



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Safety, Security, and Protection (OSSP)

• OSSP Monthly Activities for January 2026

Summary

This monthly report provides a summary of OSSP activities for January 2026 in the following key areas:

- Safety, Regulatory, and Training (SRT)
 - Health and Safety Programs
 - Environmental Programs
 - Apprenticeship Programs
 - Safety and Technical Training Programs
- Security Management
- Emergency Management

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

Attachment 1: Detailed Report – OSSP Monthly Activities for January 2026

Office of Safety, Security & Protection

Monthly Activities Report for January 2026

Improve the Workplace and Promote START Values
Strengthen safety training

Safety, Regulatory, and Training

SRT Health and Safety Programs

To promote safety awareness, two new resources were distributed: (1) Safety Advisory on Towing Pintle Hitches, guiding the selection of the correct hitch type for operational needs; and (2) Headquarters Safety Newsletter (Issue 4), highlighting tips on workplace emergency action plans, incident summaries, and stop work authority.

The team posted a revised version of the Job Safety Hazard Checklist, incorporating employee feedback. Additionally, the team submitted the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) tunnel diesel permit package to Cal/OSHA in preparation for the 2026 CRA Shutdown.

Lastly, the team hosted the first Safety Forum of the year, which covered multiple safety topics, including safety inspection procedures, the Employee Safety Recognition Program, and updates from the Executive Safety Committee.

December 2025

SAFETY ADVISORY

This Safety Advisory announces the results of an assessment for towing hitches. Metropolitan provides two common towing options: a pintle hitch and a ball hitch. While both options are safe to use, staff performing the towing should work with Fleet Services when considering the hitch type that best meets the operational needs.

Details: Employees frequently need to tow trailers, generators, and other equipment to workites. A safety suggestion was submitted requesting a **pintle hitch to be an available option**, to accommodate operational needs.

Resolution: A pintle hitch was installed on the trailer, specifically to replace an older model ball hitch. Also, because of the review of the safety suggestion, the pintle hitch is now an option to consider if it fits operational needs. Fleet Services is available to review requests for towing options that will best fit operational needs.

Likely, SST can provide training for employees who wish to learn more about towing applications and safe operations.



Review Request Process: The immediate manager must approve all requests for modifications to operating equipment. With your immediate manager's approval, contact your nearest Fleet facility to schedule a review.

Approved Installation: Fleet Services must perform all hitch installations to ensure:

- Proper weight-rating requirements are met
- Compatibility with the vehicle's braking system and other safety devices
- Compliance with manufacturer specifications and warranty conditions
- Required permits are obtained when applicable

Towing Guidelines

Towing anything greater than 10,000 pounds requires a Class A licensed driver.

Know the Towing Capacity

Step 1: Find your truck's GCWWR (Gross Combined Vehicle Weight Rating). Refer to your owner's manual or the certification label on the driver's side door frame. This is the maximum allowable weight of your truck and trailer combined. The GCWWR shall not be exceeded.

Step 2: Find your truck's curb weight. This is the weight of the truck when it's empty, but with all the manufactured equipment and necessary fluids. Refer to the owner's manual or the certification label on the driver's side door frame.

Step 3: Perform the calculation by subtracting your truck's curb weight from its GCWWR. The result is the maximum towing capacity of the truck itself, excluding any additional weight.

DECEMBER 2025 / ISSUE 4

Quarterly Newsletter

Headquarters Safety



Emergency Management

Workplace emergency action plans are designed to provide clear procedures for reporting and responding to emergencies. The procedures may vary depending on the type of emergency work being performed, workplace status, and facility location. The Emergency Action Plan Quick Guide provides employees important information to safely respond to an emergency while working at Headquarters. Click [here](#) for more information.

- Fire Prevention:** Metropolitan employees are not expected to extinguish a fire, but in the event of an emergency are required to alert co-workers, notify authorities, evacuate the area and follow the facility's Emergency Action Plan. For more information, click [here](#).
- Seizure:** Most earthquake-related deaths and injuries are caused by collapsing building materials and heavy falling objects, such as bookcases and cabinets. By planning and practicing Drop, Cover, and Hold On, employees can best protect themselves from earthquake strikes. For more info, click [here](#).
- Active Shooter:** Be prepared to run, hide or fight (as a last resort) when an active shooter is in your vicinity. If possible, respond to calls made by those in the location of the shooting incident. Call 911 for immediate assistance. Be sure to avoid large congregations of people and law enforcement has the situation under control. For more info, click [here](#).

In This Issue

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Retiree / New Hires

The Metropolitan Security and Emergency Management unit had three recent security specialist retirements and is pleased to announce several new hires (see below).

