



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Activities for April 2024**

Summary

This report provides a summary of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group activities for April 2024.

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group activities for April 2024.

Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Business Outreach & Community Engagement

On April 3, 2024, West Basin Municipal Water District hosted the “How to Work with Water Agencies” webinar. Metropolitan, along with the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power and Water Replenishment District, U.S. Small Business Administration, Department of Economic Opportunity – County of Los Angeles, and APEX Accelerator Office of Small Business, shared tips on successful bidding for goods and services.

On April 10, 2024, Metropolitan attended the United Contractors (UCON) Public Works Summit 2024.

On April 12, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the San Diego & Imperial Valley SBDC Network and APEX Accelerators in San Diego, CA. Over 100 Small Businesses attended the event.

On April 17, 2024, Metropolitan staff, in partnership with Emerald Cities Collaborative and Small Business Development Center, hosted the Contractor Academy 2024 Orientation webinar.

On April 17 – 18, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the 2nd Annual U.S. Department of Energy and Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) 2024 Minority Business Enterprises Connect Summit at the Energy SoCal Gas Energy Resources Center in Downey, CA. The MBDA event connected California Minority Business Enterprises to more than \$400 billion in federal contract and grant opportunities. More than 35 exhibitors, 300 contractors, and over 1,200 Diverse Business Owners representing multiple sectors attended each day. The event includes opening remarks by U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm.



On April 19, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala Annual Economic Award Dinner in Los Angeles, CA. Metropolitan was the recipient of the “Utility of the Year Award”.



On April 20, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the National Association of Minority Contractors Southern California (NAMCSC) 3rd Annual Women’s Tea. This event is an opportunity to support and empower young women pursuing careers in architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC). This year’s theme is “Paving the Way for Women in AEC” to reflect the commitment to recognizing the outstanding achievements of women who made significant strides in shaping the landscape of the industry.

On April 23, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Inland Empire APEX Accelerator Matchmaking Event in Riverside CA. The Vendor Outreach Matchmaking Event is an opportunity for small businesses from Riverside and San Bernardino counties were able to meet business to business to discuss potential partnerships, subcontracting opportunities, joint ventures, and mentor protégé.

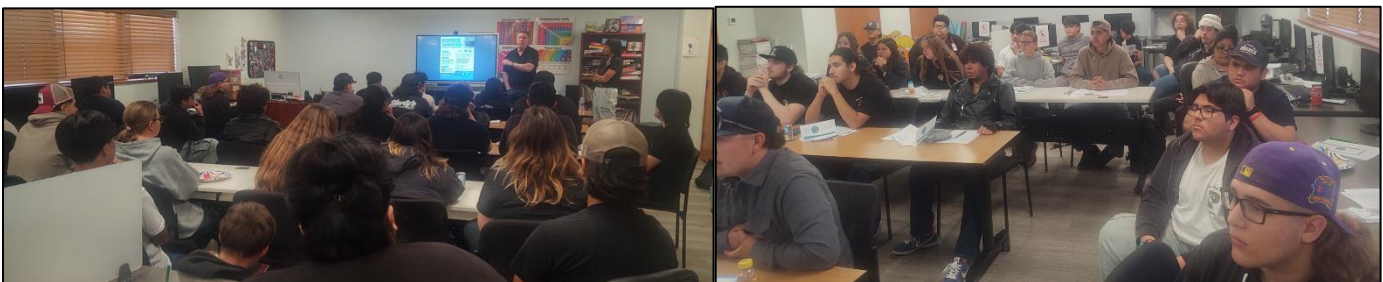


On April 29, Business Outreach staff attend the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Small Business Conference at the LA Memorial Coliseum.

On April 30th, Metropolitan staff attended the Hispanic Coalition of Small Businesses Spheres of Sustainability Summit Empower, Electrify, Equalize: Lighting the Path to Sustainable Communities – Flowing Forward with H2O. The Spheres of Sustainability Summit delves into the three key spheres of sustainability: environmental, social, and economic. The event includes industry experts on how these spheres intersect and impact daily lives and small businesses to create a greener future.

