THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Committee Item
INFORMATION

Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee

8/17/2026 Committee Meeting

6e

Subject

Pure Water Southern California Quarterly Update

Executive Summary

Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) continues to make steady progress in advancing environmental planning, research and testing, engineering and technical studies, and collaboration with member agencies and program partners. This report provides updates on PWSC with a focus on engineering, operations, and technology-related activities.

Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) assessments and information related to the applicability of PWSC as a component of Metropolitan's future supply portfolio will be reported to the One Water and Adaptation Committee (OWA).

Fiscal Impact

Not applicable

Applicable Policy

Not applicable

Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

By Minute Item 54371, dated January 13, 2026, the Board approved guiding principles for Pure Water Southern California partnerships, as amended (Item 8-2).

By Minute Item 54399, dated February 10, 2026, the Board certified the Final Environmental Impact Report and related CEQA actions, and approved Pure Water Southern California for CEQA purposes (Item 8-1).

By Minute Item 54430, dated April 14, 2026, the Board approved the FY 2026/27 and FY 2027/28 Biennial Budget (Item 8-1).

May 26, 2026, Subcommittee on CAMP4Water. CAMP4Water Assessments, Lessons Learned, and Low Regret Recommendations (Item 3b)

July 13, 2026, Update on Alternative Project Delivery Methods (Item 6a)

July 28, 2026, Board Workshop: Assessment of DPR Implementation Strategies (Item 5a)

September 2026, CAMP4W findings on integrated assessments for PWSC and other relevant assessments

October 13, 2026, Board information item on CAMP4W recommendations on no-regret options and upcoming PWSC agreements

November 10, 2026, Authorize start of design for PWSC projects; Amend the program management consulting agreement for AECOM and Brown & Caldwell Joint Venture for PWSC support

November 10, 2026, Approve LACSD Agreement Amendment for initial implementation stage; approve SNWA agreement amendment

Details and Background

Background

PWSC is a proposed partnership between Metropolitan and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Sanitation Districts) to beneficially reuse cleaned wastewater that is currently being discharged to the Pacific Ocean from the Sanitation Districts' A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility (Warren Facility) in the City of Carson for potable reuse. At full buildout, PWSC would purify up to 150 million gallons per day (mgd) at an advanced water purification facility (AWPF), making it one of the largest programs of its kind in the world. Implementation of PWSC would provide regional benefits to all Metropolitan member agencies by: (1) reducing reliance on imported water; (2) diversifying locally available supplies; (3) improving resilience to climate change and other stressors; and (4) enhancing operational reliability and flexibility. It is anticipated that PWSC would be implemented in stages.

In April 2026, the Board approved the 2026/27 and 2027/28 biennium budget, which includes $150 million for the design of the initial stage for PWSC. Staff will initiate this design upon board direction, following CAMP4W assessments at OWA.

Program Updates

The PWSC team was engaged in the following key activities during the last quarter:

- **Grant Status** – Staff continued coordination and grant reporting efforts with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the $125,472,855 Large-Scale Water Recycling Program grant and the $5 million WaterSMART Title XVI Planning Grant. Metropolitan has received approximately $28.7 million to date from these grants. Staff is working with USBR to amend the grant agreement to realign project scope and extend the period of performance. The $80 million state appropriation also supports the current phase of program work. As of the end of June, approximately $60.2 million of the state appropriation has been spent.

- **DPR Planning** – Staff has conducted a focused DPR study to assess the implementation strategies. Potential options were identified to match system demands, optimize infrastructure requirements, and minimize potential operational impacts. The preliminary findings and potential next steps were presented at a board workshop on July 28, 2026. Staff will incorporate feedback from the Board, member agencies, and the independent science advisory panel in the coming weeks and update the DPR study report.

- **Demonstration Testing** – Staff continued testing the indirect potable reuse processes, operating the tertiary membrane bioreactor in a nitrifying mode, and addressing various system maintenance needs. Staff also coordinated with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) to support the upcoming transition of MBR operations, and met with LACSD and Orange County Water District to explore future research collaboration opportunities.

  Staff have also been planning for expansion of the Napolitano Innovation Center for DPR testing. Market-sounding interviews were conducted with contractors to gauge industry interest in an alternative delivery approach, such as a Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC), for procuring and installing the DPR testing equipment and constructing the necessary facilities. DPR testing equipment will include membrane filtration, reverse osmosis, advanced oxidation by ultraviolet light, ozone with granular and biologically activated carbon, a lime stabilization system, and a carbon dioxide system. An advertisement for a CM/GC contract is anticipated this summer. Construction of the DPR testing facility is anticipated to commence in 2028. Information from the planned DPR testing will allow Metropolitan to assess both raw and treated water augmentation alternatives.

- **Design Development** – The PWSC Conveyance Facilities Conceptual Design Report for the entire conveyance system has been completed. In addition, preliminary designs of Reaches 1 and 2 through the cities of Carson, Long Beach, and Lakewood are underway. Preparation of bid documents for the AWPF

progressive design build and one or more Construction Manager/General Contractors (CM/GC) for the first two conveyance reaches is also underway. In addition, staff recently authored a technical paper and presented at the North American Tunneling Conference in Anaheim, which was also published in the June issue of the Tunneling and Underground Construction magazine.

Next Steps

Staff will issue an RFQ for a CM/GC contract to procure and construct the DPR testing facility. Staff will continue technical studies and coordination with member agencies regarding the initial pipeline reaches and DPR options.

Staff will also continue to advance the CAMP4W decision-support framework and discussion of possible PWSC implementation pathways, refine partnership considerations, and respond to board information requests. These activities are designed to provide key information to inform board decisions regarding PWSC in the near term. These CAMP4W assessments and recommendations will be reported to OWA.

7/28/2026

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