



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Sustainability, Resilience, Innovation Group

• Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Group Monthly Activities

Summary

This report provides a summary of Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation (SRI) activities for the month of October 2025

Purpose

Informational

Activities in Support of the GM Business Plan

GOAL: Execute CAMP4W Implementation Strategy to Integrate Climate Adaptation Districtwide

The CAMP4W team presented initial assessments of the Pure Water Southern California stages and Sites Reservoir to the CAMP4W Task Force and started to compile portfolios of projects to assess comprehensively. These portfolio assessments will inform decision-making on near-term, mid-term and long-term investments. The team also presented a CAMP4W quarterly update that included an overview of our fire risk management planning and proposed updates to the Administrative Code to include climate adaptation.

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 submitted permit application packages 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. For the Delta Conveyance Project, Environmental Planning staff continued to represent the Public Water Agencies in a coordinator role, working with the Department of Water Resources on regulatory permitting efforts. Specifically, staff reviewed and commented on the draft application for the Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification.

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 EIR and preparing the Final EIR, Findings of Fact, and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Pure Water Southern California Program, as well as responding to the questions from the Governor's office regarding Senate Bill (SB) 149 certification.

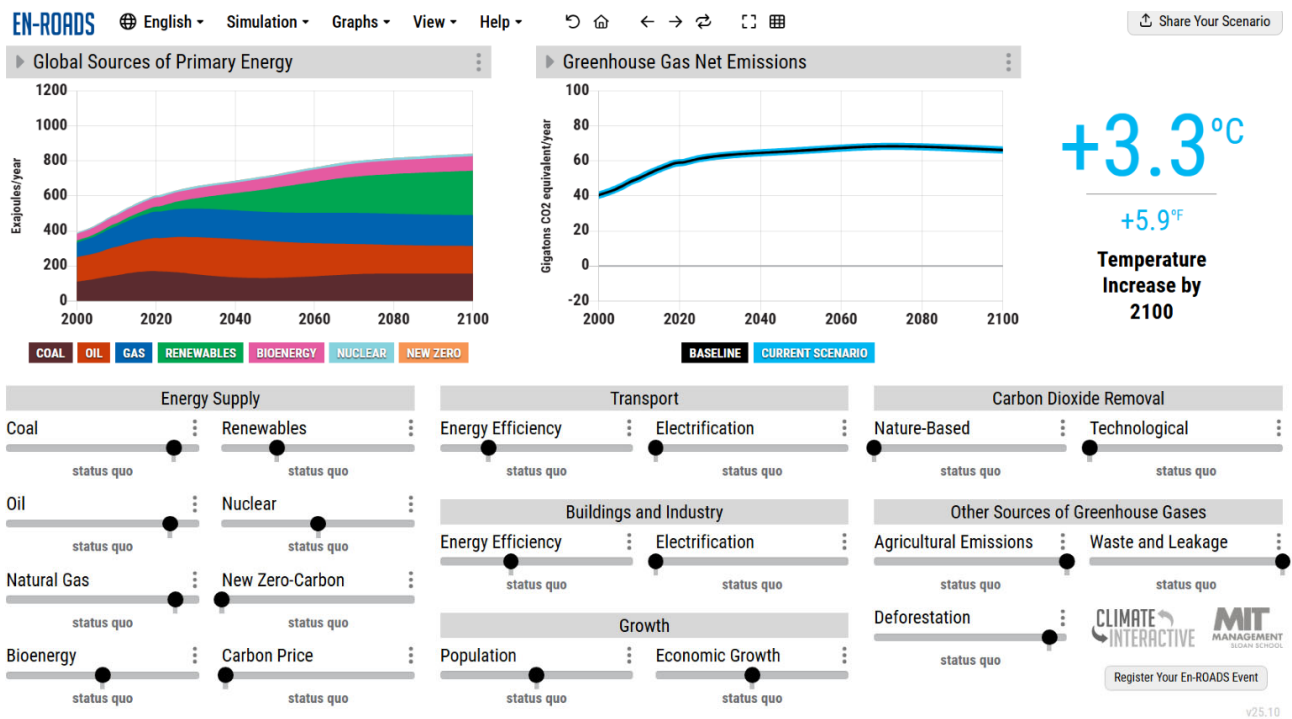
Additional SRI Activities

Sustainability and Resilience

Climate Action Plan

SPARKe Energy Audit Program at Diemer Treatment Plant: On Oct 13th, the energy audit program, in coordination with Cascade Energy and sponsored by SCE, was initiated for the Diemer treatment plant. SRI and Diemer plant staff attended the kick-off call to learn about this two-year program that aims to identify opportunities to improve efficiencies as it relates to Diemer’s O&M and energy profile.

En-ROADS Climate Model: MWD hosted a workshop on October 7th, featuring the En-ROADS climate model co-developed by MIT Sloan and Climate Interactive to advance understanding of climate modeling and explore its application as a tool for climate planning at MWD. The workshop engaged staff from the Water, Energy, Climate, and Sustainability working group in an interactive scenario-building experience to model the causes and impacts of the climate crisis, as well as the relative leverage of climate solutions such as renewable energy, carbon capture, and afforestation.



Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV)