Workforce Development

On March 28th, DEI staff brought an exciting opportunity to students of the Colorado River Indian Tribes in Parker, Arizona. They presented an overview of Metropolitan's Apprenticeship program and joined CRIT resource office in providing resume advice and interviewing insight. Speakers included representatives from the CRIT Career Development Office, Tribal Employment Rights, HR, and Employment Development and Training.



Metropolitan has partnered with IE Works to help prepare potential apprentices for the program's qualifying test and tests within the water industry. Together, they've created a unique online series of tutorial classes – the first of its kind. These tutorials are completely free and accessible to anyone interested, thanks to grant funding for underserved communities.



FREE PREP COURSE

ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL APPRENTICESHIP ENTRANCE EXAM PREP COURSE

DATE AND TIME
ORIENTATION: MARCH 21, 2024, 6 PM
MARCH 26 – MAY 2, 2024, ONLINE
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 6 PM – 8 PM
WEEKEND GROUP TUTORING

LOCATION
INTERACTIVE ZOOM SESSIONS WILL BE UTILIZED FOR LIVE INSTRUCTION ON SELECTED TOPICS, WHILE OTHERS WILL BE ADDRESSED THROUGH TAKE-HOME LEARNING MODULES, ENSURING A WELL-ROUNDED PREPARATION FOR EXAM READINESS.
LIVE MODULES WILL BE RECORDED AND ACCESSIBLE TO PARTICIPANTS OUTSIDE OF CLASS HOURS TO ACCOMMODATE SCHEDULES

APPLICATION
To apply, please scan the QR code or visit this link:
LINKTR.EE/MWDEXAMPREP

Eligibility: Women, Youth (18-24), Veterans, Immigrants, Housing Insecure, Person with disabilities and formerly incarcerated are encouraged to apply. Eligible participants will be required to show proof of eligibility.

THIS COMPREHENSIVE COURSE IS DESIGNED TO HELP PREPARE YOU FOR MWD APPRENTICESHIP WRITTEN ENTRANCE EXAM AND FOR OTHER MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

Mathematics
Mechanical Reasoning
Essential Industry Knowledge
Interpersonal skills
Mechanical Ability
English Language Skills, and Understanding
Written and Oral Information.

Contact information
Interested? Apply today!
Questions? Contact Aaliyah Martin amartin@jvs.org or call 415-244-3624.

THE PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY JEWISH VOCATIONAL SERVICES (JVS) THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD HIGH ROAD TRAINING PARTNERSHIP WIOA 3.0 GRANT PROGRAM PROVIDED BY THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) WITH FUNDING TOTALING \$498,957 AS PART OF A DOE AWARD TOTALING \$844,897.

Looking ahead, a social media campaign is in the works. This collaborative effort between Metropolitan's External Affairs team and the Apprenticeship program aims to raise awareness and generate interest. The campaign is expected to launch in June.

Tribal Outreach & Engagement

April 22-23 DEI staff in partnership with External Affairs and Engineering hosted the California Indian Manpower Consortium (CIMC) Colorado River Aqueduct inspection tour. CIMC is a powerhouse of advocacy and empowerment for California's Native American communities when it comes to employment and training of Native people. Representing the diverse needs of 50 sovereign tribes, the organization serves as a vital bridge between tribal nations and the broader Californian landscape. CIMC participated in an insightful inspection tour of the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) facilities and the Colorado River Aqueduct. By interacting with MWD personnel during the visit of MWD facilities and the CRA, the group learned about diverse career paths within the water industry, including MWD's apprenticeship program. This exposure ignited a spark,

highlighting potential opportunities for tribal members in water management, engineering, operations and related fields. This is the first time Met has hosted an all Native American participant tour.

