MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
Jointly with the
PLANNING & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
18700 Ward Street, Conference Room 101, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
April 6, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Teleconference Sites:
17420 Walnut Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
25652 Paseo De La Paz, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

This meeting will be held in person at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California, 92708 (Conference Room 101). As a convenience for the public, the meeting may also be accessed by Zoom Webinar and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as indicated below. Because this is an in-person meeting and the Zoom component is not required, but rather is being offered as a convenience, if there are any technical issues during the meeting, this meeting will continue and will not be suspended.

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Telephone Audio: **(669) 900 9128**
Webinar ID: **882 866 5300#**

P&O Committee:
Director Seckel, Chair
Director McVicker
Director Yoo Schneider

Staff: H. De La Torre, M. Baum-Haley, A. Crespi, C. Busslinger, V. Osborn, K. Pham

Ex Officio Member: President Dick

MWDOC Committee meetings are noticed and held as joint meetings of the Committee and the entire Board of Directors, and all members of the Board of Directors may attend and participate in the discussion. Each Committee has designated Committee members, and other members of the Board are designated alternate committee members. If less than a quorum of the full Board is in attendance, the Board meeting will be adjourned for lack of a quorum and the meeting will proceed as a meeting of the Committee with those Committee members and alternate members in attendance acting as the Committee.

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Public comments on agenda items and items under the jurisdiction of the Committee should be made at this time.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED
Determine need and take action to agendize item(s), which arose subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. (Requires a unanimous vote of the Committee).

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING
Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection in the lobby of the District's business office located at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California 92708, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the District's Internet Website, accessible at http://www.mwdoc.com.

PRESENTATION ITEM

1. 2025 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (UWMP) STATUS UPDATE

ACTION ITEM

2. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF K-12 WATER EDUCATION SCHOOL PROGRAM SERVICES

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. SOLE SOURCE – PROJECT WET (WATER EDUCATION TODAY) FACILITATOR TRAINING

4. QUARTERLY MWDOC K-12 CHOICE SCHOOL PROGRAMS UPDATE

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS HIGHLIGHTS

6. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORTS
   a. Ongoing MWDOC Reliability and Engineering/Planning Projects
   b. WEROC
   c. Water Use Efficiency Projects
   d. Public and Government Affairs

7. REVIEW OF ISSUES RELATED TO PLANNING OR ENGINEERING PROJECTS, WEROC, WATER USE EFFICIENCY, FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE, WATER STORAGE, WATER QUALITY, CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS, PUBLIC INFORMATION PROJECTS, PUBLIC INFORMATION CONSULTANTS, DISTRICT FACILITIES, AND MEMBER AGENCY RELATIONS

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: At the discretion of the Committee, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated, and may be subject to action by the Committee. On those items designated for Board action, the Committee reviews the items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors; final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Agendas for Committee and Board meetings may be obtained from the District Secretary. Members of the public are advised that the Board consideration process includes consideration of each agenda item by one or more Committees indicated on the Board Action Sheet. Attendance at Committee meetings and the Board meeting considering an item consequently is advised.

Accommodations for the Disabled. Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by telephoning Angela Crespi, District Secretary, at (714) 963-3058, or writing to Municipal Water District of Orange County at 18700 Ward Street, Unit B, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that District staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the District to provide the requested accommodation.

Item No. 1

PRESENTATION ITEM
April 6, 2026

TO: **Planning & Operations Committee**

FROM: **Harvey De La Torre, General Manager**

Staff Contact: Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Engineer

SUBJECT: **2025 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (UWMP) STATUS UPDATE**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Planning & Operations Committee receive the presentation.

REPORT

Purpose

This item provides an update to the Planning & Operations Committee on the development of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and the UWMP Shared Services Program, which includes 23 participating agencies.

Background

The State of California requires all water suppliers (including wholesalers, and either publicly or privately owned) that provide water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 customers or supply more than 3,000 acre-feet annually to submit an updated UWMP to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) at least once every five years; in years ending in six and one. To meet the requirements of the Urban Water Management Planning Act, MWDOC must adopt and submit its 2025 UWMP to DWR by July 1, 2026.

Discussion

<u>UWMP Shared Services Program</u>

In line with preceding UWMP cycles, MWDOC served as the project manager and coordinator for the UWMP efforts for both MWDOC and the participating Orange County retail agencies' plans. The 2025 UWMP Shared Services Program includes 20 MWDOC

member agencies and the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana. This UWMP cycle includes three new participants, compared with the 2020 cycle.

The 2025 UWMP Shared Services Program offers significant benefits, including economies of scale, reduced administrative burden, and consistent data and narratives between Metropolitan, MWDOC, and across local agencies. The base consultant fee is $1.06 million, with an amount not to exceed $1.42 million for optional and contingency tasks. For a typical agency, this translates into approximately 30% in cost savings compared to developing a UWMP independently. For example, a participating agency may pay around $40,000 in consultant fees under the shared services model, compared to $60,000 if developing a plan on its own.

