

General Manager's Monthly Report



Whale's Mouth Subsidence Reversal and Carbon Sequestration Project, Delta's Sherman Island, photo courtesy CA Department of Water Resources

Activities for the Month of **March 2026**

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Message from the General Manager

Since the finance team presented the biennial budget last month, directors, member agencies and staff have engaged in many hours of productive discussion that I am hopeful will result in a finely tuned and broadly supported budget in April.

It is a strong reminder that even as we face the difficult and stressful challenge of balancing financial demands with manageable rate increases, we are best served through thoughtful and respectful discourse.

These budget discussions build on a dialogue started more than a year ago between staff and the board about the growing need to invest in the reliability of Metropolitan's infrastructure, workforce and water supply. The proposed budget increases Metropolitan's reliability and reduces risks of failure by providing funding for these needs.

Last month also saw another deadline come and go in Colorado River negotiations, where discourse has unfortunately not always been so collaborative. Despite the ticking clock, water users across the Basin have not reached agreement on how to operate the river and share needed reductions once the current guidelines expire this September. This year's critically dry conditions in the Basin, where snowpack is near record low levels, is putting further pressure on negotiations.

On March 2, the Basin States, water users, tribes, and other interested stakeholders submitted comment letters on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's draft Environmental Impact Statement for post-2026 operations. The letters are largely technical and are submitted as part of the federal environmental review process. They include a mix of concerns, criticisms and potential legal threats. They also include at least one new proposal for operations.

Despite the missed deadline and operational challenges, there is still time to reach agreement and reason remains to keep working towards a solution. Metropolitan continues to talk with our partners on how an agreement might be reached. Our primary goal is to find a way to operate the river that avoids years of litigation.



Shivaji Deshmukh
General Manager



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established regional cooperative of 26 cities and public water agencies, which collectively serve nearly 19 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies and supports its members through the development of increased conservation, recycling, storage and other resource management programs.

Following are important highlights for this month on four goals of the GM Business Plan.



Directors and executives from San Diego County Water Authority, Western Municipal Water District and Metropolitan celebrate historic agreement.

Goal: Follow Through on Business Model Refinement Recommendations

Last month, Metropolitan leaders helped commemorate the signing of a historic water supply agreement between the San Diego County Water Authority and Western Municipal Water District.

The agreement is the first of its kind made possible by last year’s settlement of litigation between Metropolitan and the Water Authority, which allows for San Diego to offer its supplies to other Metropolitan member agencies.

Developing a framework for member agency exchanges is an important component of our Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) and our Business Model Refinement. These kinds of partnerships can address climate risk and affordability by maximizing the infrastructure and supplies we already have.

Under the deal, Western Water will receive at least 10,000 acre-feet of water annually over the next 21 years, enough to supply approximately 30,000 average Southern California households each year. Western Water, which serves a rapidly growing population in southwest Riverside County, will also pre-purchase about 30,000 acre-feet for future delivery.

The Water Authority said the exchange will allow it to generate revenue to offset costs associated with decades of water supply investments, while helping to reduce wholesale water rate pressures for San Diego County customers.



Metropolitan leadership witnesses historic exchange agreement signing



Historic Water Supply Agreement

Goal: Decide on Sites Reservoir and Protect our Bay-Delta Interests

Metropolitan and its partners have been working closely with state lawmakers to protect the reliability of the State Water Project amid mounting pressures, including climate change and subsidence.

This month, Metropolitan joined a broad coalition of environmental groups and water providers to advocate for Senate Bill 872, which would invest \$300 million per year through 2045 to make repairs to SWP canals and levees in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The SWP provides a critical water supply to more than 27 million Californians. Many of the Delta’s levees are at risk of collapse and more than 200 miles of the SWP’s delivery system have been damaged by sinking land caused by over pumping of groundwater. Subsidence has already reduced water delivery capacity by up to 60% in some areas, and total capacity could be cut by 87% by 2043 if the problem is not addressed, according to a California Department of Water Resources analysis. Repairs could cost \$3 billion.

SB 872 by Sen. Jerry McNerney would commit \$150 million per year to fix Delta levees and \$150 million to repair SWP canals damaged by subsidence. The money would potentially come from the state’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which is supported by the sale of greenhouse gas emissions credits.

