



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Group

• SRI Group Monthly Activities

Summary

This report provides a summary of Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation activities for the month of December 2025.

Purpose

Informational

Activities in Support of the GM Business Plan

Goal: Execute the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) Implementation Strategy to Integrate Climate Adaptation District-wide

In December, SRI and the CAMP4W team initiated the assessments of two CAMP4W portfolios. Each portfolio will be assessed according to the six evaluative criteria and presented to the CAMP4W Task Force in February. Projects and programs included in the two initial portfolios are listed below. With the understanding that some projects are still conceptual, staff will include assumptions made for these assessments and acknowledge where details and information are limited.

Portfolio	Investments
Sequence #1	Enhanced landscape transformation program + Sepulveda pumping stage 2 + Groundwater augmentation + 150 Pure Water Southern California + Regional Conveyance project
Sequence #2	Delta Freshwater Pathway + AVEK expansion + Sites Reservoir + South of Delta surface storage + Delta Conveyance Project

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 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 (RWQCB) Statewide Restoration General Order, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Restoration Programmatic Biological Opinion. The Central Valley RWQCB issued the Notice of Applicability for coverage under the statewide

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order on December 10, 2025; other regulatory permits/authorizations for the project are expected in early 2026.

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

1. Complete EIR analysis and public process

Environmental Planning Section staff continued preparing the final draft of responses to public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), the Summary of Changes to the Draft EIR and the Final EIR, Findings of Fact, and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Pure Water Southern California Program. Staff also continued to support Senate Bill (SB) 149 certification for streamlined judicial review by developing the certification noticing plan.

Additional SRI Activities

Climate Action Plan

SRI staff continued the development of the Climate Action Plan 2025 Annual Progress Report, meeting with Project Managers across the district, gathering data and updates for CY2025 reporting.

The SPARKe energy audit site visit at Diemer Treatment Plant was completed on November 18th by Cascade Energy and sponsored by Southern California Edison. Diemer plant staff and Cascade Energy identified potential opportunities for energy efficiency savings.

SRI, together with External Affairs, launched the planning for Earth Week 2026, which will promote “*You Can Make A Difference*” as Met’s 2026 Earth Day message and Earth Week outreach campaign.

Energy Sustainability Strategy

The Exit Briefing for the Energy Strategy Workshop, held on December 15, drew strong attendance from both external and internal participants, including upper and executive management. Staff delivered a summary of key issues, recommendations, and strategic options for advancing MWD’s energy resource planning and sustainability efforts.

Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies

The Met Data Group convened with a guest presentation from a remote sensing expert with expertise from NASA and the ESA. The briefing highlighted emerging satellite data tools for drought monitoring, snowpack estimation, and regional climate observation, reinforcing the value of advanced sensing capabilities as CAMP4W implementation continues to expand Metropolitan’s climate intelligence and adaptive capacity.

Process Matters work also advanced this month, with targeted reviews of specific contract administration steps to reduce delays and clarify staff roles. These analyses are informing near-term improvements that will strengthen workflow reliability, support project delivery, and ensure Metropolitan’s procedures remain efficient, transparent, and aligned with organizational goals.

Centralized Grants Management Office

In December, the Centralized Grants Management Office (CGMO) collaborated with Metropolitan staff from Engineering and Fleet, along with multiple external partner organizations, to prepare and submit a \$4.5 million grant proposal to the California Energy Commission’s DRIVES program. The proposed grant project would fund the purchase, installation, and operation of an innovative demonstration microgrid to expand electric vehicle (EV) charging capacity at Lake Mathews. The project’s innovative behind-the-meter microgrid integrates solar generation, battery storage, and EV charging through an exclusively DC-based circuitry design that avoids efficiency losses associated with conventional DC-AC

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conversion. Successful completion of this demonstration pilot would create a replicable pathway for accelerating EV charging deployment across Metropolitan's remote facilities at reduced costs.

The CGMO also met with staff from DEI, SRI, and External Affairs to review active grant opportunities available through the California Smart Communities Initiative and the California Department of Education.

Throughout the month, CGMO staff participated in external webinars covering Zero-Emission Vehicle fund-stacking strategies, municipal and utility fleet electrification, artificial intelligence innovation, and the CA Jobs First initiative.

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 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 Permit (ITP) applications under the federal and state Endangered Species Act, including participating in a meeting with CDFW to review draft permit measures. For the Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Access Road Improvements Project, the CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement for the project was executed and the 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*), was deemed complete by CDFW. 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. Environmental Planning staff commenced mitigation monitoring activities for the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Program following the December board action to award construction. Staff started preparation of the final monitoring summary report for the PCCP Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B project and completed MMRP sign-off for the Weymouth Basins 5-8 Refurbishment Project. Staff also continued coordination with External Affairs to prepare a plaque and display case for the Weymouth Basins 5-8 Refurbishment project to fulfill CEQA mitigation commitments for cultural resources.

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. Staff coordinated with Weymouth Plant staff to implement nesting bird exclusion measures at various tank farms throughout the plant, and staff participated in a demonstration of a new laser technology as a potential method of deterring nesting birds in operational structures at the Jensen Plant. Staff provided subject matter expert review and analysis of proposed updates to the federal Endangered Species Act, revisions to the definition for Waters of the United States, and listing petitions to add species (2 birds, 19 plants, and 1 amphibian) to the state list of threatened and endangered species. In addition, staff reviewed and analyzed CEQA notices for 10 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 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 removing invasive species, including tumbleweed, tree tobacco, salt cedar, and tree of heaven; applying pre-emergent herbicides to areas infested with annual invasive

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species, including stinknet, short-pod mustard, and brome grasses; and repairing reserve boundary fencing. 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 in Tocalota Creek; maintaining greenhouse container plants and collecting mulefat cuttings for restoration purposes; repairing damaged roads following storm events; and repairing reserve boundary fencing. The Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center was open to visitors on Saturdays, with 100 visitors reported for the month.

Land Management

Nothing to report