The Zero Emission Executive Task Force met on October 9, 2025, to discuss Metropolitan’s transition to cleaner energy vehicles. One of the discussion highlights was CARB’s proposed amendment to the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation. The ACF currently mandates that until January 1, 2027, 50 percent of new purchases of Metropolitan’s medium and heavy-duty trucks (those with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of greater than 8500 pounds) be ZEVs. Under the current ACF, beginning on January 1, 2027, 100 percent of medium and heavy-duty vehicles procured must be ZEVs. The proposed amendment is expected to be adopted by early 2026 and extends the 100 percent compliance date to January 1, 2030. The extension provides public agencies with the opportunity to purchase a combination of both the cleanest burning internal combustion vehicles and ZEVs, while the market for clean energy vehicles matures. Also discussed at the Executive Task Force meeting were the Fleet Services Unit’s planned purchases of new vehicles that both meet the ACF regulation and meet operational and reliability needs. The Engineering Services Group also provided updates on both initial chargers and long-term charging infrastructure strategy to support the deployment of ZEVs through Metropolitan’s service area. The

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Sustainability and Resilience Section also continues to evaluate grants, incentives, and rebate options to defray the cost of the purchase of vehicles and chargers.

Sustainable Procurement

The Sustainability Procurement Project Team will be meeting with the Engineering Services Group to explore the possibility of including sustainable procurement options in construction services contracts.

Energy Sustainability Strategy

To plan for Metropolitan's future power supply and demand, the Sustainability and Resilience Section, in collaboration with Engineering Services and Power Operations, organized a four-day in-person Energy Strategy Workshop at USHQ from October 27 to 30. Participants included a multidisciplinary internal strategy team and external power advisors from organizations such as CAISO, EPRI, and LADWP. The workshop provided a platform for participants to engage in discussions and explore energy opportunities for Metropolitan. The insights gathered during the workshop will help define a framework for updating the Energy Sustainability Plan (ESP 2.0) and managing energy in the future.

Centralized Grants Management Office

On Thursday, October 23, Metropolitan's Centralized Grants Management Office (CGMO) hosted a quarterly meeting of the So Cal Grants Network, which focused on active infrastructure- and climate-related grant opportunities for water utilities. Approximately 50 grants and sustainability professionals from Metropolitan member agencies and other interested organizations, as well as Metropolitan staff, attended the virtual meeting. CGMO staff also provided support for a grants-focused webinar offered by the California Water Efficiency Partnership Grants Task Force.