Metropolitan is also working with water providers and stakeholders to advocate for Assembly Bill 2215, which would extend the timeline for the full development of the SWP’s water rights permits to the year 2085. This extension would give the Department of Water Resources more time to modernize the SWP and help boost water availability and affordability as climate change places greater strain on this vital water supply. The bill would not provide approval for any projects, including the Delta Conveyance Project. Authored by Assemblymember Lisa Calderon and sponsored by the State Water Contractors, AB 2215 has bipartisan backing from Central and Southern California lawmakers.



A south-facing drone view of the California Aqueduct near Crows Landing, located in Stanislaus County. Photo taken March 9, 2026, courtesy CA Department of Water Resources



General Manager Deshmukh with Sen. Bob Archuleta



General Manager Deshmukh spoke in support of Senate Bill 872 during a March 17 news conference in Sacramento



Goal: Complete EIR and Planning for Board to Consider Pure Water Southern California

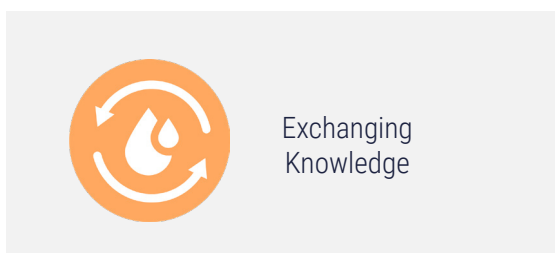


Metropolitan staff pose for a photo at the Symposium

This month, Metropolitan showed its leadership and expertise in water reuse, sharing our knowledge with professionals across the globe.

Our staff played a prominent role in the 2026 WaterReuse Symposium held March 8–11 in downtown Los Angeles, convening nearly 1,400 water and wastewater professionals to address key issues in water reuse. Our Water Quality team presented research from the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center, while External Affairs staff led a session on developing a community benefits framework. Staff also participated in panel discussions, moderated sessions, led planning efforts, and hosted a well-attended tour of our Innovation Center.

Former General Manager Deven Upadhyay received the 2026 WaterReuse Award for Excellence in Advocacy Achievement, recognizing his leadership in advancing water reuse locally and nationally. His contributions include advancing Pure Water Southern California, supporting federal funding through the Bureau of Reclamation’s Large-Scale Water Recycling Program, and promoting state regulations for direct potable reuse.



Metropolitan also co-hosted the inaugural Water Reuse Youth Summit at our Union Station headquarters, engaging nearly 100 students from across Los Angeles County. Students presented innovative solutions addressing technical and public acceptance challenges, with top teams selected to present at the symposium.

Additionally, our very own Heather Collins was announced as a newly appointed member of the WaterReuse Association Board.

The Southern California Water Coalition premiered its educational animated production “[Renewed: The Journey to Safe Drinking Water](#),” at the symposium. The video, supported in part by Metropolitan, was promoted through collaborative efforts on our social media platforms.



Former GM Deven Upadhyay receives the WaterReuse Award for Excellence in Advocacy Achievement

Goal: Provide Organizational Stability and Deliver Operational Excellence

Metropolitan’s commitment to water quality standards and excellence was recognized with a second-place finish at the 36th annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting, highlighting the expertise of staff across the system.

Metropolitan earned second place in the municipal category, which featured more than 100 entries from five continents. The competition, held Feb. 19–21 in West Virginia, is the largest and longest-running water tasting event in the world.

The award-winning water was treated at the F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and was a blend of Colorado River and State Project water. It marks Metropolitan’s eighth award in the competition. Previous honors include first place in 2021, 2008 and 1998; second place in 2022, 2003 and 2000; and third place in 2005.

Metropolitan’s Water Quality Laboratory supports consistent, high-quality drinking water through its Flavor Profile Analysis panel. This group of specially-trained staff meets several times each week to evaluate water samples by taste and smell from across the regional system and maintain taste and quality standards. This panel also helps choose Metropolitan’s submissions into the Berkeley Springs competition.



