



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Activities for August 2024**

Summary

This reports provides a summary of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group activities for August 2024.

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group activities for August 2024.

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Business Outreach & Community Engagement

On August 2, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Long Beach, CA. The workshop, Connecting to Contracts Grow Your Small Business Lunch Series – Billions in Contracting Opportunities. This included a panel discussion from representatives from Los Angeles Metro, Director of Certification and Economic Development, Skanska USA Civil – Project DBE Compliance Coordinator, and Metropolitan along with speed business pitches from our small business communities.



On August 5, 2024, Metropolitan’s Business Outreach Manager was invited to participate in a podcast hosted by the Orange County Inland Empire Small Business Development Center, The Profit Talks Podcast, hosted by OC Talks at the University of Irvine Beal Innovation Center. Topics covered included certification requirements, small business incentives, training workshops, and upcoming contracting opportunities in Construction, Procurement, and Consulting services.

On August 7, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Asian Business Association of Los Angeles (ABA-LA) Small Business Exchange in Los Angeles, CA. The event included exhibitors showcasing small businesses, pop vendors, and supplier diversity professionals to meet Minority-owned businesses. This event included matchmaking sessions for creating business opportunities while building and strengthening relations with the ABA-LA community.



On August 7-8, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the MegaMix Expo at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario, CA.

On August 8, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Construction Management Association of America of Southern California Chapter for the Meet the Owners/Primes Event in Long Beach, CA. The event included an exhibition and speed networking with the opportunity for business matchmaking.



On August 9, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Building Industry Association of Southern California Water Conference - Responding to Water Extremes in Ontario, CA.

On August 14, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the CalTrans District 11 – 20 Annual Procurement and Resource Fair in San Diego, CA.



On August 20, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) – Southern California Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Committee Fireside Chat Series Black Panel in Los Angeles, CA.



On August 20, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Southern California Minority Supplier Business Development Council: Corporate Roundtable Discussion. The Corporate Roundtable is a platform for fostering relationships among members and tackling supplier diversity challenges. This meeting provided an opportunity to share insights and best practices in supplier diversity, discuss successes and challenges encountered, exchange valuable data and resources, and collaborate on actionable solutions to advance diversity initiatives.

On August 21, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Orange County Black Chamber of Commerce Supply Diversity Event for Veterans in Anaheim, CA. The event focused on business opportunities for veterans and disabled veterans.



On August 21-23, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (CAHCC) 45th Annual Statewide Business Conference in Bakersfield, CA. Metropolitan participated in workshops, panel presentations, showcase exhibits, and strategic matchmaking appointments.



On August 22, 2024, Metropolitan hosted the Asian Business Association: Los Angeles Small Business Advisory Board Meeting at Metropolitan’s Headquarters.



On August 22, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Los Angeles Metro Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Certification Workshop at the Los Angeles Metro Headquarters. Metropolitan discussed SBE Certification and Small Business Opportunities.



On August 23, 2024, Metropolitan staff attended the Associated General Contractors of California Chapter: Small Business Construction Expo (SBCX) at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, CA. The SBCX allows the opportunity for small business entrepreneurs to get direct access to public and government agencies, prime contractors, and specialty trades from across the state.



Workforce Development

On August 14, 2024, DE&I Workforce Development staff attended the Workforce Development Board (WDB) City of Los Angeles quarterly meeting. This meeting includes various WorkSource and YouthSource centers in the City of Los Angeles that provide job training and skill development for underserved and historically excluded communities. Metropolitan and DEI Workforce Development was introduced for possible partnership with these organizations in outreach efforts and to leverage resources to create a Youth Internship Program. The WorkSource and YouthSource centers receive funding to place youth/young adults: 14 years to 24 years and 16 years to 30 years of age with businesses and organizations for job training and skill development. On October 1, 2024, Office of the Governor's California Volunteers will award \$20 million to place youth and young adults in work experience programs.

On August 19, 2024, DEI Workforce Development staff met with PATH, a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization. PATH has been in existence for 40 years and has provided supportive services, including street outreach, interim housing, housing placement, employment assistance, mental health care, Veteran services, and substance use treatment linkages to 26,000 individuals each year. PATH serves regions from Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Diego County, Santa Barbara County and Santa Clara County. Our partnership with PATH is to attend their employment staff meetings to provide information about Metropolitan, our job opportunities, application and recruitment process. Employment Staff will in turn deliver information to all the regions they represent and community members they serve.

On August 21st, staff represented Metropolitan and the office of DEI on an employer's panel including the U.S. Secret Service, Goodwill Industries, and Constellis. The event was hosted by the Virtual Veterans Employment Development Department and Region C – San Diego & Imperial County Veteran Employment Services. Topics and advice included employer hiring practices, application processes, agency overview, benefits, and job availability.

DEI Staff meets once a week to discuss Workforce Development and continue building partnerships through CRIT Chemehuevi cultural gatherings and language classes. In addition, DEI staff provided Pre-Apprentice applicant follow up and answered questions regarding testing set up and study guide.



August 20, 2024-DEI Workforce Development staff held a meeting with Parker High School Welding instructor/Wave/Skills USA committee member regarding upcoming career Expo with Parker 425 in January 2025. Represented METROPOLITAN as an employee and committee member.

August 22, 2024-DEI staff met with Arizona @ Works career center, Business Service Coordinator Joe Throneberry. Discussed Workforce Development Efforts and meet with Tom Moore for Skills USA and CTE Oversight committee for Parker High School.

August 22, 2024- DEI staff met with Chemehuevi TIPO Director, Ron Escobar, on water careers for tribal members and the MT Charleston camp out.

August 28, 2024- DEI staff is scheduled to meet with CRIT Education to discuss how they can further support members through the application process and assistance with housing.