



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- **DEI Activities Report**

Summary

This report provides a summary of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group activities for February 2026

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group activities for February 2026

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

In February 2026, Metropolitan continued advancing its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts through community engagement, business outreach, and workforce development activities designed to strengthen relationships and to expand awareness as well as access to the many opportunities in Metropolitan and the industry.

Metropolitan hosted an in-person Community Partners Meeting at Union Station. The meeting brought together community-based organizations to deepen collaboration and share information about Metropolitan's programs and opportunities. The agenda featured a community partner spotlight on the California African American Water Education Foundation and presentations on Internships and Entry-Level Opportunities in the Water Sector, the Vendor Development Program, and the Community Partnering Program by Metropolitan. The presentations highlighted how Metropolitan is working with partners to connect diverse communities to careers, contracts, and long-term engagement with the water industry.



Staff conducted multiple information sessions in the San Fernando Valley throughout the month to increase awareness of upcoming Operations & Maintenance Technician IV opportunities at the Jensen Treatment Plant. The sessions focused on reaching local residents to provide information on skilled technical roles within Metropolitan.

Metropolitan was represented in the Parker Dam 500 Street Fair, connecting with community members and sharing information about careers and programs. Additionally, Metropolitan hosted a table exhibit at The Construction Network's Water Projects Panel, which featured three Metropolitan member agencies (LADWP, IEUA, and the City of Santa Monica) and DWR discussing upcoming projects and contracting opportunities. Metropolitan sponsored and attended the Asian Business Association–Orange County (ABA-OC) Lunar New Year Luncheon; the event brought together government agencies and small businesses to share insights on procurement and state contracting opportunities. Additionally, staff participated in the San Diego, Orange & Imperial APEX Accelerator Small Business Expo, hosted in partnership with the San Diego Small Business Development Center Network and the San Diego Women's Business Center. The expo provided small businesses with guidance on accessing capital, navigating government contracting, and positioning themselves for local, state, and federal contract opportunities.

Metropolitan also engaged at the CRIT Rodeo and the Havasu Landing Chemehuevi Winter Camp, strengthening authentic relationships with tribal communities in the desert region through visibility, participation, and direct connection.

Staff hosted a resume and job opportunities information session at the Palo Verde Needles Education Center, guiding students and job seekers; spoke to students at Leuzinger High School's Environmental Careers Academy (ECA) in Lawndale about careers in water and sustainability. Metropolitan sponsored a film screening of "Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong" at USC, and helped coordinate a panel discussion moderated by Heather Collins, as well as coordinating volunteers with the ERGs for a networking opportunity to connect students with professionals and career pathways in the water sector.

Finally, staff met with Women in Non-Traditional Roles to increase awareness about careers in water and the skilled trades. Staff also tabled at the Indio Job Fair that day to connect directly with job seekers and share information about current and upcoming employment opportunities.

Collectively, February's activities reflect Metropolitan's ongoing commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion through strategic community engagement, small business support, and workforce development initiatives. Through sustained outreach and partnership efforts, Metropolitan continues to expand access to career pathways and contracting opportunities within the water sector.