



Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee

# Report on Water Affordability Panels and Recommended Actions

Item 6a

April 23, 2024

# Item 6a

## Report on Water Affordability Panels

### Subject

Report on Water Affordability Panels and Recommended Actions

### Purpose

To seek input from the EIA committee on proposed near-term and mid-term actions and discuss observations from the series of water affordability panels. Input will be incorporated into future CAMP4W discussions on affordability measures.

# Summary Observations from EIA Panels on *Affordability*

## August 2023

Panel 1: Discussion of member agency programs

## October 2023

Panel 2: Metropolitan's role in household water affordability

## November 2023

Panel 3: Regulatory requirements impacting costs

## January 2024

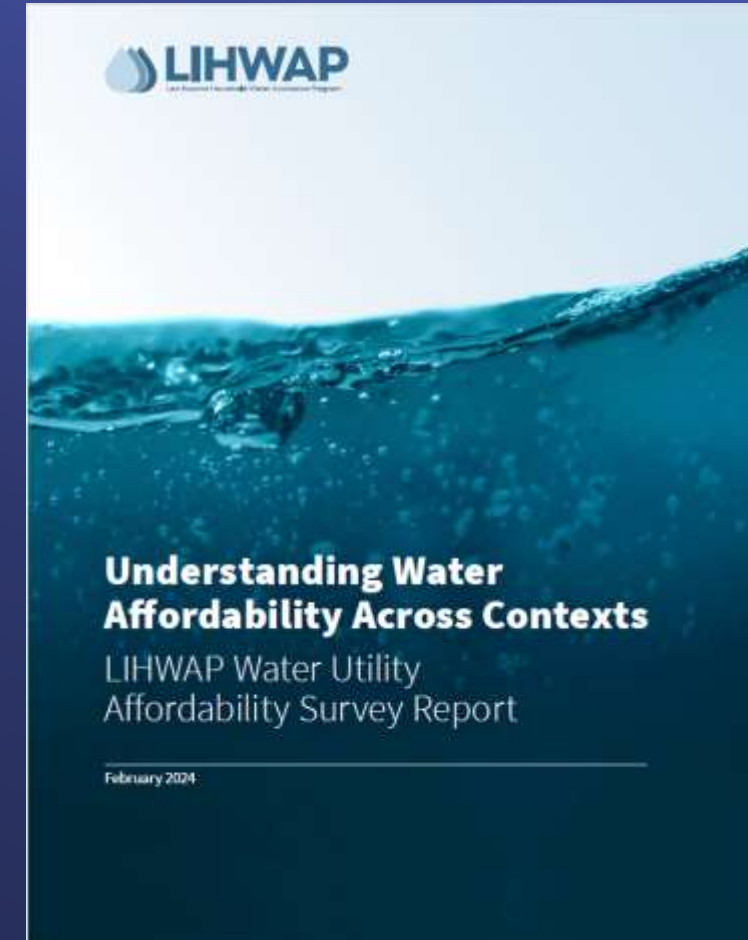
Panel 4: Metropolitan's efforts to contain/offset costs

This series of panels will inform the CAMP4W **first year progress report** for the Board, specifically regarding **the next steps for the coming year**



# Proposed Near-term Actions (2024)

1. Work with legislative sponsors to seek continuous funding for a statewide low-income rate assistance program (**LIRA**) and support federal legislation to seek continuous funding for the expansion of the existing Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (**LIHWAP**)



# Proposed Near-term Actions (2024)

2. Study the costs, benefits, and legal requirements of addressing water affordability challenges through a refined **Business Model** that values conservation and efficiency and deters waste.

