



Office of Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

• Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Group Monthly Activities

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Activities in Support of the GM Business Plan

GOAL: Execute CAMP4W Implementation Strategy to Integrate Climate Adaptation Districtwide

In November, SRI and the CAMP4W team accomplished the following:

- Met with Member Agencies and developed portfolios for assessment.
- Updated the IRP Needs Assessment baseline (led by WRM) for future assessments.
- Coordinated fire risk management activities for critical facilities.
- Partnered with IOPPS and ESG on assessing power vulnerabilities and opportunities.
- Coordinated with ESG on the Strategic Infrastructure Resilience Plan.

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 Section staff coordinated with the regulatory agencies regarding the permit application packages that have been submitted for authorization of impacts to jurisdictional waters and species regulated under the California Fish and Game Code, Clean Water Act, and state and federal endangered species acts. The proposed project qualifies for permits and authorizations specifically intended for restoration projects, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Restoration Management Permit, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit 16 (Sacramento District), Regional Water Quality Control Board Statewide Restoration General Order, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Restoration Programmatic Biological Opinion.

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

1) Complete EIR analyses and public process

Environmental Planning Section staff continued preparing responses to public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report, preparing the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and preparing the Final EIR, Findings of Fact, and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Pure Water

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Southern California Program. Staff also continued to support Senate Bill (SB) 149 certification for streamlined judicial review.

Additional SRI Activities

Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan Implementation working group met on November 4th, and staff presented updates on the California state funding outlook for Climate Action, and an update on Northern Sierra Watershed Activities.

GHG Reporting and Compliance

Metropolitan’s 2024 Greenhouse gas (GHG) Inventory completed verification with The Climate Registry. Emissions data from the 2024 Inventory will be used for the 2025 CAP Annual Progress Report.

ZEV Charging

On November 17, 2025, SRI, Fleet, Operations, and Engineering Services participated in an online demonstration and Q&A of the L-Charge company’s electric vehicles (EV) charging services. L-Charge provides an on-site, off-grid EV charging system that uses clean fuels like compressed natural gas CNG, renewable natural gas, liquefied natural gas, or hydrogen. The “charging-as-a-service” costs are based on equipment rental prices and the cost of each kilowatt-hour (kWh) used for charging. L-Charge or a similar vendor provides the reliability needed to charge EVs while Metropolitan’s long-term charging infrastructure is being built. Although Metropolitan’s and other public agencies’ charging infrastructure project schedules are impacted by delays in utility/grid upgrades, they are still required to comply with CARB’s Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) regulation. The ACF mandates that 50% of its purchases of new vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 8,500 pounds be battery electric.

LA Auto Show

On November 20, employees from the Sustainability and Resilience Section and the Fleet Services Unit attended the 2025 Los Angeles Auto Show, “Automobility” at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Metropolitan staff were able to discuss features of 2026 passenger and truck models with auto manufacturers to evaluate whether they meet operational, reliability, regulatory and sustainability needs. The show also provided opportunities to test drive 2026 vehicles and see prototypes of future models. Metropolitan attended the show along with other water agencies, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Santa Clarita Valley Water.



Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) Credit Program

The SRI Office, Fleet Services Unit, and Administrative Services Group collaborated to receive the first-ever payment from CARB’s LCFS Credit Program. Metropolitan enrolled in the LCFS Credit Program in June 2025. LCFS encourages agencies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by reducing the number of fossil-fueled vehicles in operation. Revenue is generated from the electricity that is used to charge Fleet and employee-owned EVs who

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participate in the Rideshare Program. Credits generated are reported to CARB quarterly; each credit generated represents the reduction of one metric ton of carbon dioxide emissions. The first payment of \$2,081 represents the credits generated during the period from July 1 to September 30, 2025, which were then traded on an exchange marketplace. Future revenues will only increase as Metropolitan expands both the number of electric vehicles in its fleet and charging stations.

Energy Sustainability Strategy

In October, the SRI Office, Engineering Services, and Power Operations hosted the 4-day Energy Strategy Workshop, which is the first stage of the Energy Sustainability Plan update (ESP 2.0). An Exit Briefing will be held in December, providing additional opportunity for cross-disciplinary staff to share their insights and discuss overall energy planning. This session will also foster continued collaboration with external energy experts, including CAISO, LADWP, and the core consultants. The goal is to summarize options for developing and managing our energy needs and costs moving forward, before proceeding to Stage 2 of ESP 2.0.



Innovation, Pilots and Emerging Technologies

The Process Matters team is focusing on improving internal invoice processing, with an immediate emphasis on the complex workflows required to pay county CEQA filing fees. These payments currently rely on manual check routing and wet signatures that can delay project delivery by several weeks. The team is mapping these protocols end to end to explore opportunities for enhanced efficiency and efficacy.

