



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

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

Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Business Outreach & Community Engagement

On June 5, 2024, Business Outreach Staff in partnership with Legislative Services attended the Central City Association 28th Annual Treasure of Los Angeles. Staff networked with Local Businesses and Legislators.

On June 6, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Orange County Inland Empire Small Business Development Center (SBDC) 2024 So Cal Contracting Conference. The conference is geared toward providing workshops to small business owners with tracks on state procurement, federal, local, and corporate procurement, and resources. Over 30 exhibitors were in attendance with lots of opportunities for networking. Additionally, the SBDC partnered with WBEC-West to provide strategic and non-strategic matchmaking printers with close to 40 buyers and partners.



On June 11, 2024, Metropolitan staff sponsored the Asian American Architects/Engineers Association (AAa/e) Annual Scholarship Fundraiser in Los Angeles, CA. The AAa/e supports scholarships for students and young professionals in the architecture, engineering, and construction industry.

On June 13, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the American Indian Chamber of Commerce Mid-Year Procurement Summit in Anaheim, CA. The mid-year summit focused on updates to procurement, policies, opportunities, and trends. Featured panel speakers included experts in Native American and Tribal Business Development with a focus on relationship building for greater engagement.



On June 19, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Asian Business Association—Orange County (ABA-OC) BizCon Business Conference in Garden Grove, CA. The conference included keynote speakers, a mayoral fastpitch contest, an inspirational women's panel, a business procurement panel, an exhibitor hall, and an opportunity to network.

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On June 20, 2024, Metropolitan staff exhibited at the Southwestern College APEX Accelerator Small Business Development Center and Women's Business Center Small Business Expo in San Diego, CA. The Small Business Expo II 2024 provides an exhilarating experience transforming entrepreneurial journey by leveraging local opportunities for business success. This included support with specialized lenders, networking with the small business community, and learning about government contracting procurement opportunities.

On June 23, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Asian Business Association—Inland Empire (ABA-IE) Health2Wealth Event in Chino Hills, CA.

On June 25, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Small Business Diversity Network Recon Live Orange County's Small Business Resource Conference in Irvine, CA.

On June 26, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the WBEC Pride. In recognition of Pride Month, Business Outreach Staff attended the Women Business Enterprise Council—West Women in Pride: Building Authentic Connections Through Inclusive Leadership, Vulnerability, and Safe Dialogue. About 30 Women Business Owners attended the intimate event.



On June 27, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Southern California Minority Supplier Development Council (SCMSDC—B3 Conference and Expo Business Beyond Barriers, in Inglewood, CA. The conference expo introduces Minority Business Enterprises to corporate members and is attended more than any other event of the year. The Supplier of The Year award is presented along with workshops, exhibitors, and matchmaking opportunities.



On June 27, 2024, Metropolitan attended the CMG Alliance 2024 Power Summit in Los Angeles, CA. This is a conference that optimizes exposure for minority Businesses to networking opportunities with member corporations and public agencies. Metropolitan's Business Outreach Manager will be on an agency panel on "How to be Successful in the Government Market."

Tribal Outreach & Engagement

Metropolitan DEI and IT staff met with Soboba Nation to share knowledge regarding the SCADA and cybersecurity systems. Tribal security experts discussed their cybersecurity programs and asked Metropolitan to share best practices that can potentially help the Soboba nation in addressing vulnerabilities in their water systems. The Tribal staff offered insights into the tribe's unique technological landscape and potential vulnerabilities. They also shared their current SCADA applications and asked for assistance on how to improve the system and enhanced security for data protection. In turn, Metropolitan IT specialist provided initial assessment on the tribe's SCADA system pointing out needed improvements and upgrades on what seems to be a less modernized system. Metropolitan staff also offered guidance on implementing robust security protocols and incident response plans. A subsequent meeting is planned to engage other Metropolitan operations specialists to help the Tribe move forward on adopting a more robust SCADA and Cybersecurity programs.

Metropolitan DEI staff met with representatives of the Chemehuevi Nation to continue discussions on the planned solar farm. Previously, the tribe sent a Letter of Intent (LOI) to MWD to signify their genuine interest to partner with Metropolitan in building a tribal-Metropolitan solar farm that will be connected with Metropolitan's Camino Line. DEI staff shared the responses of Metropolitan's operations managers to the LOI, which included compliance with the interconnectivity policy requiring the Tribe to apply for a Feasibility Study agreement with Metropolitan. This will also require a \$250,000 deposit. DEI shared that the Tribe would benefit in consulting with Tribal council so they can decide before investing time and money. The Tribe stated that they will consider partnering with a third-party developer in this case.