CGMO staff joined other Pure Water Southern California representatives in hosting an annual site visit from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) regarding active federal grants that BOR has awarded to PWSC. Additionally, in the early days of the federal shutdown, CGMO staff consulted with Metropolitan staff from Pure Water Southern California, Water Efficiency, and Engineering regarding the potential impacts of the federal shutdown and related delays in expenditure reimbursements on various Metropolitan projects managed by these teams.

Throughout the month, CGMO staff also met with Metropolitan staff from Pure Water Southern California, the Zero Emission Vehicle Task Force, Water Quality, and Bay-Delta Initiatives to consider active federal funding opportunities from the U.S. BOR and Economic Development Administration; state funding opportunities available through the California Energy Commission, the California Wildlife Conservation board, and the California Air Resources Board; and additional funding opportunities available through the Water 5tResearch Foundation and Southern California Edison.

Innovation, Pilots and Emerging Technologies

As part of the Process Matters initiative, the Innovation Team partnered with the General Manager and Office of the Board to plan and host a workshop on the board letter process on October 28th. The workshop aims to align staff and executive review practices to better support the development of board letters and related materials. In parallel, Process Matters introduced a small but meaningful improvement across the organization: a five-minute buffer has been added by default between meetings in Outlook and Teams to help reduce scheduling fatigue and improve employee focus and well-being.

Beyond internal process improvements, the team represented Metropolitan at several key regional innovation forums. On October 7, Innovation staff engaged with emerging blue-tech and climate-resilience startups at Ignite 22 at the AltaSea Innovation Campus, exploring technologies in water quality and maintenance. Later in the month, on October 18, the team participated in the Western Technology Advisory Group meeting in Riverside, sharing Metropolitan's innovation roadmap and learning from peer utilities advancing applied research and field-scale technology demonstrations.

Together these activities reinforce the District's commitment to modernizing operations, fostering collaboration, and positioning Metropolitan as a leader in utility innovation across the western United States and the world.

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Environmental Planning Services

Environmental Planning staff continued the preparation of two addenda to the Weymouth Improvements Program EIR for the Weymouth Wheeler Gate Security Improvements and Weymouth Water Quality Lab Building Improvements projects. Staff continued the preparation of an addendum to the PCCP Rehabilitation Program EIR for the Sepulveda Feeder Reach 2 South Project and preparation of supplemental California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for the 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 applications under the federal and state Endangered Species Act. Environmental monitoring of construction activities continued for the PCCP Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B, Colorado River Aqueduct Storage Buildings, Desert Microwave Communications Towers Upgrades, Weymouth Basins 5 to 8 Rehabilitation, and La Verne Shops Upgrades projects. Staff complete the final project completion memo and CEQA Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the Perris Valley Pipeline Project.

Critical operations and maintenance activities were supported by the Environmental Planning Section. Staff provided CEQA and regulatory clearances for activities throughout the service area, include upcoming pipeline shutdowns. In addition, staff submitted emergency regulatory permit applications for an urgent erosion repair along the West Valley Feeder No. 2. Staff provided subject matter expert review of California Endangered Species Act petitions for 19 plants and two bird species. In addition, staff reviewed and analyzed CEQA notices for 13 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. Lastly, at the request of External Affairs, staff participated in a panel on environmental careers at Chapman University on October 15.

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 mowing to manage Russian thistle populations to limit seed production and reduce flashy fuel accumulation; conducting herbicide applications to control invasive species such as tamarisk, tree tobacco, and tree of heaven; monitoring Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) to track population dynamics; 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 SKR monitoring; mowing and weed abatement for fire and habitat management; and maintaining greenhouse container plants and collecting native species cuttings to propagate for future restoration site planting. The Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center was open to visitors on Saturdays; 95 visitors were reported for the month.

Land Management

A license agreement has been entered into with the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCVWA) for access and construction staging purposes within the Foothill Feeder right-of-way in Santa Clarita. The license area will support SCVWA's groundwater treatment project.

Intersect Power has been issued a license agreement to install fiber optic equipment near Eagle Mountain in connection with its Easley Renewable Energy Project.