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The Metropolitan Data Group convened to advance shared governance and metadata stewardship protocols, including discussions around the Palo Verde Irrigation District dataset and cross-functional access standards. This meeting forms part of a broader strategy to ensure data integrity and alignment between operations, planning, and research programs.

The Generations Project held its first interview session this month, initiating a long-term oral history and knowledge preservation effort to capture the lived experience of Metropolitan staff and leadership. This initiative aims to translate institutional memory into actionable lessons for future leaders as the district approaches its 100th anniversary.

Centralized Grants Management Office

In November, CGMO staff anticipate receiving notification of award status regarding the grant application Metropolitan submitted to Cal Fire's FY 2025-26 Wildfire Prevention Grants program in early August. The CGMO coordinated with Metropolitan staff from Sustainability, Resilience, & Innovation—as well as from Safety, Security, & Protection—to write and submit the proposal, entitled “Planning to Firescape Critical Water Infrastructure & Develop Wildfire Resilience GIS for Southern California Water Agencies.” CGMO staff also supported the development of application materials for submission to the California Wildlife Conservation Board that could provide financial support to the proposed construction of additional Webb Tract wetlands and the San Diego Canal public access trail.

At various meetings throughout the month, CGMO staff also presented and answered questions on active and forthcoming state and federal grant opportunities related to climate action and adaptation, workforce development, and water reuse to Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan Working Group, Metropolitan's Grants & Workforce Development Working Group, and Southern California's Regional Water Reuse Collaborative.

CGMO staff also attended external meetings and webinars on a range of topics, including CA Jobs First Financing, AI Innovation, Subrecipient Monitoring and Reporting, Incentive Funding available through the California Air Resources Board, California Water and a Changing Federal Partnership, and Alternative Funding Sources.

Environmental Planning Services

Environmental Planning staff continued the preparation of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) addenda to the Weymouth Improvements Program EIR for the Weymouth Wheeler Gate Security Improvements and Weymouth Water Quality Lab Building Improvements projects. Staff also finalized an addendum to the PCCP Rehabilitation Program EIR for the Sepulveda Feeder Reach 2 South Project and continued preparation of supplemental CEQA documentation for the PCCP 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 Permit (ITP) applications under the federal and state Endangered Species Act. For the Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Access Road Improvements Project, staff completed complex negotiations with CDFW and executed the Streambed Alteration Agreement for the project; staff also submitted an ITP application pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 2081(b) and SB 147 for potential incidental take of the Fully Protected Species, desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*). Environmental monitoring of construction activities continued for the PCCP Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B, Colorado River Aqueduct Storage Buildings, 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 preconstruction biological surveys for activities throughout the service area, including emergency and routine maintenance activities. Following a request from CDFW to utilize Metropolitan property at Iron Mountain for a desert bighorn sheep capture operation, Environmental Planning staff conducted internal coordination with Land Management Unit staff and other internal departments to facilitate the effort. The operation, which was considered a mutually beneficial activity due to data sharing, consisted of capturing sheep by helicopter, attaching global positioning system collars on the

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animals, and collecting biological samples to collect data and gain a better understanding regarding the size, health and habitat of the species. Staff was present during capture efforts in the Iron and Whipple mountains on November 3 and 5, which resulted in fourteen desert bighorn sheep (7 rams and 7 ewes) being captured and collared. This was part of a larger effort that resulted in 59 total bighorn sheep being captured from several areas within their range. On November 6, an in-house training was provided by Rincon Consultants, Inc. for all Environmental Planning staff. The training was entitled “CEQA 201” and focused on topics related to preparation and review of CEQA documents, including project descriptions, mitigation measures, alternatives, and subsequent CEQA documents. Lastly, staff attended the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance Natural Resources Task Force annual planning meeting in Sacramento on November 12 to participate with other task force members to develop legislative and regulatory priorities and a workplan for the upcoming year.



CDFW Desert Bighorn Sheep Capture – Iron and Whipple Mountains

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 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 applying herbicides to control woody invasives; collecting native plant seeds from within the Reserve to be distributed within prescribed burn sites and enhancement/restoration sites; and repairing patrol roads and fences. Activities at the MSR included coordinating with researchers, including the Riverside Conservation Agency, to conduct Quino checkerspot butterfly, herpetology, and small mammal surveys; coordinating with the Riverside Habitat Conservation Agency to conduct Stephens’ kangaroo rat monitoring; removing invasive tamarisk trees and treating stumps in Tusalota Creek; maintaining and transplanting native mule fat and sandbar willow in the Tusalota Creek restoration area; and repairing reserve boundary fencing. The Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center was open to visitors on Saturdays, with 53 visitors reported for the month.

Land Management

An amendment was executed to extend the term of the License Agreement with the United States Navy/Marine Corps and HayDay Farms through May 31, 2027. The amendment will allow military training activities to continue within the premises leased to HayDay Farms.

The CDFW was issued a license to traverse Metropolitan’s Iron Mountain and surrounding property in connection with its Desert Bighorn Sheep survey activities.