## Explore

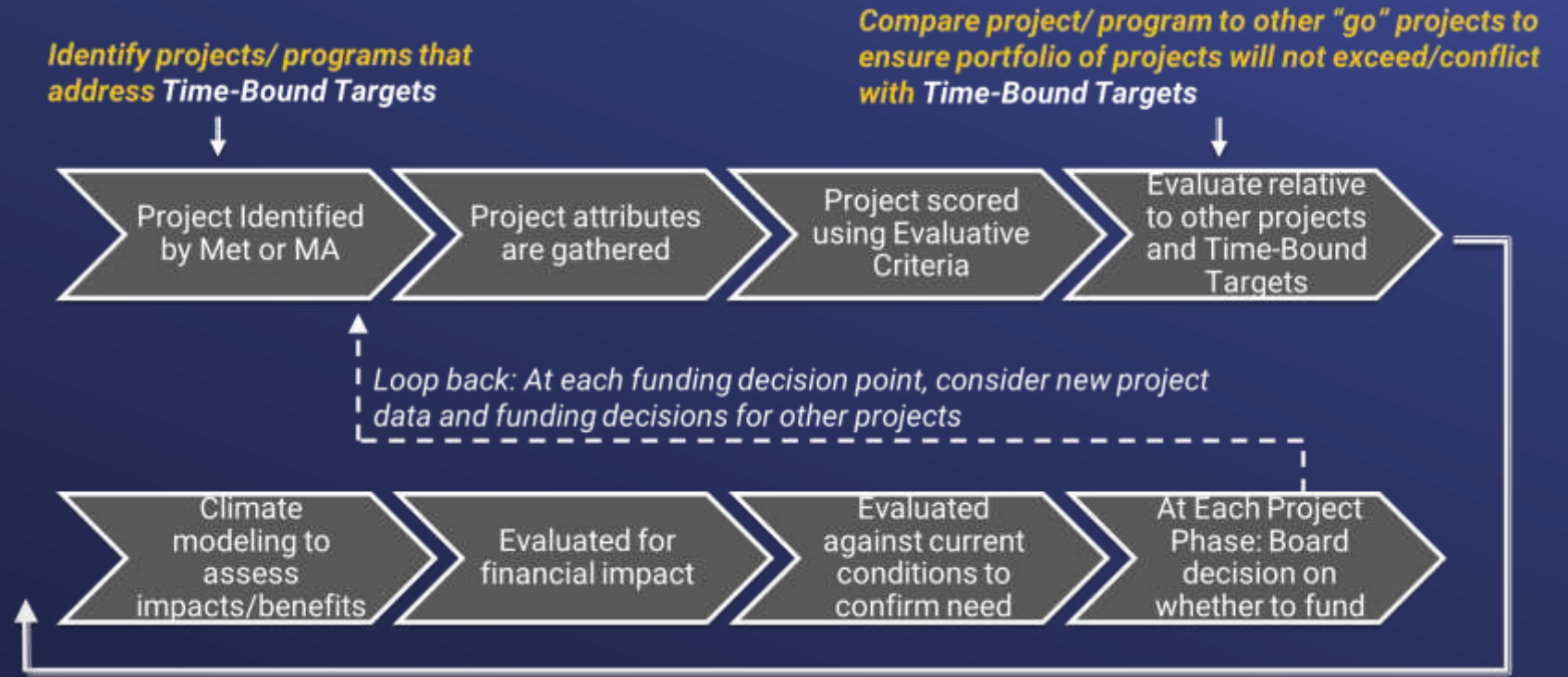
- Accounting the value of conservation & efficiency
- Cost-sharing and surplus water management
- Exchange of water resources and asset sharing
- Adjustments to rates and charges





