THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Group

- **SRI Monthly Activities**

Summary

This report provides a summary of SRI activities for July 2026.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

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

Staff updated the One Water and Adaptation Committee on CAMP4W Progress and presented the final Working Memorandum 11 on Lessons Learned and Low Regret Actions. SRI staff continues to collaborate on the implementation of climate initiatives including fire risk reduction at critical facilities, resilient infrastructure guidelines development, fleet electrification, and carbon-free energy opportunities.

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 Section staff continued preparing and reviewing preconstruction submittals in accordance with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Restoration Management Permit (RMP), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 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.

Additional SRI Activities

Climate Action Plan

On July 7th, Sustainability and Resilience (SR) staff facilitated the bi-monthly CAP Implementation Working Group meeting and convened Metropolitan staff from across various groups, including WSO, WRM, Engineering, and IT. Meeting attendees discussed ongoing work related to Climate Action Plan initiatives, including presentations from the Power Operations section on Energy and Power Market Operations at Metropolitan. In addition, a project update was provided on the Zero-Emission Vehicle Program on newly acquired electric vehicles and planned EV charging locations at Metropolitan facilities.

SR staff completed greenhouse gas (GHG) verification for Metropolitan's 2025 GHG Inventory report submitted for CARB's (CA Air Resources Board) Mandatory Reporting Regulation for Electric Power Entities. As part of verification required by state law, Metropolitan's CRA wholesale energy transactions were successfully validated by a third-party verifier for calendar year 2025.

SR staff visited the Metropolitan Water District's Webb Tract project site in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta to gain a firsthand understanding of the project's restoration goals and climate benefits. The visit included a review of existing site conditions, wetland restoration design, and the area's current ecology, while highlighting

how the project will restore wetlands to enhance habitat, improve ecosystem resilience, and sequester carbon. Staff also learned about the eddy covariance towers and greenhouse gas monitoring program used to measure carbon emissions and sequestration, providing valuable data to assess the project's long-term environmental and climate benefits.

SR staff facilitated a Peer Knowledge Exchange between the Metropolitan Water District and the Philadelphia Water Department, both members of the Water Utility Climate Alliance. The exchange focused on how water utilities are developing and implementing climate-resilient design guidelines to incorporate climate risk considerations into planning, design, and capital improvement projects. Participants shared lessons learned, implementation strategies, and practical approaches for integrating resilience into project delivery, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among peer utilities.

Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies

To roll out the Innovation Pilot Fund, the Innovation Team worked collaboratively with plant engineers, operations staff, and technical subject matter experts across the district to identify and develop potential pilot projects. These discussions focused on operational challenges and opportunities where emerging technologies could improve efficiency, reliability, safety, and resilience. Staff continued to refine pilot concepts and evaluate opportunities that align with Metropolitan's strategic priorities and operational needs.

The Innovation Team also met with external academic and research partners to advance the development of Metropolitan's Applied Data Science Fellowship. These discussions focused on identifying high-value project opportunities that would enable fellows to apply advanced analytics and machine learning techniques to real-world utility challenges while supporting Metropolitan's long-term digital transformation and workforce development objectives.

In addition, the Innovation Team continued collaborating with applied researchers to explore emerging approaches in climate adaptation and water innovation. These engagements examined opportunities to leverage new technologies, research partnerships, and interdisciplinary expertise to strengthen Metropolitan's long-term resilience and identify innovative solutions to evolving water management challenges.

Environmental Planning Services

For the Pure Water Southern California Program, Environmental Planning Section staff continued providing assistance for the preparation of the Proposition 4 grant application, completed biological surveys for the backbone pipeline and reported survey results to the USFWS in support of future permitting and environmental documentation, coordinated with the USACE regarding Section 408 and National Environmental Policy Act compliance, and met with City of Los Angeles staff to provide guidance on the Pure Water Los Angeles Environmental Impact Report. Environmental Planning staff also continued preparation of supplemental CEQA documentation for the Sepulveda Feeder Reach 9 PCCP Rehabilitation 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 CDFW and USFWS on the incidental take permits under the federal and state endangered species acts. The mitigation strategy, which is being developed in partnership with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, was finalized, and formal consultation with the USFWS has begun, with a Biological Opinion expected by September 2026. Staff continued to support activities at the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant, including construction phase support for the Weymouth Administration Seismic Upgrade 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. Staff participated in the Shutdown Project Manager training on July 13, presenting a module on environmental planning shutdown coordination. Staff provided subject matter expert review of the following legislative bill: Assembly Bill (AB) 53 (Ramos) – Native American Tribes: Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Mitigation Lands. In addition, analysis continued for the following bills, which have undergone amendment: AB 1881 (Ramos) – California Indian Freedom Act of 2026; AB 2218 (Kalra) – Water policy: California Native American Tribes; Senate Bill (SB) 1326 (Wahab) – CEQA: Tribal cultural resources: mitigation measures; and SB 1153 (Caballero) – Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water systems: wildfire. For AB 1881, AB 2218, and SB 1326, staff have worked closely with Legal and Legislative Services staff to participate in agency working groups, attend meetings with bill authors and sponsors, provide proposed edits and amendments, and review proposed amendments, as well as support the preparation of an informational July Board letter. Finally, Environmental Planning staff was asked to participate as a guest panelist at the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance Summer Issues Seminar on July 15. The panel topic was *California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Meeting All of Your Permitting Needs?* Other guest panelists included Wade Crowfoot (Secretary, Natural Resources Agency), Chuck Bonham (Executive Director, The Nature Conservancy), Kip Lipper (Office of the California Senate Pro Tem), Kim Delfino (President, Earth Advocacy), and Hollie Bierman (Director, Environmental Services, San Diego Gas and Electric Company).

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 Multi-Species Reserve (MSR) to prevent trespassing, vandalism, poaching, and theft and to protect the reserves' natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment. The annual work plans and annual operating budgets for FY 2026/27 reserve management activities were approved for both reserves. Specific activities at the Lake Mathews Reserve included invasive vegetation species management and wildlife camera collection to determine the presence of burrowing owls. Activities at the MSR included coordinating with researchers on the Reserve to conduct Crotch's bumblebee research, mowing and weed abatement for fire and habitat management, conducting herbicide treatment for invasive plants throughout the MSR, and planting mulefat and willow cutting at the Tucalota Creek restoration site. Lastly, the Summer Nature Festival, which offered activities including nature education, lake and water education, interactive displays, and games, was held at the MSR on June 6 with approximately 125 members of the public in attendance. Event participants included Metropolitan, CDFW, Riverside Conservation Agency, and the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency.

Summer Nature Festival at the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

Land Management

Southern California Edison (SCE) was granted a permanent easement comprising approximately 0.32 acres near the Upper Feeder. The easement will allow SCE to replace and maintain existing overhead transmission lines and electrical equipment as a critical component of the City of Riverside's Transmission Reliability Project.

Annexation

No proposed annexations were completed during the reporting period.