



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Sustainability, Resilience, Innovation Group

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

Summary

Sustainability Resilience Innovation Office November 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) continued work on the Evaluative Criteria element of the climate decision-making framework. Four test assessments of projects and programs were shared in a workshop with the Member Agency managers and the CAMP4W Taskforce. In addition, Working Memorandum #8 on Signposts and Time-Bound Targets and Working Memorandum #9 on Project, Program and Portfolio Assessment were provided for review. On November 13-14, Chief SRI Officer Crosson participated in the Advisory Council for Climate Adaptation Science, meeting with peers from across the United States to advance climate adaptation research.

Sustainability and Resilience

Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Transition: SRI continued to work with ESG and the Fleet Services Unit to transition Metropolitan's fleet to ZEVs in order to comply with CARB's Advanced Clean Fleet regulation. Metropolitan's fleet currently has 12 ZEVs with 21 total planned by the end of this calendar year. Additional ZEV purchases are dependent on an additional funding request to the Board in February 2025. Metropolitan currently has 15 interim chargers in its service area, with a total of 35 installed by 2025 year-end. Fleet continues to coordinate with ESG for interim chargers while ESG is responsible for Metropolitan's long-term charging capital project that is now underway. In November, SRI met with the Port of Long Beach to gain valuable information on how the Port uses an extensive network of solar microgrids to charge vehicles. SRI, Fleet, and the Safety, Regulatory, and Training Section completed a user guide for employees that drive Fleet ZEVs. The user guide supplements the vehicle manufacturer's manual and is a quick reference on ZEV operations, safety do's and don'ts, and charger types and tips. A training video is being developed that will provide the driver handout information for employees to view prior to driving a Fleet ZEV.

Envision Training: On November 20, SRI coordinated Envision training at Gene Camp for 12 desert staff. This is the eighth Envision training conducted, providing staff across the district with an opportunity to learn about how sustainable infrastructure is planned, developed, and operated. Those interested can pursue certification as an ENV-SP from the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure.



Envision training at Gene Camp for 12 desert staff

Centralized Grants Management Office

Nothing to report.

Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies

This month the SRI Office welcomed Patrick Atwater as Metropolitan’s new Innovation Program Manager. Patrick joined Metropolitan from Crescenta Valley Water District where he served as Regulatory and Public Affairs Manager. Prior to that, Patrick worked with California Forward as a Senior Research Analyst where he developed socioeconomic mobility measurement tools. He is also one of the founders of the California Data Collaborative (CaDC) which brings together water utilities and data scientists. Patrick will work with SRI staff to build on Metropolitan’s Innovation programs to advance sustainability and resilience across the district.

Environmental Planning Services

Environmental Planning Section staff continued to prepare California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for capital projects. Staff finalized the Board letter and associated presentation for certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project. Following certification of the Final EIR at the November Board meeting, staff prepared and filed Notices of Determination with the State Clearinghouse and Los Angeles County Clerk. Staff continued to prepare the draft EIR for the Pure Water Southern California program, including continuing internal review of first screen check draft document sections. Consultation with state and federal wildlife agencies continued for Endangered Species Act permitting for the Inland Feeder/Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project, with staff submitting the draft Biological Assessment to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for review. Environmental monitoring of construction activities continued for the Rialto Pipeline Rehabilitation, Perris Valley Pipeline, Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B, Weymouth Basins 5 to 8 Rehabilitation, and La Verne Shops Upgrades projects.

Critical operations and maintenance activities were supported by the Environmental Planning Section. Staff provided CEQA and regulatory clearances and conducted pre-construction biological resource surveys and construction monitoring for maintenance activities throughout the service area. Staff participated in Association of California Water Agencies and California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance working groups on proposed state Endangered Species Act permit streamlining. Staff reviewed 10 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

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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 removal of invasive vegetation, application of herbicide at gate entrances and along reserve roads, targeted mowing to remove dense populations of invasive stinket (*Oncosiphon pilulifer*) and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and repairs to patrol roads and fencing. Activities at the MSR included removal of non-native (invasive) species for fire and habitat management, mowing of the Lake Skinner Equestrian Trail, maintenance of trees and removal of fallen limbs along roads, collection of native plant cuttings and seeds to support habitat restoration, planting of mulefat cuttings in the Tualota Creek riparian restoration site, and invasive tree pest assessments in the Reserve's oak woodlands. Finally, the Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center at the MSR was open on Saturdays and hosted over 130 visitors in November.

Land Management

Hemet Unified School District was issued a short-term license to allow cross-country events and other recreational activities on the recreation trail at Diamond Vally Lake (DVL). The cross-country event held on November 14th had a large turnout generating positive public exposure and supporting good community relations.

Land Management staff collaborated with WSO and the External Affairs, Education Team to facilitate a Water Education Event at the Hinds Pumping Plant campus. A facility use permit was issued to Eagle Mountain School for approximately 30 students and 12 staff members to visit the pumping plant, where multiple educational, activities for Pre-K through 8th grade level, were conducted by the Education Team.

