



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- **DEI Activities for January 2024**

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

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

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Activities for January 2024

National Climate Justice Campaign

During a launch event on MLK Day weekend, Metropolitan was announced as one of the sponsors of the Climate Justice Campaign hosted by Tavis Smiley on KBLA Talk 1580 AM radio station. Our engagement in this campaign provides a national platform for Metropolitan to uniquely reach communities of color with our conservation messaging and to highlight the critical issues at the intersection of water and the diverse communities we serve, including issues of environmental justice. The year-long initiative, which is a partnership between External Affairs and DEI Office, will include many on-air mentions of Metropolitan as well as providing a national platform to highlight our own talent and thought leadership in water.



Business Outreach & Community Engagement

On Monday, January 22, Metropolitan hosted the inaugural meeting of the California Plan. The California Plan is a consortium of California-based signatories on the national Equity in Infrastructure Pledge who are coming together to strategize around how we can better partner and leverage knowledge and resources to increase procurement opportunity to historically underutilized businesses (HUBs). Partnering organizations that joined the inaugural meeting at Metropolitan included Metro, Port of Long Beach, and Port of Los Angeles, among many others. Opening remarks were delivered virtually by California Secretary of Transportation Toks Omishakin. This is the first meeting of many to come as we align our efforts to make good on locally implementing the national EIP pledge.



Tribal Engagement and Workforce Development



Engaging with our Tribal Communities

On January 10, DEI supported the *Parker 400*, an annual event that attracts scores of people to Parker, AZ, creating an opportunity for businesses to highlight their offerings and for community engagement. As part of the event, the Parker High Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department held a fundraiser to purchase welding supplies that will be used to educate students. The DEI Team co-sponsored the fundraiser, and Gina Chavez was present to raise awareness around Metropolitan's career opportunities, specifically the 2024 apprenticeship opportunity. Many of the CTE students recognized Gina from our December resume workshop presented to Parker HS students and CRIT community members, in which we assisted in resume writing, interviewing, and exploring Metropolitan's career website.

DEI staff together with SRI staff met with the Chemehuevi Environmental department to continue discussions on Chemehuevi's plan on interconnecting with Metropolitan's transmission line for the Chemehuevi's planned solar farm project. The tribe aims to generate a 200-plus MW solar storage project of clean, renewable energy for their community and contribute to a greener future. The Chemehuevi is currently in discussions with AES Clean Energy as the potential project developer. Interconnection with the transmission line is crucial for realizing the full potential of this project and bringing its numerous benefits to fruition.

Pre-Apprenticeship Support for Candidates

Following validation of the Metropolitan Apprenticeship test, DEI has partnered with IE Works to offer a free online pre-apprenticeship workshop for interested candidates, consisting of individual modules that focus on each of the areas covered by the apprenticeship test. DEI will market the workshop to all of its external partners as well as tribal communities and high schools in underrepresented areas, and the workshop will be offered in spring 2024 (and, if necessary, summer 2024) to align with Apprenticeship application and testing dates.

On Wednesday, January 31, Metropolitan Business Outreach's Staff attended the Los Angeles Area Chamber's "Get in the Game" partners meeting. The meeting provided an overview of this initiative and its goals around inclusive procurement and supplier development. Additionally, the meeting provided Best Practices around procurement innovation with the many partners of the Chamber's Small Business initiatives.