Improvements Project, coordination between Environmental Planning staff and CDFW continues for the ITP application pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 2081(b) and SB 147 for potential incidental take of the Fully Protected Species, desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*). Environmental monitoring of construction activities continued for the La Verne Shops Upgrades Project and the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project. Staff worked with External Affairs to complete the CEQA mitigation measures for impacts to cultural resources from the Weymouth Basins 5-8 Rehabilitation Project by finishing the installation of a plaque and exhibit at the Weymouth Plant (see photos). Finally, staff continued review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Mead and Lake Powell, which was released for public review by the Bureau of Reclamation on January 9. Environmental Planning staff will review and provide comments on the Draft EIS, coordinate review and consolidate comments from internal reviewers, and prepare and submit a comment letter on the Draft EIS; the comment period closes March 2.



*Valve actuator display and plaque at the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant installed as part of the CEQA cultural resources mitigation for the Weymouth Basins 5-8 Rehabilitation Project*

## Board Report SRI GM Monthly Report

Critical operations and maintenance activities were supported by the Environmental Planning Section. Staff provided CEQA and regulatory clearances and conducted preconstruction biological and nesting bird surveys for activities throughout the service area. Staff provided full-time monitoring and environmental support for the annual Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) shutdown. Activities included conducting desert tortoise awareness trainings for staff to ensure the avoidance of impacts to desert tortoise and other desert wildlife; providing environmental clearance and support to canal and tunnel cleaning crews along the CRA; relocating rattlesnakes found at Metropolitan infrastructure; conducting pre-activity site assessments for shutdown activities, including water releases and vegetation removal; and clearing patrol roads prior to activities to ensure the avoidance of impacts to desert tortoise (see photos). In addition, staff reviewed and analyzed CEQA notices for three 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. Finally, in coordination with Contracting Services, staff supported the execution of eleven new on-call professional services agreements for environmental planning and technical support.



*Photos of a desert tortoise, the tunnel cleaning crew, and two southwestern speckled rattlesnakes taken during the CRA shutdown.*

The Environmental Planning Section continued oversight of reserve management activities to protect valuable natural resources and meet Metropolitan's mitigation obligations. Security patrols and fence repairs 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 landscape maintenance, irrigation line repair, and organization of the grounds at the Reserve field office; removal of invasive vegetation and reduction of wildfire fuels within ephemeral stream corridors north and south of Lake Mathews; and application of herbicides to grassland restoration sites to prevent growth of invasive grasses. Activities at the MSR included coordinating with researchers on the Reserve, including the Riverside Conservation Agency, to conduct surveys for Quino checkerspot butterfly, white-tailed kite, and vernal pools; compiling data from the annual Christmas Bird Count at Diamond Valley Lake held on December 15 (approximately 4,525 individual birds and 102 species were identified, including horned lark, American coot, red-winged blackbird, double-crested cormorant, and American pipit); applying herbicide to invasive plants throughout the Reserve; and continuing work in the Tualota Creek restoration area with planting of upland coastal sage scrub species. With the early flowering of wildflowers having begun, the Judy Abdo Wildflower Trail opened in mid-February, with a Reserve environmental education interpreter present on Saturdays to guide and educate visitors (see photos). The Alamos Schoolhouse environmental education center was open to visitors on Saturdays, with 70 visitors reported for the month.



*Wildflowers along the Judy Abdo Wildflower Trail in the Southwestern Riverside County MSR.*

**Land Management**

An entry permit has been issued to San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) to access Metropolitan’s fee-owned property for potholing purposes at eight locations. The potholing work is necessary for the design of SBVMWD’s proposed Cactus Basins Connector Pipeline and confirmation of its elevations and alignment in proximity to Metropolitan’s Rialto Pipeline, which should mitigate potential risks to the Rialto Pipeline.