MWDOC's Regional Approach

Since August 2025, MWDOC staff has worked with the consultant team - led by Carollo Engineers, CDM Smith, and Maddaus Water Management to provide key data, direction, and coordination among MWDOC, the participating agencies, and Metropolitan. The demand projections developed in 2025 in collaboration with MWDOC member agencies and the Cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana, with technical assistance from Hazen and Sawyer, served as the basis for the information in this year's UWMPs. The Orange County Demand Model provided a regionally consistent set of demand projections for all Orange County water agencies.

Similar to MWDOC's previous UWMPs, the focus of the analysis and information is at the regional level for MWDOC's service area. Specific information and data on individual member agencies will not be covered in detail in the MWDOC UWMP. Although information such as demographics, demand and supply projections, and new proposed projects have been collected from the member agencies to determine the overall total for MWDOC's service area, the member agencies' individual information will be contained in their own UWMPs.

This regional approach ensures coordination with the member agencies and helps to prevent conflicting information between MWDOC's plan and the member agencies' plans. More importantly, it distinguishes between the role of MWDOC as the regional entity and that of the member agencies as the retail entity.

Key Elements of MWDOC's 2025 UWMP

DWR released the Final UWMP Guidebook in February 2026. There have been minor changes to the Water Code since 2020 UWMPs were submitted, primarily definitions and language related to non-functional turf and urban water use objectives, and water use reporting were added. However, none of these changed the UWMP requirements for the 2025 UWMPs.

Key elements of the MWDOC 2025 UWMP include:

- **Water Use Characterization** provides historical, current, and projected water use by customer category for the next 25 years for MWDOC, and the demand projection methodology used by MWDOC to develop the 25-year projections.
- **Water Supply Characterization** describes the current water supply portfolio within the MWDOC service area as well as the planned and potential water supply projects and water exchange and transfer opportunities.
- **Water Service Reliability and Drought Risk Assessment** describes the assessment of the reliability of MWDOC's water supply service to its customers for a normal year, single dry year, and five consecutive dry years scenarios.
- **Demand Management Measures** provides a description of MWDOC's current and planned measures and programs to help the retail customers in its service area be water efficient and comply with their urban water use reduction targets.
- **Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP)** is a stand-alone document and a chapter within the UWMP that provides a structured guide for MWDOC to deal with water shortages, incorporating standardized action levels, lists the appropriate actions, and water use efficiency and water conservation measures to be taken to ensure water supply reliability in times of water shortage conditions, along with implementation actions in the event of a catastrophic supply interruption.

Next Steps

The Draft 2025 UWMP is expected to be available for review on April 20, 2026. MWDOC staff will present findings at the next Planning & Operations Committee Meeting on May 4, 2026.

The Public Hearing for the 2025 UWMP and 2025 WSCP will be held at the Regular Board Meeting on May 20, at which the MWDOC Board of Directors will also consider adoption. The deadline to submit the 2025 UWMP to DWR is July 1, 2026.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

☒ *Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
☐ *Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and OC values and interests.*
☒ *Strengthen communication and coordination of messaging.*
☒ *Work with member agencies to develop water supply and demand objectives.*
☐ *Solicit input and feedback from member agencies.*
☐ *Invest in workforce development and succession planning.*

Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: 2025 UWMP Status Update Presentation



2025 Urban Water Management Plan Status Update

MWDOC Planning & Operations Committee Meeting

April 6, 2026

UWMP Requirements

- **State of California, Department of Water Resources (DWR) requirement:**
  - **Who:** Every water supplier, publicly or privately owned, that provides water for municipal purposes to **>3,000 customers or >3,000 acre-feet annually**.
  - **What:** "UWMPs support suppliers' long-term resource planning to ensure adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water needs."
  - **When:** Every **5-years**, ending in 1 and 6, on July 1st.
  - **Why:** Statutory requirement in the Water Code. Non-submission impacts eligibility for state grants



MWDOC's Regional Approach

- **MWDOC's UWMP is a regionally focused plan.**
- **Provides analysis and information at the regional level**
  - OC Demand Model informed UWMP demand projections and supply analysis
  - MWDOC service area wide water use efficiency and public education activities and efforts
  - Coordination of Water Shortage Contingency Plans
- **Coordination among OC water agencies**
- **Coordination with Metropolitan**

UWMP Key Elements

Water Use Characterization	• Historical, current, and projected water use by customer category for the next 20-25 years
Water Supply Characterization	• Historical, current, and projected water supply portfolio + planned projects and potential supply for the next 20-25 years
Water Service Reliability & Drought Risk Assessment	• Assessment of water service reliability for 3 hydrologic scenarios: normal year, single-dry, and 5 consecutive dry years; focus on 2026-2030
Water Shortage Contingency Plan	• Structured guide to deal with water shortages, standardized shortage stages with implementation actions to augment supply and/or reduce demand
Demand Management Measures	• Documentation of water use efficiency program implementation; SBX7-7 recap