Metropolitan participates in the annual water tasting competition



Treated water from the F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant was a winner in the municipal category

Metropolitan staff, Southern California Edison drive energy efficiency at water treatment plants

By Jon Chang, associate resource specialist in SRI's Sustainability and Resilience Section

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Metropolitan has partnered with Southern California Edison and Cascade Energy on a program to identify practical, low-cost opportunities to reduce energy use while maintaining reliable operations at the district's water treatment plants. Through the SPARKe Strategic Energy Management Program, Cascade Energy and staff have completed initial site visits, referred to as "treasure hunts," at Diemer, Weymouth, and Skinner water treatment plants.

The SRI Office is helping to coordinate the energy audits and assisting Cascade Energy in compiling models and setting baselines to measure gains in energy efficiency. Water treatment plant operators, engineers and maintenance staff are working with energy coaches and technical specialists from Cascade Energy to identify opportunities to reduce waste and improve system efficiency.

IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

The SPARKe program supports large energy users by focusing on achievable operational and maintenance improvements, rather than major capital projects. The program uses real-time performance data to track progress, set measurable goals, and inform day-to-day operational decisions. This approach not only reduces energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions, but also strengthens staff expertise in energy management and decarbonization – turning plant teams into active drivers of continuous improvement.

In addition, the program provides access to SCE-sponsored financial incentives for operational improvements and capital upgrades, allowing Metropolitan to achieve energy savings and sustainability benefits without additional costs.



Energy audit site visit at Diemer plant in Yorba Linda, Nov. 18, 2025

MEMORABLE MOMENT

My memorable moment was getting everyone in the same room at each of the three plants together with energy efficiency practitioners. This was a meaningful experience to validate the energy management efforts that are already taking place and to explore potential opportunities to incrementally reduce energy use over time.



Site visit at Diemer plant.

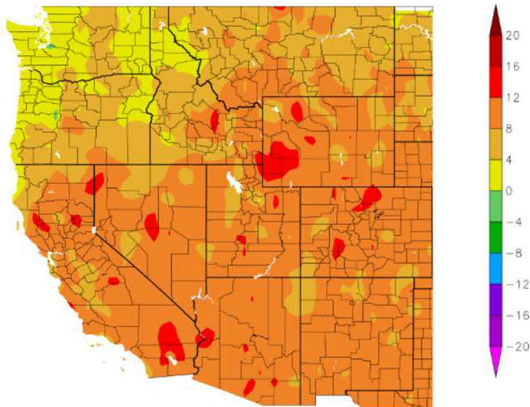
Left to Right: Ursula Schmidt (SRI Office), Jon Chang (SRI Office), Peter Davi (SCE), Shane Sugiyama (SCE), Nathan Shuy (Diemer – Unit Mgr.), Matthew Zaccaro (Diemer – Treatment Team Mgr.), Mario Toner (Diemer – Plant Engineer), Juan Cabrera (Diemer – Electrical Team Mgr.), Edgar Becerra (Cascade Energy), Giulia Pollastri (Cascade Energy), Matt Jensen (Cascade Energy)

March 2026 Report

Extended Report: mwdh2o.com/WSCR

Warmer than normal temperatures (Map show departure of normal precipitation)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/24/2026 – 3/25/2026

