



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Sustainability, Resilience, Innovation Group

- **Sustainability, Resilience, Innovation GM Monthly Report**

Summary

Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Office October 2024 Monthly Activities

Purpose

Informational

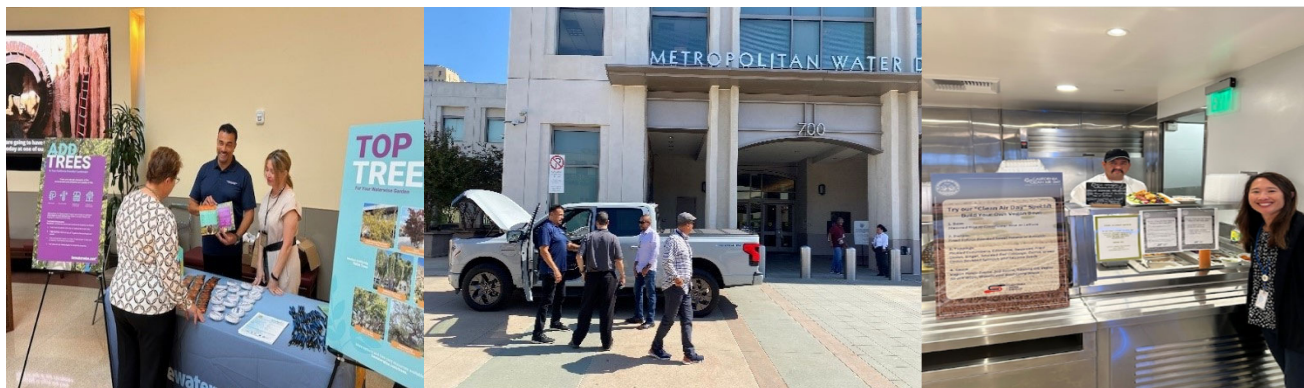
Detailed Report

SRI Core Activities

SRI and the Core Planning Team for the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) are preparing key deliverables for the end of the year and early 2025. The team focused on refinements to the evaluative criteria, testing assessments of four projects and programs to improve the quality of the information that can be provided as CAMP4W is implemented. The team is also finalizing technical working memos on the integration of climate adaptation planning into Metropolitan's planning processes and a climate adaptation policy framework. A Climate Decision-Making Framework dashboard is being developed and staff is beginning preparation of the Annual Report. On October 15, 2024, Engineering and SRI managers presented to over 100 staff members in a "CAMP4W Convo," a hybrid lunch and learn to build understanding of CAMP4W and how it will be used in decision-making and planning. On October 15, Chief SRI Officer Crosson presented at the Water (R)evolution Water Reuse Symposium hosted by the Council for Watershed Health, and on October 28, she shared her career path and key efforts in advancing sustainability and climate adaptation with Women at Metropolitan, an employee group focused on professional growth and development.

Sustainability and Resilience

Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Executive Task Force—The Task Force met on October 16, 2024, to discuss progress on Metropolitan's transition from fossil-fueled to zero emission vehicles and equipment. Staff provided updates to cross-organizational management on upcoming board presentations on the ZEV transition and funding plan, CARB Amendments to the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation, ZEV procurement, interim and long-term charging infrastructure, and a new "how to" handout and proposed training for employees who drive Fleet ZEVs. California Clean Air Day—SRI, Fleet, and External Affairs organized activities to engage staff in California's Clean Air Day on October 2, 2024. Clean Air Day is a statewide annual event for employers and individuals to pledge to take action to improve air quality, such as walking, biking, carpooling, or riding public transit to improve air quality. Employees were able to test drive one of Metropolitan's zero emission vehicles, an electric Ford Lightning, receive information on ZEVs and water-saving tree options, and choose from a specially prepared vegan menu option at Union Station Headquarter's Courtyard Cafe.



Test Drives of Fleet Ford Lighting

Informational Table

Vegan Menu Options at Courtyard Cafe

Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies

This month SRI promoted innovation and explored emerging technologies through a series of engagements. Staff attended the Western US Water Combined Technical Advisory Group (TAG) 2024 Meeting which included a tour of Denver Water’s new Northwater Treatment Plant is a state-of-the-art 75 mgd drinking water treatment facility, which uses UV treatment methods and is powered by hydroelectric energy from the raw water supply. Denver Water’s Northwater Treatment Plant was awarded an Envision Gold certification from the International Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure and can inform future Metropolitan projects. Staff also spoke at the Caltech Entrepreneurs Forum’s The Future Energy Grid: From Solar to Nuclear to Novel Chemistry. Discussions included materials improvements in transmission cable technologies, space-based solar power, and the interdependence of water and energy.

Environmental Planning Services

Environmental Planning Section staff prepared California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for capital projects, including completing the addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Lakeview Pipeline Repair Project and completing the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project before the November board action to certify the document. Staff continued to prepare the draft PEIR for the Pure Water Southern California program, including completion of technical reports and draft resource sections. Consultation with state and federal wildlife agencies was initiated for Endangered Species Act permitting for the Inland Feeder/Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project. Environmental monitoring of construction activities was started on the Rialto Pipeline Rehabilitation and continued on the Perris Valley Pipeline projects.

Critical operations and maintenance activities were supported by the Environmental Planning Section staff. Staff provided CEQA and regulatory clearances and conducted pre-construction biological resource surveys and construction monitoring for maintenance activities and shutdowns throughout the service area. Staff participated in an Association of California Water Agencies working group on proposed California Endangered Species Act permit streamlining and attended the annual planning meeting for the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB) Natural Resources Task Force to collaborate with other task force members and set priorities for the upcoming year. Staff reviewed 16 external project CEQA notices and prepared comment letters for proposed projects that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.

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. Activities included herbicide treatment and removal of non-native (invasive) vegetation for fire and habitat management, patrol road and fencing repairs, and collection of native plant cuttings and seeds to support habitat restoration. Finally, the Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center at the MSR was open and hosted visitors on Saturdays.



Mule Deer at the Alamos Schoolhouse at the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

Land Management

The County of Riverside has been granted a permanent easement comprising 0.649 acres for public road purposes and dedication of Elm Street in the unincorporated area of Cabazon. The easement is needed to provide the County with appropriate property rights for the road outlined on parcel maps, but lacking formal dedication and acceptance.

Staff processed a new license agreement for Metropolitan’s continued operation of a telecommunication site at Johnstone Peak near San Dimas. This new, five-year license agreement will replace the expired license agreement for the same site. Johnstone Peak is essential to Metropolitan’s emergency telecommunications network.

A new, ten-year license agreement has been issued to Crown Castle/AT&T for the replacement of an expired lease near the Sepulveda Canyon Control Facility in West Los Angeles. The license allows Crown Castle/AT&T to continue using the premises as a commercial cellular communication site that has existed at the subject location since 1990.

Fire Management Plan

Staff presented progress on priority ratings for district facilities/campuses at the second FMP Technical Advisory Committee meeting held on October 2, 2024.