We wish our senior security specialist retirees all the best in their retirement endeavors. Please feel free to introduce yourself to your new area security specialist and welcome them aboard.

Facilities	Retiree	New Hire
Dexter and Orange County O&P	Ernesto Trevino Spenhake Thomas Trampig	Ernesto Trevino Spenhake Brian Taylor
W&L, Lake Mathews, and O&P	Ernesto Trevino Spenhake Karin Harris	Ernesto Trevino Spenhake Bryant Morrison
W&L, Tule, LA O&P	N/A	Ernesto Trevino Spenhake Sam Hall
Dexter	Ernesto Trevino Spenhake Dillon Acila	Ernesto Trevino Spenhake Mark Shuman

New Safety Advisory and Headquarters Safety Newsletter

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SRT Environmental Programs

Staff participated in the third Joint Utility Vendor Audit Consortium meeting of 2025, hosted by the Salt River Project. The meeting focused on hazardous waste management and audits of the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility. Following the meeting, staff participated in an environmental audit at Veolia's hazardous waste processing facility in Phoenix, AZ. In partnership with Fleet and Human Resources, staff provided information to a third-party consultant regarding Metropolitan's DOT policies, programs, and procedures as part of their compliance assessment.

The annual Solar Credit application for the installations at DVL, Jensen, Skinner, and Weymouth was submitted to the South Coast Air Quality Management District. This program offers a fee credit based on the design capacity of the solar installation, which is applied to the annual operating fees for equipment at each facility.

SRT Apprenticeship Programs

The Apprenticeship Program held study skills training for the new pre-apprentices. The training refreshes study skill habits to help prepare pre-apprentices for success in the academic requirements of the Apprenticeship Program. This month, the electrical and mechanical Class of 2029 pre-apprentices are beginning their first period of apprenticeship instruction, a foundational course for both the electrical and mechanical apprentices. The electrical and mechanical Class of 2027 is beginning sixth period, and the member agency Class of 2026 is beginning seventh period.



Study Skills Training

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SRT Safety and Technical Training Programs

The Training Staff is taking an innovative approach to enhance training programs. As part of these improvements, they collaborated with the Mills Treatment Plant to produce a video that will be integrated into the System Operating Orders Manual training. This training includes a practical exercise, and the accompanying video provides a clear visual guide to help trainees better understand the system.

The latest training module now includes a practical valving exercise where participants draft a mock outage request to reinforce safety procedures. This enhancement creates a stronger connection between the operating diagram, the physical system, the equipment, and the work performed in the field. To further support learning, the team is expanding the use of mixed media, including videos and interactive tools, to make training more effective and emphasize safety as a top priority.



Staff creating video content

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Improve the Workplace and Promote START Values

Expand security capabilities

Security Management

Metropolitan Joins WaterISAC Threat Intel Platform (TIP) Working Group

Metropolitan Security and CyberSecurity staff were invited to join Water ISAC's January kickoff meeting for the newly formed Water ISAC TIP Working Group Committee. The goal of the committee is to select, prepare, implement, optimize, and continually improve a comprehensive member intelligence sharing platform that consolidates and aggregates multiple intel feeds and suspicious activity reports into one comprehensive "pane-of-glass" by the end of 2026.

The genesis of this renewed emphasis on comprehensive threat reporting in the water sector is germane to Congressional Bill HR 2344, which seeks to "establish a program to increase drinking water and wastewater system threat preparedness and resilience, and for other purposes." The TIP committee will officially begin to meet on a near-monthly basis starting February 2026.

Some of the topics discussed included:

- Identifying over 35 commonly used commercial cyber intelligence services currently used by agencies.
- Evaluating the current effectiveness of government agency intelligence providers, including InfraGard, CISA, JRIC, TSA, and STSC.
- Discussing TIP phasing timeline and scheduled benchmarks to final implementation (Q4 2026).
- Questions and answers.