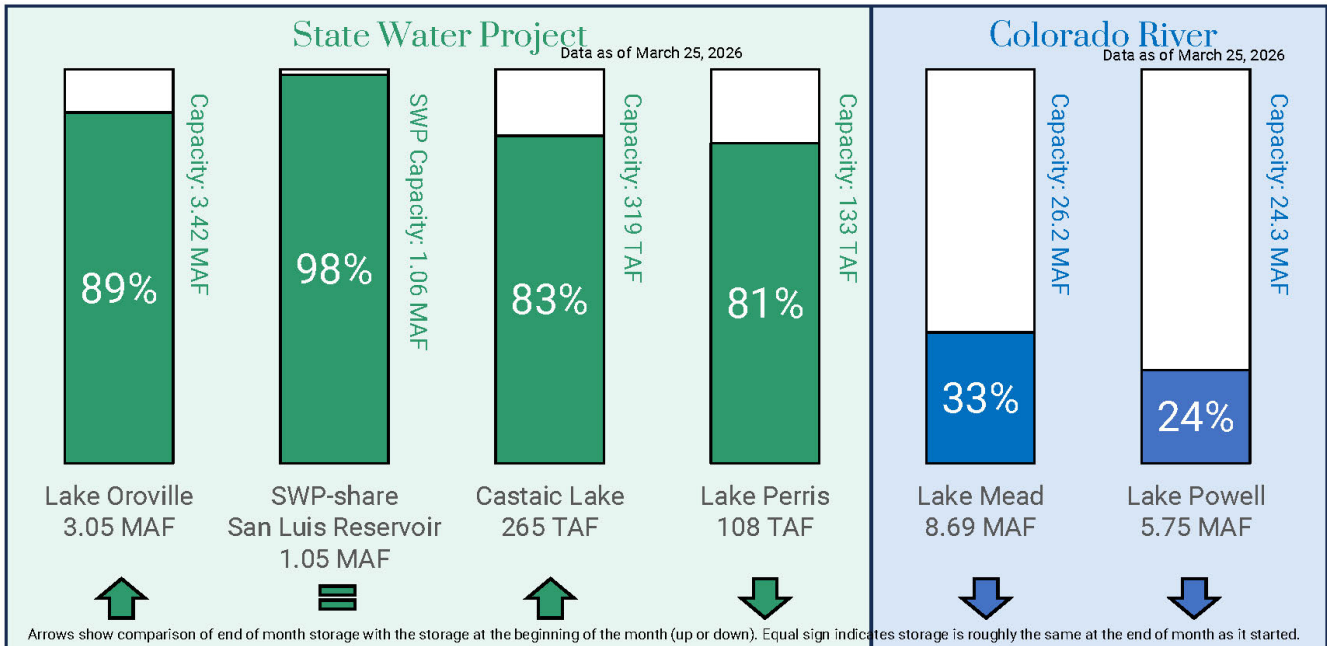


High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC)
<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps#>

Due to the warmer than normal temperatures, the meager snowpack in both Northern Sierra and the Upper Colorado River Basin suffered significant and rapid melting.

Latest modeling for the Lake Powell unregulated inflow forecast indicates 4.4 million acre-feet or 46% of normal for the water year.

As of March 25, 2026, the Northern Sierra 8 Station Index had experienced only 0.1 inches of rain, which is the driest month of March since 1920.



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Monthly Operations At-A-Glance

March 2026

30-day window: February 16–March 18

Distribution * denotes change compared to previous 30-Day period

30-Day Member Agency Deliveries

2,230 AF/Day

Change in Deliveries*

▼ -840 AF/Day

Recorded **February** Deliveries to Member Agencies

Consumptive and Replenishment
58 TAF

Forecast **March** Deliveries to Member Agencies

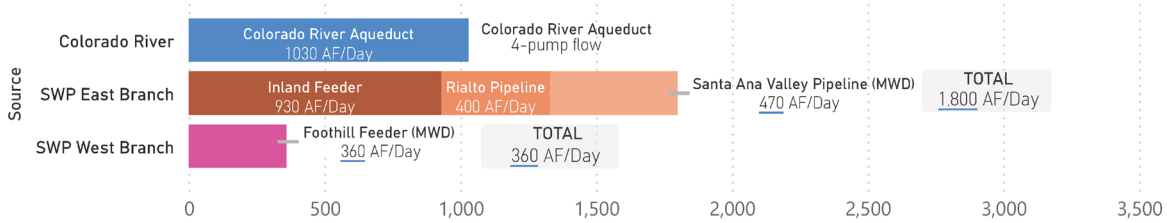
Consumptive and Replenishment
82 TAF

Recorded **February** Deliveries utilizing water programs (CYC, RCYC, CUP, CCOP)

1 TAF

Supply

30-Day Average by Source (AF/Day)

