



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

## Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Group

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

### Summary

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Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Office September 2024 Monthly Activities

### Purpose

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Informational

### Attachments

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None

### Detailed Report

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#### SRI Core Activities

SRI continued to lead development of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water, working with Member Agencies and inviting the public to provide their priorities and ideas. Staff presented CAMP4W to local leaders at the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee. On September 12, SRI collaborated with External Affairs to conduct a hybrid public forum on CAMP4W with over 75 participants. Chair Ortega provided a welcome and Black Women for Wellness provided the keynote presentation, sharing their work and their new “Drinking Water Guide for South Los Angeles.” Forum participants discussed their priorities for climate adaptation policies and ideas for partnerships and collaboration. The CAMP4W Core Planning Team held a second workshop with Member Agency Managers to discuss the evaluative criteria and development of a project assessment form. Chief SRI Officer Liz Crosson provided a briefing for directors on CAMP4W and Metropolitan’s Climate Action Plan.



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## Sustainability and Resilience

EVs2Scale Meeting: SRI, Fleet, and Safety, Regulatory, and Training Section staff participated in the the Electric Power Research Institute’s (EPRI’s) EVs2Scale2030 meeting in downtown Los Angeles on September 16, 2024. EPRI is a non-profit organization of public agencies and private industry that collaborate to share data with regional utilities to reach a target goal of 50 percent fleet electrification by 2030. Meeting attendees shared how to face the challenges and barriers of the transition to zero emission vehicles, learn about power load forecasting and large-scale readiness software programs, and discuss interim power solutions.



Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) ZEV Tour: On September 18, 2024, SRI, SRT, and Fleet staff attended a tour of the LACSD’s Materials Recovery and Transfer Station in La Puente. Metropolitan staff met with LACSD Fleet staff and management to discuss how they have overcome the obstacles and challenges faced during their electrification journey. Staff was also able to ask questions regarding their experience installing charging equipment and their uses of different types of electric vehicles including passenger and heavy duty.



Metropolitan staff discussing different types of zero emission vehicles and chargers at LACSD

### Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Transition Communications:

- SRI continues to work with Fleet to develop communication and training materials for employees including a ZEV handbook and vehicle quick-start guide.
- SRI collaborated with our ZEV work groups to develop a ZEV FAQ handout for managers attending Townhall meetings to address any questions raised by employees on the ZEV transition.

Sustainable Procurement: SRI and the Contracting Services Unit continue development of the Sustainable Procurement Guide. This guide will provide employees with information on products and services that are mandated or offer a more sustainable option.

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### Centralized Grants Management Office

Centralized Grants staff has finalized a training series for Metropolitan staff working with or interested in working with grants. Upon completion of the training series, staff will receive a Grants Administrator certificate and will be equipped to pursue and manage grants within the federal and state guidelines. SRI and Operation Power Planning staff met with Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI) staff to discuss Metropolitan's research and grants priorities and potential partnerships with EPRI.

### Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies

On September 30, SRI staff worked with External Affairs and others to host a delegation from the Singapore Public Utilities Board (PUB). The discussion focused on climate adaptation, Pure Water Southern California and direct potable reuse – all priorities of PUB as well. The Chief SRI Officer also participated in a focused climate planning session with global agencies on an exchange under the UNESCO MegaCities Alliance project.

### Environmental Planning Services

Environmental Planning Section staff prepared California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for capital projects, including drafting addendums to the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the PCCP Rehabilitation Program Sepulveda Feeder South Reach Relining project and the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Lakeview Pipeline Repair project. Staff filed Notices of Determination with the Los Angeles County Clerk and State Clearinghouse for the West Valley Feeder No. 1 Stage 3 Project MND following the September Board action to adopt the document. Staff continued to prepare the draft PEIR for the Pure Water Southern California program. A pre-application consultation meeting was conducted with California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff regarding Endangered Species Act permitting for potential impacts to the state-listed San Bernardino kangaroo rat from the Inland Feeder/Foothill Pump Station Intertie project.

Critical operations and maintenance activities were supported by Environmental Planning Section staff, including providing CEQA and regulatory clearances and conducting pre-construction surveys and construction monitoring for activities throughout the service area. Staff provided legislative analysis for a proposed listing of the Santa Ana speckled dace as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act and participated in an Association of California Water Agencies working group on proposed environmental permitting streamlining. In addition, staff represented Metropolitan in a meeting with other plan permittees regarding the proposed Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan, which is currently under development.

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 both reserves to prevent trespassing, vandalism, poaching, and theft and to protect the reserves' natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment. Activities at the reserves included removal of non-native (invasive) plants for fire and habitat management, coordination with researchers conducting burrowing owl and Stephens' kangaroo rat studies and hosting a nature event at the Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center.



**Southern Pacific Rattlesnakes at the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve**

**Land Management**

No updates for the month