Metropolitan Security joins newly formed Water ISAC TIP Working Group

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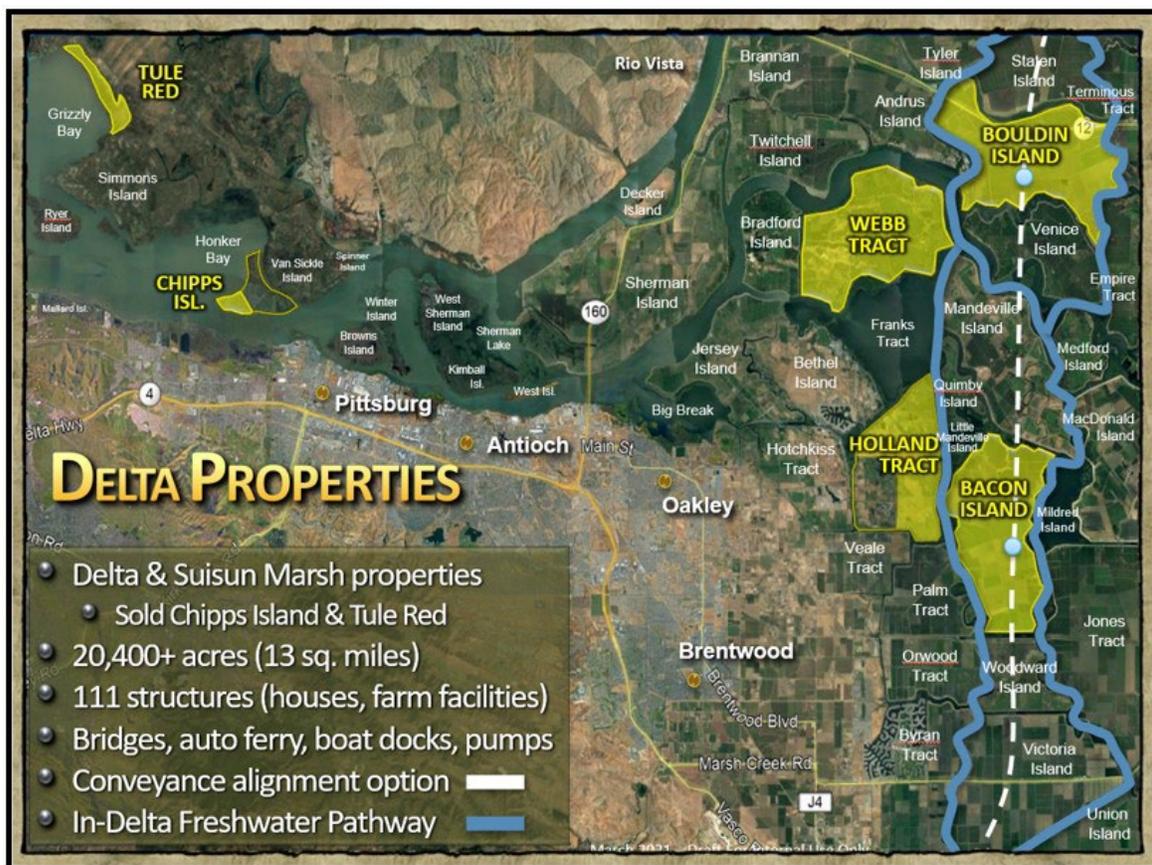
MWD and Security Contractor Jointly Assess Sacramento Region

Metropolitan Security Specialists and select contract staff conducted a comprehensive security assessment of Bay Delta assets to protect and prevent losses to environmentally sensitive island properties and critical levee systems.

These critical areas, which include over 20,400 acres of levees, 100 structures, bridges, boat docks, and dozens of pumps and siphons, are now being actively patrolled, physically monitored, and access-controlled by contract Securitas patrols.

Staff also conducted planning coordination with various law enforcement agencies and the Securitas Stockton Branch office to align protective objectives focusing on:

- Identifying past, present, and future threats and vulnerabilities in specific locations,
- Prioritizing critical assets and loss consequences,
- Selecting appropriate security patroller safeguards like visual checkpoints and safe routes during inclement weather, etc.
- Establishing direct first-line communications, contacts, and notification trees with MWD Bay Delta staff, Reclamation District staff, and Department of Water Resources (DWR),



MWD staff conducts a comprehensive security assessment of Bay-Delta assets

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Emergency Management

Metropolitan's Mobile Command Capabilities

Metropolitan's mobile command capabilities continue to grow. A lesson learned from the Eaton and Palisades Fires was that responding Metropolitan and Member Agency staff needed a safe and practical place to work when assigned to Fire Incident Command Posts.

Emergency Management and Fleet Services staff collaborated after the fires to repurpose a fleet van to be used as a mobile command post that can support up to five personnel for an extended time during emergencies. This command van has satellite internet, video displays, radios, first aid kits, a refrigerator, AC/heater, fresh water, and solar panels. The van was picked up this month and will be available to support Metropolitan responders during future emergencies.



Emergency Management's New Mobile Command Van

Creation of an Emergency Management Team

Another lesson learned from the Eaton and Palisades Fires was that Metropolitan would benefit from the creation of an Emergency Management Team to support Metropolitan's Emergency Management Program. And thus, a new Emergency Management Team is now in place in the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection. This new team will continue to build and address an increasing number of government requirements and dynamic threats to the region. This team will also be pivotal in the planning for multiple high-profile events coming to the area by the end of the decade.