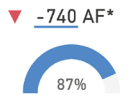


Storage

Data as of March 18, 2026

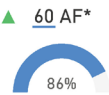
Lake Mathews

157,100 AF



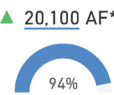
Lake Skinner

37,800 AF



Diamond Valley Lake

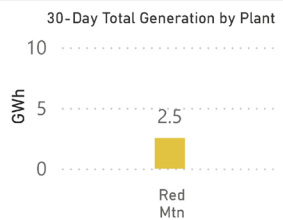
778,900 AF



Hydropower

30-Day Total Generation:
2.5 GWh

30-Day Average Power:
3.4 MW



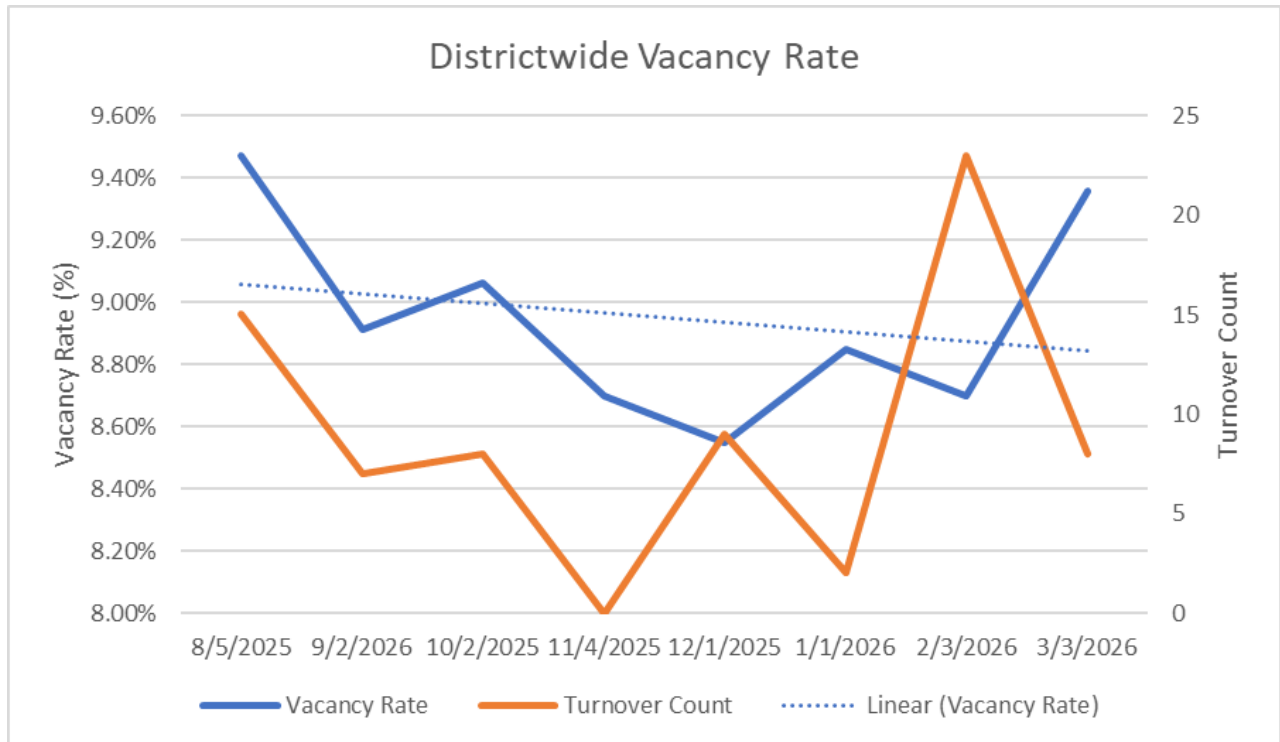
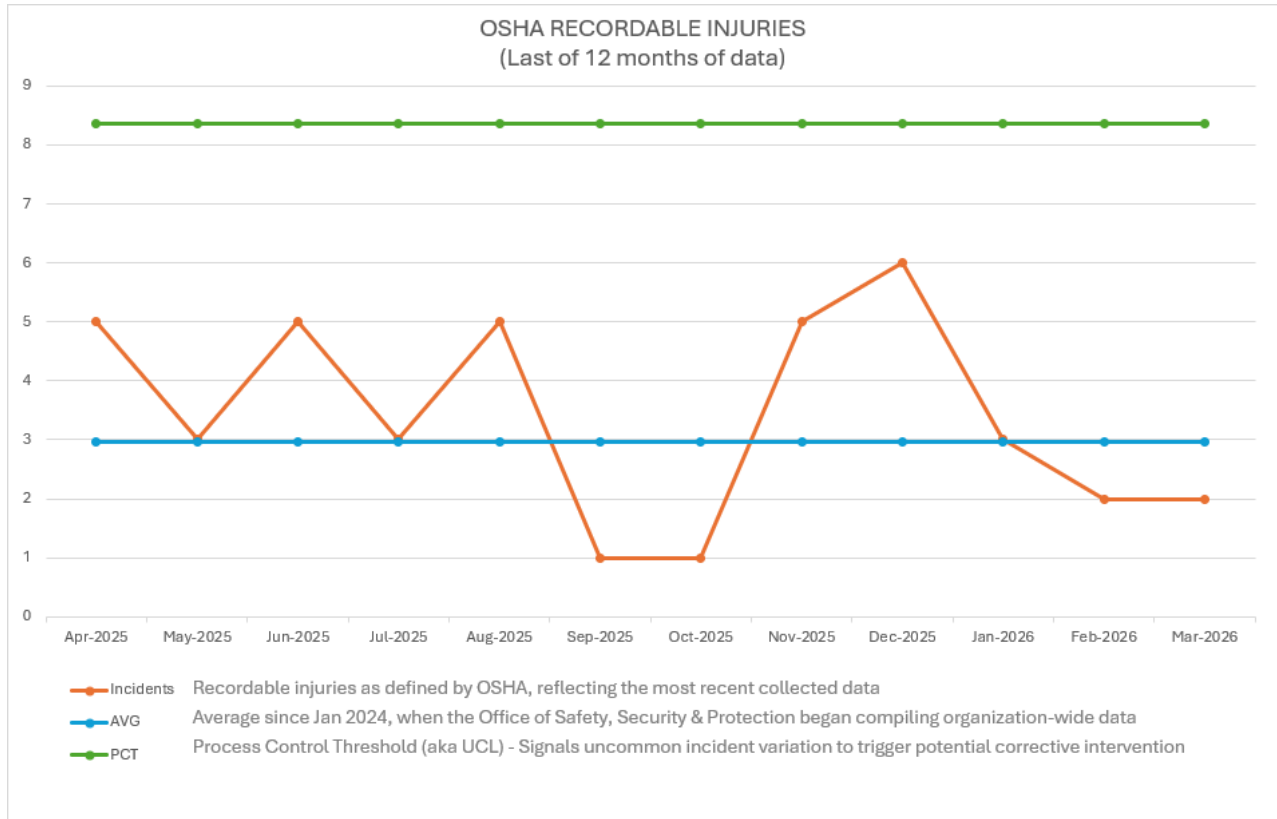
Water Quality

