



## Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation

### • Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Office Group Monthly Activities

#### Summary

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Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Office January 2024 Monthly Activities

#### Purpose

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To report on Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Office January 2024 Monthly Activities

#### Detailed Report

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#### SRI Core Activities

##### Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) Joint Task Force

On January 18, 2024, the CAMP4W Task Force discussed draft Time-Bound Targets that will guide planning and development to ensure water supply reliability, resilience, financial sustainability, affordability, and equity in the face of climate change.

Time-Bound Targets are meant to address various aspects of climate adaptation efforts, such as core supply, conservation, storage, water quality, equity, and affordability. These targets are an ongoing process, subject to adjustment and refinement over time based on evolving conditions and supply-demand projections. The plan's success is essential for Metropolitan's mission in changing climate conditions.

##### Los Angeles Waterkeeper—MWD Advocacy Training Workshop: Building a Water-Resilient Future

On January 24, 2024, Chief SRI Officer and several other Metropolitan staff presented at a training workshop hosted by LA Waterkeeper. The Workshop included 35–40 representatives from environmental and community-based organizations and was aimed at educating participants about Metropolitan's structure, policies, and processes to better engage in our board meetings and initiatives.



Chief SRI Officer Presenting at the Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Metropolitan Advocacy Training Workshop

## Board Report

### Equity, Inclusion and Affordability Committee Panel on Affordability

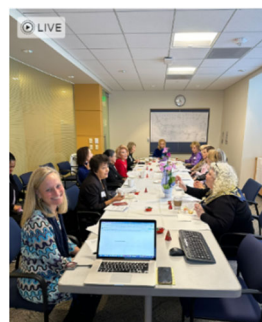
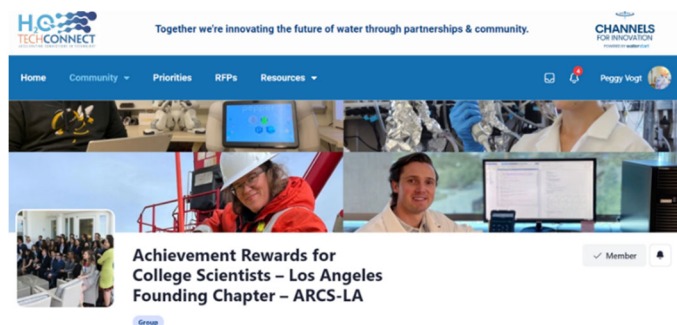
The SRI office coordinated with groups across the district to organize this month's Panel on Affordability for the Board Equity, Inclusion and Affordability Committee. This fourth in a series of five panels was in response to the Board's request for affordability discussions to inform the CAMP4W process. This month's panel focused on increasing the understanding of cost containment strategies while addressing water affordability challenges. Panelists included San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) representatives, the University of California Los Angeles' Human Right to Water Lab, and One Water Econ. The panelists shared aspects of SFPUC's new Affordability Policy, novel affordability assessment metrics, recommendations to support Prop 218 reform, and a statewide Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program.

### Centralized Grants Management Office

SRI staff assisted many groups, including Engineering, WSO, Fleet, Security, and Pure Water of Southern California (PWSC), to identify potential future funding and eligibility. SRI Staff is finalizing the MyLearning training for the Centralized Grants Management Office (CGMO) includes detailed descriptions of grant life cycle activities and will be available to all Metropolitan staff in the coming months. SRI staff continues to gain expertise on eCivis and is exploring options to incorporate budgeting software Qwestica to include more project cost data. Staff assisted the PWSC team in developing and submitting a Feasibility Study to USBR as required for the \$125 million Large Scale Water Recycling Program grant application. Staff is also assisting the PWSC team in developing and coordinating the \$5 million grant agreement from USBR for PWSC Planning. Staff is scheduled to meet with other agencies on potential workforce development funding.

### Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies Update

#### Partnership with Achievement Rewards for College Scientists and TEDx Manhattan Beach



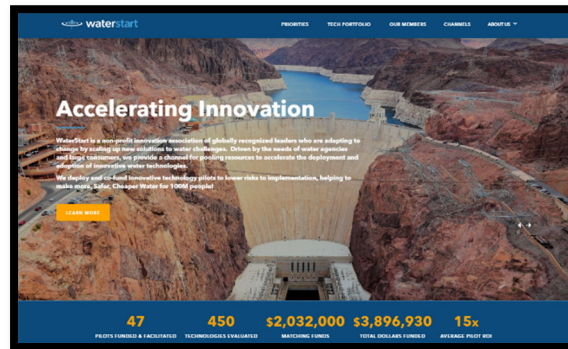
SRI's Innovation Team, Engineering, Water Quality, Operations, IT and HR Teams, and LADWP's Water Innovation Team continued support for Innovation and welcomed ARCS-LA members to Metropolitan on January 18. ***The Featured Speaker was ARCS Member and CEO of TEDx Manhattan Beach, Kate Bergin.*** Kate has been a part of TEDxManhattanBeach for 13 years, curating and helping speakers develop their ideas into compelling TEDx talks for their annual event every November. TEDx is part of TED, a nonprofit committed to spreading great ideas through storytelling. TED stands for technology, entertainment, and design, and TED talks cover many topics. Kate and the TEDx team will be doing workshops with SRI Innovation next month. SRI Innovation Team and LADWP WIT Team are on the Board of the ARCS Foundation, which is a national nonprofit volunteer women's organization that promotes US competitiveness by providing financial awards to academically outstanding scholars studying to complete degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), and health disciplines at 49 of the nation's leading research universities. The organization has awarded over \$150 million to more than 10,500 scholars since 1958. ARCS Foundation Scholars have produced thousands of research publications and patents, secured billions in grant funding, started science-related companies, and played a significant role in teaching and mentoring young people in the STEM pipeline. Southern California Chapter Universities include California Institute of Technology; Harvey Mudd College; University of California,

## Board Report

Los Angeles; Pomona College; University of Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering; Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California; University of California, Irvine; Scripps Institution of Oceanography; University of California, San Diego, and other top research universities in the region.

