



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Group (REVISED)

• SRI Monthly Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of SRI activities for the month of June 2026.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Goal: Execute CAMP4W Implementation Strategy to Integrate Climate Adaptation District-wide

Representatives of the CAMP4W staff leadership team – staff from the Office of the General Manager, Integrated Operations Planning & Support Services, and Resource and Development (WRM) – will be meeting with member agencies to receive their input on the CAMP4W decision-making framework. Staff will use the information provided by the member agencies during those meetings to shape the framework that will be considered by Board and could ultimately be used to generate information that supports the Board's decisions, including on continued design of Pure Water Southern California and Sites Reservoir.

Goal: Decide on Sites Reservoir and Protect Bay-Delta Interests

- **Implement risk reduction strategies to protect Delta assets and minimize supply disruption**

For the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project, Environmental Planning staff continued preparing the preconstruction submittals in accordance with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Restoration Management Permit (RMP), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District Regional General Permit (RGP) 16, 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 representing Public Water Agencies in a coordinator role, working with the Department of Water Resources on regulatory permitting efforts.

Goal: Complete Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Planning for Board to Consider Pure Water Southern California

- **Complete EIR analysis and public process**

Environmental Planning staff assisted with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation large-scale grant invoicing and the preparation of the Proposition 4 grant application for the Pure Water Southern California Program. Staff also conducted biological surveys for the Pure Water backbone pipeline in support of future permitting and environmental documentation.

Additional SRI Activities

Date of Report: July 13, 2026

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Climate Action Plan

SRI staff attended the 2026 VerdeXchange Conference in Los Angeles, participating in discussions on clean energy, transportation electrification, climate policy, water sustainability, and emerging technologies. The conference provided opportunities to exchange knowledge with public and private sector leaders and to identify innovative practices relevant to Metropolitan's sustainability and resilience objectives.

SRI staff participated in a field tour of the Bay-Delta project facilities on Webb Tract Island, gaining firsthand insight into ongoing efforts to enhance water supply reliability, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The tour provided valuable context for understanding the intersection of water management, infrastructure resilience, and environmental stewardship.

Throughout the year, SRI staff actively participated in the Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA) WUCA Engineering Design Committee, collaborating with water utility representatives and technical experts from across the country to develop guidance for integrating climate resilience considerations into utility planning, design, and infrastructure investment decisions. This effort culminated in the release of the draft WUCA Climate-Resilient Design Guidelines in June for stakeholder review and comment.

SRI staff are working with Power Operations-Power Scheduling team and continuing greenhouse gas verification work with CARB-accredited [California Air Resources Board] verifier, SCS Global Services, on CRA wholesale energy data for CY2025.

The Chief SRI officer presented on a water resilience panel at Verde Exchange and moderated a panel on regional water supply opportunities at an LA Waterkeeper event at USC.

Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies

During the month of June, Innovation Unit staff participated in the Safety Fair at Lake Mathews to engage directly with field staff and continue listening and learning about operational challenges and opportunities for improvement. These conversations supported the Process Matters initiative by identifying employee-generated ideas for process improvements while also surfacing potential opportunities for future technology pilots.

The Innovation Unit also presented the Innovation Fund to senior operations leadership and plant engineering staff. These sessions introduced the pilot protocol and evaluation framework that will guide future pilot projects and provided an opportunity to solicit ideas for impactful technology demonstrations and operational improvements. Staff participated in the Imagine H2O Global Demonstration Day and the Ignite22 technology demonstrations held at AltaSea at the Port of Los Angeles. These events showcased emerging technologies from startups and innovators addressing challenges across water, energy, infrastructure, data analytics, and climate resilience.

In addition to technology scouting activities, Innovation Unit staff participated in a waterside chat at Ignite22 and presented at an ACWA Region 8 workshop focused on artificial intelligence applications in the water industry. These engagements highlighted opportunities for responsible adoption of AI-enabled tools to support utility operations, knowledge management, planning, and decision-making, while facilitating knowledge exchange with peer agencies and industry leaders.

The Innovation Unit also continued supporting the Enterprise Data Analytics Initiative and worked collaboratively with the Met Data Group to advance opportunities to improve Metropolitan's data maturity. Through ongoing coordination across departments, Innovation staff helped identify opportunities to strengthen data governance, improve data accessibility and consistency, and promote the use of data-driven decision-making.

