



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

• SRI GM Monthly Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Activities in Support of the GM Business Plan

Goal: Execute CAMP4W Implementation Strategy to Integrate Climate Adaptation Districtwide

In April, the CAMP4W Assessment team continued work on assessing potential core supply, flex supply and storage projects and programs. Staff is also developing a series of working memos that include low-regret recommendations and a proposed methodology for integrating project and program analyses to support Board decision-making on Pure Water design and other near-term investments. Progress will be shared in upcoming CAMP4W subcommittee meetings.

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, Environmental Planning staff continued preparing the preconstruction submittals in accordance with 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.

For the Delta Conveyance Project, Environmental Planning staff continued representing Public Water Agencies in a coordinator role, working with the Department of Water Resources on regulatory permitting efforts.

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

(1) Complete EIR analysis and public process

The Final EIR for Pure Water Southern California was completed and certified by the Board of Directors, and a Notice of Determination was filed in February 2026.

Additional SRI Activities

Climate Action Plan

Metropolitan Water District will release its 4th Annual Progress Report (APR) on April 22 to coincide with Earth Day, detailing progress made toward implementing MWD's Climate Action Plan (CAP), which was adopted in 2022. This APR highlights Metropolitan's accomplishments in 2025 and tracks progress on CAP measures. It presents updated 2024 greenhouse gas inventory results and the carbon budget used to measure emissions reductions. It also brings the story behind the data to life, showcasing standout successes from the past year and

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the leadership, collaboration, and innovation across Metropolitan’s departments that are driving emissions reductions, environmental stewardship, and long-term operational sustainability.

Staff from SRI and External Affairs led a Planning Committee with representation from Integrated Operations, Planning and Support, Water Resource Management, Legal, and Women at Metropolitan leadership to plan Earth Week 2026, with activities planned for the week of April 20-24th. This year’s theme is “You Can Make a Difference,” which honors one of the world’s most influential scientists, Dr. Jane Goodall. Earth Week activities include a discussion of the Documentary “Famous Last Words: Dr. Jane Goodall”, Breakfast and Learn about Scaleable Strategies to Conserve Water; an Earth Week Showcase featuring Met’s sustainability programs; a Lunch and Learn about Met’s Turf Replacement Program; building the Central Library’s Sustainability Library Resources; a Clothing Swap; and Challenges that staff can participate in districtwide including: Connect with Nature; GO Zero Waste Today; and Water Refill-a-Rama.

Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies

Nothing to report.

Zero Emission Vehicle Transition

SRI collaborated with the Fleet Services Unit to provide a “Ride and Drive Event” at Metropolitan’s April 22, 2026, Earth Day celebration at Union Station Headquarters. At the event, employees were able to ride and drive in one of Fleet’s electric trucks. The two Ford Lightnings are part of the Fleet Service Unit’s growing number of electric vehicles that are available for employees to drive when traveling off-site (vehicles shown below).



Sustainable Energy Strategy

SRI, in collaboration with the Power Operations Section and Engineering Services, continues to support efforts to enhance the reliability and resilience of the Colorado River Aqueduct Transmission System, ensuring secure and uninterrupted water delivery to 19 million customers. Key efforts include participation in POP organizational development, financing strategy, and affected system mitigation.

Environmental Planning Services

Environmental Planning 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 permits (ITP) under the federal and state

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endangered species acts. Staff continued negotiations with the agencies on the mitigation strategy and continued development of a mitigation approach in partnership with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD). On April 30, Environmental Planning staff participated in a presentation on the partnership between Metropolitan and SBVMWD in support of an inspection trip for Member Agency general managers. For the Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Access Road Improvements Project, coordination between Environmental Planning staff and CDFW continued for the ITP application pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 2081(b) and Senate Bill (SB) 147 for potential incidental take of the Fully Protected Species, desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*); staff met with CDFW to review the proposed mitigation strategy. For the Casa Loma Siphon No. 1 and San Jacinto Pipeline Protection project, staff finalized the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), Responses to Comments, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project and finalized the Board letter and presentation in support of an April Board action to adopt the MND and approve the project for CEQA purposes. Staff prepared and filed the Notice of Determination following the April action. Environmental monitoring of construction activities continued for the La Verne Shops Upgrades Project and the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project.

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 operations and maintenance activities throughout the service area. Staff provided subject matter expert review of the following legislative bills: Assembly Bill (AB) 1533 (Connolly) – CEQA: notice: direct mailing: electronic mail; AB 1635 (Arambula) – Pit dewatering: prohibition; AB 1881 (Ramos) – California Indian Freedom Act of 2026; AB 2132 (Macedo) – CEQA: exemption: groundwater recharge project; AB 2218 (Kalra) – Water policy: California Native American Tribes; AB 2627 (Hart) – California Rangeland, Grazing Land, and Grassland Protection Program; AB 2569 (Hart) – California Environmental Quality Act: natural hazards and adverse environmental conditions; AB 2630 (Bennett) – Water diversion and use: adoption of regulations; SB 978 (Perez) – Large-scale energy facilities: labor: electricity rates; SB 899 (Grove) – Fire prevention: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force: wildfire smoke; SB 1085 (Durazo) – Water supply planning: CEQA determination; SB 1326 (Wahab) – CEQA: Tribal cultural resources: mitigation measures; and SB 1388 (Durazo) – Local agencies: improvement and maintenance of natural habitat. Staff supported the Office of SRI by updating progress on CAP greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction measures in support of the Climate Action Plan 4th APR and conducting technical review for three CAMP4W GHG assessments. In addition, staff reviewed and analyzed CEQA notices for eight 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.

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 application of herbicide to invasive species to prevent seed development and limit the germination of these species, and annual monitoring of grasslands north of Lake Mathews and a Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub restoration site south of Lake Mathews. Activities at the MSR included coordinating with researchers on the reserve, conducting surveys for Quino checkerspot butterfly, white-tailed kite, and rare plants; applying herbicide to invasive plants throughout the Reserve; and conducting weed whipping and maintenance of burrowing owl artificial burrow sites to encourage use by birds. The Judy Abdo Wildflower Trail opened in February and remained open into April, with a Reserve environmental education interpreter present on Saturdays to guide and educate visitors. The Alamos Schoolhouse environmental education center was open to visitors on Saturdays, with 31 visitors reported for the month.

Land Management

Nothing to report.