### WaterStart Pilots and Strategic Planning Workshop

SRI's Innovation Team, Bay Delta Team, WRM, Engineering, Water Quality, Operations, IT, and LADWP's Water Innovation Team (WIT) welcomed WaterStart and Innovation Partners to a Pilots and Strategic Planning Workshop at Metropolitan on January 31. As a member of WaterStart, Metropolitan's member benefits include Peer to Peer Global-facilitated discussions and presentations among members and sharing new technologies or discoveries that benefit all members and the water industry; co-funded pilots; H2O TECHCONNECT/Channels for Innovation joint community; global partnerships; and many more benefits. The following RFP for water technologies will be sent out in February.



### WaterStart and Innovation Partners to a Pilots and Strategic Planning Workshop

## Environmental Planning Section

### Core Business: Environmental Planning and Regulatory Compliance Support

#### Bay Delta Initiatives

##### Delta Conveyance Project

- Continued coordination with the California Department of Water Resources for ongoing permitting efforts for Public Water Agencies.

##### Webb Tract Multi-Benefit Mosaic Landscape Project

- Continued preparation of the Aquatic Resources Delineation Report.

#### Engineering Services Group

##### Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project

- Finalized and released for public review the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Initial Study for the project.

##### Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Rehabilitation Program

- Continued construction monitoring and mitigation compliance for PCCP Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B.
- Continued construction monitoring for the Lake Mathews Valve Storage Building project.
- Provided environmental planning support for the urgent relining of the Allen McCulloch Pipeline.
- Reviewed the Sepulveda Feeder North Reach PCCP Rehabilitation Preliminary Design Report.

##### Pure Water Southern California

- Continued tribal cultural resource consultation and preparation of technical studies, including conducting surveys in support of the draft EIR.

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- Reviewed revised data for incorporation into technical studies and the draft EIR.
- Provided input on Large-Scale Water Recycling Project grant application.
- Completed review of draft technical studies and memoranda regarding biological resources, noise, transportation, and health risk assessment.
- Reviewed conceptual facilities plan.

### **Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Program**

- Continued preparation of the final program EIR, which includes the findings of fact, statement of overriding considerations, responses to comments, and mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP).

### **Construction Monitoring**

- Continued construction monitoring and mitigation compliance for the Weymouth Basins 5 to 8 Rehabilitation and La Verne Shops Upgrades projects and the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Structural Protection Program.

### **External Affairs Group**

- Staff participated in the monthly meeting of the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB) Natural Resources Task Force (NRTF).

### **Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Office**

#### **Climate Action Plan (CAP) Monitoring and Reporting**

- Continued data collection for and assisted in preparing the Second Annual CAP Progress Report.
- Continued monitoring for the Battery Energy Storage System project operation in compliance with the CAP Program EIR MMRP.
- Assisted in Scope 3 emissions data collection and review of the natural gas inventory equipment report.

### **Water System Operations Group**

- Provided environmental analysis and clearance for the following:
  - West Valley Feeder No. 2, Upper Feeder, San Jacinto Pipeline, and CRA shutdowns
  - Santa Monica Feeder urgent meter replacement
  - Bull Creek (Jensen Water Treatment Plant) stormwater drain repair
  - Santiago Lateral Spillway dewatering
  - Copper Basin tree trimming
- Monitored construction activities and prepared and submitted post-construction reporting in compliance with regulatory permits for the Foothill Feeder Station 592+80 cut-off wall emergency repair.
- Conducted hydroseeding in compliance with post-construction regulatory permitting requirements for the Foothill Feeder exposed barrel emergency repair.



**Hydroseed Application for the Foothill Feeder Exposed Barrel Repair Project**

## Board Report

### **Reserve Management**

#### **Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve**

- Removed fencing associated with encroachment by adjacent property owners.
- Conducted comprehensive security patrols throughout the Reserve to prevent trespassing, vandalism, poaching, and theft and to protect the Reserve's natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment.

#### **Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve**

- Started processing data and preparing report associated with the annual Christmas bird count hosted at the Reserve on December 19, 2023.
- Removed non-native plants along Reserve roads for fire and habitat management.
- The Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center was open on Saturdays.
- Conducted comprehensive security patrols throughout the Reserve to prevent trespassing, vandalism, poaching, and theft and to protect the Reserve's natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment.



**Mule deer on Southwestern Riverside Multi-Species Reserve near Lake Skinner**

### **External Document Reviews**

- Reviewed five CEQA notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and operations.

### **Real Property Support**

- Provided CEQA analysis and determinations in support of three real property agreements.

### **Land Management**

- Commenced discussions with the two RFP finalists interested in constructing and operating solar farms in the Palo Verde Mesa region. Analysis of the final and best offers to be completed this month and followed by the commencement of final negotiations.
- Staff processed a new five-year license agreement with the University of California at Davis (UC Davis). The license allows UC Davis to continue accessing Metropolitan's Bay Delta Islands for research purposes, entailing water conservation practices by agricultural tenants participating in the Delta Conservancy's Delta Drought Response Pilot Program. The new license replaces a research agreement that was executed in 2017.
- Lease amendments were executed to extend the tenancies on Bacon Island and Bouldin Island East for an additional one-year period. Staff is continuing to assess the feasibility of rice farming and other uses at both locations, and the one-year extensions are designed to synch up with the timeline for consummating new long-term leases in 2025.