Environmental Planning Services

Environmental Planning staff continued preparation of supplemental CEQA documentation for the PCCP Rehabilitation Sepulveda Feeder Reach 9 Project, as well as continued supporting 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 permits under the federal and state endangered

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species acts. Staff continued developing a mitigation approach for impacts to protected species from the project in coordination with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and continued coordination with USFWS on the conceptual mitigation approach. Staff continued to support activities at the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant, including planning efforts for the new building for the Interim Water Quality Laboratory Project and design support for the Weymouth Water Quality Lab Building Improvements Project. Environmental monitoring of construction activities continued for the La Verne Shops Upgrades Project, Sepulveda Feeder Reach 2 PCCP Rehabilitation Project, and the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project. Staff continued revegetation activities within the Orange County Natural Community Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan Reserve associated with temporary impacts from construction of the Allen-McColloch Pipeline 2024 urgent relining project.

Critical operations and maintenance activities were supported by the Environmental Planning Section. Staff provided CEQA and regulatory clearances and conducted preconstruction biological and nesting bird surveys for routine maintenance activities at water treatment plants and within the conveyance and distribution system throughout the service area. Staff provided subject matter expert review of the following legislative bills: Assembly Bill (AB) 1772 (Papan) – Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels; AB 1894 (Rubio) – Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water; AB 1960 (Bennett) – Wildfire Prevention Grants Program: identified cohesive fire communities; AB 2032 (Ransom) – Fish and wildlife: golden mussels; AB 2170 (Boerner) – CEQA: overburdened communities: notices and hearings: translations; and Senate Bill (SB) 1153 (Caballero) – Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water systems: wildfire. In addition, Environmental Planning staff continued bill analysis for AB 1881 (Ramos) – California Indian Freedom Act of 2026; AB 2218 (Kalra) – Water policy: California Native American Tribes; and SB 1326 (Wahab) – CEQA: Tribal cultural resources: mitigation measures. Staff worked closely with Legal and Legislative Services staff to participate in agency working groups, attend meetings with bill authors and sponsors, and provide proposed edits and amendments to the bills. Finally, EPS staff conducted a site visit of the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, the world's largest wildlife overpass. The crossing spans Highway 101 in Agoura Hills and is designed to reconnect fragmented habitats in the Santa Monica Mountains and Simi Hills, saving local wildlife – particularly mountain lions – from extinction and drastically reducing highway collisions. Staff learned about the design, permitting, construction, and maintenance challenges encountered during the design and construction of the crossing from project staff with the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans).



Environmental Planning Section at the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing

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The Environmental Planning Section continued oversight of reserve management activities to protect valuable natural resources and meet Metropolitan's mitigation obligations. Security patrols and fence repairs were conducted throughout the Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve and the Southwestern Riverside County Multiple 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 managing invasive vegetation species in Riversidean alluvial sage scrub habitat; supporting CalFire with training for controlled burns that reduce thatch/weed cover and flashy fuels and provide habitat benefits for the reserve; and collecting wildlife cameras to inspect the memory cards for the presence/absence of burrowing owls. Activities at the MSR included coordinating with researchers on the Reserve to conduct Quino checkerspot butterfly, rare plant, and white-tailed kite surveys; conducting weed abatement for fire and habitat management; and applying herbicide treatment for invasive plants. Lastly, finalization of programming, preparation of interactive displays, and site preparations were completed in support of the Summer Nature Festival, which was held at the MSR on June 6.

Land Management

A new lease has been granted to Lundberg Family Farms for the entire Bay-Delta Bacon Island with a term up to 15 years. The lease was approved by Metropolitan's Board in August 2025 to allow rice farming, which should lead to land subsidence benefits and other ecological improvements.

Cemex Materials has been issued a new license agreement for up to ten years to replace an expired lease near San Diego Pipelines 4 and 5 in Temecula. The new license was approved by Metropolitan's Board in January 2024 and allows Cemex Materials to continue using the premises as a concrete processing site with updated terms and conditions. The expired lease commenced in 1995.

The parking lease with Pepsi Bottling Group comprising a portion of the Box Springs Feeder right-of-way near Sycamore Canyon Boulevard in Riverside was extended for an additional ten years and subject to the reappraisal of the rent, which was memorialized with an executed lease amendment.

Staff coordinated the clean-up of unauthorized dumping sites in Eagle Valley and commenced the clean-up process at unauthorized dumping or encampment sites in South Gate, Long Beach, and Mentone.