



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

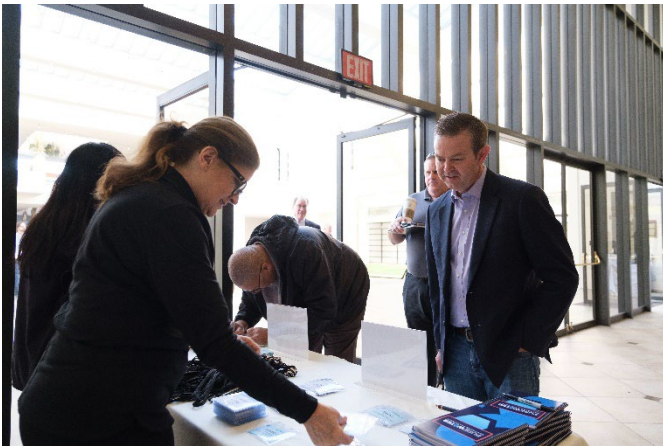
Attachment 1 – Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group activities for March 2024.

Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Activities for January 2024

Business Outreach & Community Engagement

On March 7, 2024, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) presented MetWorks Pure Water Southern California (Pure Water) Networking in an in-person event at the Carson Event Center. Over 520+ attendees, including exhibitors like Metropolitan's Business Outreach Program, Pure Water Southern California Program, Metropolitan's Construction Management and Metropolitan's Project Labor Agreement, West Basin Municipal Water District, Los Angeles County Sanitation District, and various construction and contractor companies participated in making the event a success. The event focused on a morning agenda to provide the construction and consulting community an opportunity to foster partnerships and business networking while learning about the status, scope, and schedule for a Progressive Design-Build contract opportunity for the Pure Water Program's Advanced Water Purification Facility RFQ. The total value of the new treatment facility is approximately \$2 billion, with multiple contract awards expected. Presenters included Mayor Lula Davis-Holmes - City of Carson, E.J. Caldwell – General Manager, West Basin Municipal Water District, Sam Espinoza - Engineering Department Head, Los Angeles County Sanitation District, Dennis Erdman – Metropolitan Director, Adel Hagekhalil – General Manager, Metropolitan, Bruce Chalmers – Pure Water Southern California Program Manager, and John Vrsalovich – Construction Contracts, Unit Manager.





On March 14, Business Outreach Staff attended the National Association Women Business Owners "Elected Voices, Empowered Women: An Awards Dinner of Distinction." The events showcase featured a panel of Orange County legislators addressing the critical issues faced by women business owners today. Panelists included Assemblywoman Laurie Davies and Mayor of Irvine Farrah Khan.

On March 14, 2024, Business Outreach staff attended Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) Certification Workshop and spoke on Metropolitan's Business Outreach Program. Additionally, Metro provided an overview of the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program and Metro's Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program, including general eligibility requirements, benefits of certification, selecting the correct NAICS codes for your business, and calculating your Personal Net Worth. Metro provided a B2G Online Application Overview and is available for technical assistance with the DBE/SBE B2G Online Application. High-Speed Rail and the County of Los Angeles attended and spoke briefly about upcoming projects, additional certifications, and doing business with their agencies as a small business.



March 20, Business Outreach Staff participated in a panel presentation with the Construction Management Association of America – Los Angeles Chapter. The presentation discussion focused on construction opportunities for Small/Disadvantaged/Women/Minority/Disabled Veteran Businesses.

The panel participants included the Metropolitan Water District, the Port of Los Angeles, METRO, The Los Angeles World Airport and the Los Angeles Community College District; about 200 businesses attended the event.



On March 21, Business Staff, along with the Government and Legislative Staff, attended the United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley State of the County Luncheon & Board Installation. County Board of Supervisors Horvath and Barger spoke at the event.



On March 27, Business Outreach staff attended as an exhibitor at the Asian Business Association of Orange County Small Business Development Day (SBDD) in Irvine, CA. The SBDD allows small businesses to network and learn how to work with alternative funding services to support their business needs.

Tribal Engagement and Workforce Development

On March 14, a team of the Metropolitan Lake Skinner managers and technicians toured the Pechanga Nation's water treatment plant, distribution system infrastructure, and storage facilities. This is a continuing effort to assist tribal communities in improving their water systems. The inspection identified potential areas for improvement in maintenance protocols, leak detection, and system efficiency. Tribal water system operators and Lake Skinner personnel engaged in open discussions concerning best practices for system operation, data analysis, and preventative maintenance. District personnel also shared potential grant opportunities, technical training programs through organizations like the American Water Works Association. Metropolitan's apprenticeship program was also shared as an option for the Pechanga youth to enhance water system management knowledge and skills.