Plant Name	Targeted Blend (% SPW)	Current TDS (mg/L)	TTHMs (µg/L)	Flow-Weighted RAA TDS (mg/L)
	As of 3/18/2026	As of 3/18/2026	As of 3/2/2026	
Weymouth	50%	425	22.0	486
Diemer	50%	439	25.0	478
Skinner	50%	398	24.0	503
Jensen	100%	291	14.0	291
Mills	100%	243	37.0	231

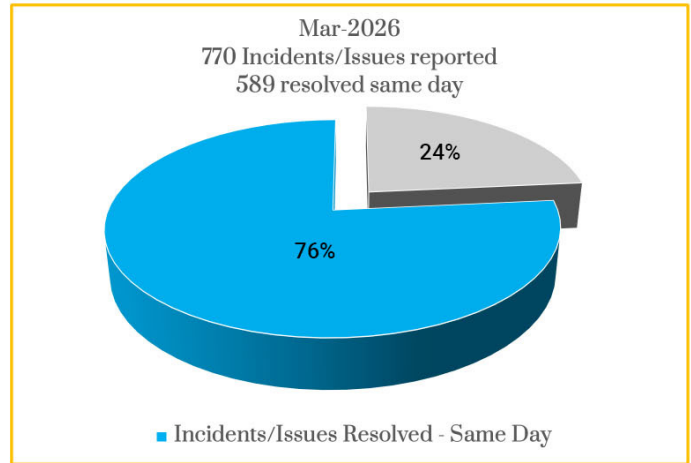
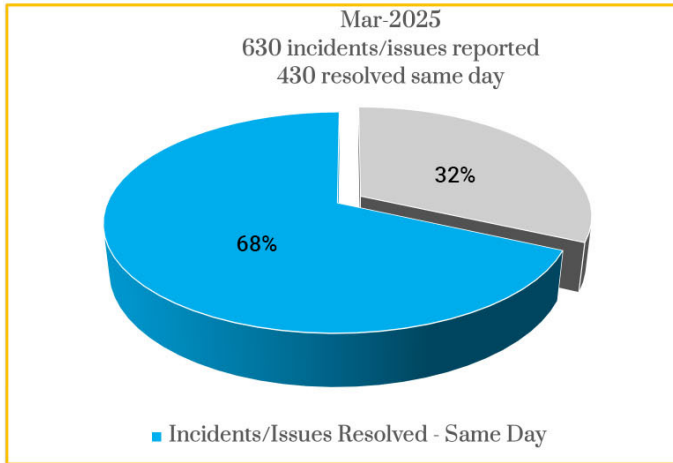
TDS = Total Dissolved Solids

TTHM = Total Trihalomethanes

RAA = Running Annual Average

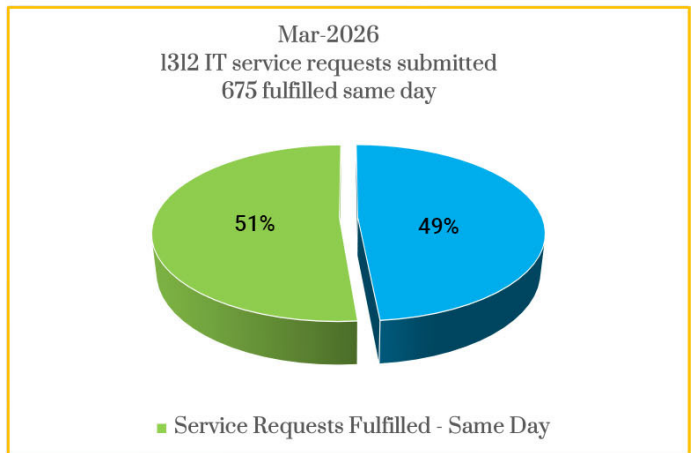
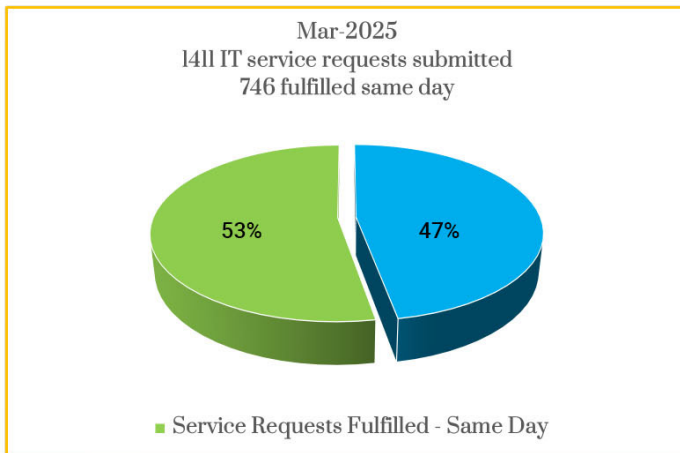


IT Incidents/Issues Reported and Resolved within Same Day Mar-2025 vs Mar-2026



□ **IT Service Request:** An unexpected interruption/error is encountered and reported by an IT customer while using an IT application or system or a device.

IT Service Requests Submitted and Fulfilled Same Day Mar-2025 vs Mar-2026



□ **IT Service Request:** A formal request by an IT customer for something standard, such as a password reset, new hardware, or software access, that follows a routine fulfillment process.



Metropolitan's mission is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

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