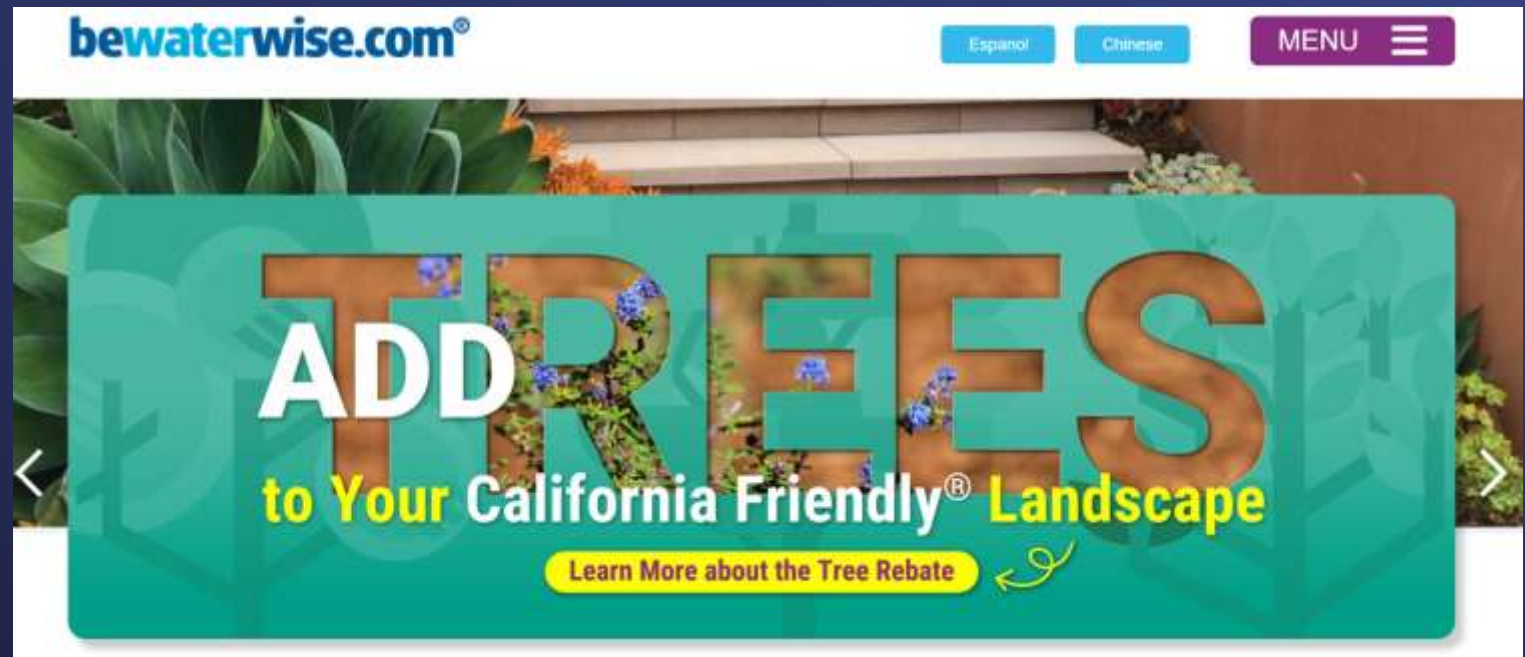
# Proposed Near-term Actions (2024)

3. Collaborate broadly to develop a time-bound target for **community equity** based on water affordability research to inform CAMP4W.



# Proposed Near-term Actions (2024)

4. Develop and promote water **conservation programs, rebates, and incentives** informed through research and analysis for low-income and disadvantaged communities (DAC), as defined in Water Code 79505.5, to increase program participation and regional water conservation.



# Proposed Mid-term Actions (2025+)

1. Develop a Metropolitan **Water Affordability & Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy** as a next step in CAMP4W, consistent with California state and federal EJ policies to inform community investment associated Metropolitan's projects and programs, workforce development, multiple benefits in infrastructure design, and public engagement.



30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Clinton signing the Executive Order 12898 - *Federal Actions to Address **Environmental Justice** in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* in 1994.





# Proposed Mid-term Actions (2025+)

2. Consider Metropolitan's role in facilitating **technical assistance** to Member Agencies and sub-agencies on **affordability measures** and **mechanisms** to incentivize conservation and reduce waste.



# Proposed Mid-term Actions (2025+)

3. Conduct community **equity analyses** on Metropolitan infrastructure investments, operations, and conservation programs.



Strategic Initiatives

## Equity Metrics Data Initiative

[Find out more](#)



# Proposed Mid-term Actions (2025+)

4. Explore legislative action to amend Propositions 218 and 26 to address the restrictions on water agencies' ability to **fund low-income rate assistance programs** for qualified ratepayers.