MWDOC 2025 UWMP Timeline

Activities	Anticipated Dates
UWMP All-Agency Kickoff Meeting (Shared Services)	Sep 10, 2025
UWMP Status Update #1 to MWDOC P&O Committee	Oct 6, 2025
Agencies Managers UWMP Update	Monthly
Internal Draft UWMP Release	Feb 27, 2026
UWMP Status Update #2 to MWDOC P&O Committee	April 6, 2026 ← We are here
Public Review Draft UWMP Release	April 20, 2026
Final UWMP at MWDOC P&O Committee	May 4, 2026
Final UWMP Public Hearing & Adoption	May 20, 2026
Adopted UWMP DWR Submission Deadline	July 1, 2026

UWMP Shared Services Highlights

23 Participating Agencies

- ✓20 MWDOC agencies
- ✓3 OC MET-member agencies
- ✓3 new participating agencies since 2020

Shared Services Benefits

- ✓Economy of scale yields ~30% savings on consultant fee
- ✓Lessens administrative burden for agencies
- ✓Shared technical knowledge and resources
- ✓Consistent approach, data, and narratives



Thank you for your attention.
Please **let us know** if you have questions.

Item No. 2

ACTION ITEM
April 15, 2026

TO: **Board of Directors**

FROM: **Planning & Operations Committee**

Harvey De La Torre, General Manager

Staff Contact: Tiffany Baca, Education & Workforce Development Mgr.
Sarah Wilson, Education & Workforce Development Supv.

SUBJECT: **AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF K-12 WATER EDUCATION SCHOOL PROGRAM SERVICES**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors award Orange County Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors a 2-year contract with the option for three additional 1-year renewals, to design and deliver a comprehensive regional K-12 water education school program, and authorize the General Manager to execute the contract.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

(To be determined at Committee Meeting)

REPORT

Purpose

This item requests the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) Board of Directors (Board) award a contract for the Choice K-12 water education school program services.

Background

The water education school program services utilize the Choice Program model, which allows participating retail water providers to opt into standardized education services

Budgeted: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		Budgeted amount: projected $525,029
Core: ☐	Choice: ☒	Movement between funds: ☐ Yes ☒ No
Action item amount: N/A		

delivered regionally. MWDOC serves as the coordinating entity, ensuring consistency in program design, messaging, and evaluation across agencies while allowing local participation based on funding decisions.

Discussion

Pursuant to Section 8000 of the Administrative Code, "It is MWDOC's policy that purchasing and contracting shall be conducted in a fair, open, and transparent manner so as to maximize benefits to MWDOC. All contracts should be reviewed and rebid at least every five years, except in situations with documented significant benefits to MWDOC." The MWDOC Choice School Programs contract last went out for competitive bid in 2021; therefore, a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process was implemented.

Staff prepared and issued an RFP for Choice K-12 water education school program services under the schedule below:

RFP PROJECT TIMELINE	
Task Item	**Completion Date**
1. MWDOC completion of draft in-house RFP	January 6
2. RFP release	January 9
3. Closing date for submittal of questions	March 5
4. Proposals due	March 12
5. Convene a review panel to review proposals and select candidates for interviews	March 13
6. Interviews with firms and review panel rankings	March 19
7. Recommendation to the Planning & Operations Committee	April 6
8. Authorization by MWDOC Board	April 15
9. Contract starts	July 1

Proposal Evaluation Process

On January 9, staff released an RFP seeking a qualified firm to provide design and implementation of Choice K-12 water education school program services (Attachment 1). As outlined, the scope of work sought firms to design and implement in-class, standards-aligned water education programs for MWDOC and participating water providers. Programs were required to deliver hands-on learning with a cohesive student experience before, during, and after the program, include clear implementation and evaluation strategies, and align with existing curriculum standards.

The RFP was sent directly to 11 firms and posted on the MWDOC website. Eight proposals were received by the closing date. All eight proposals met the initial qualifying criteria and were reviewed by the internal review panel consisting of representatives from the MWDOC Education and Workforce Development Division, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Moulton Niguel Water District, and City of Santa Ana.

The internal review panel met twice to review, rank, and discuss the proposals and approach. Panel members evaluated each firm based on demonstrated ability to deliver standards-aligned programming at scale, alignment with regional water priorities, implementation approach, and overall value. From there, two firms were invited for interviews. The panel ranked the firms independently and then met to discuss the results. Based on the combined rankings, Orange County Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors (ITO) was unanimously selected to provide comprehensive K–12 program services across all grade levels under a single regional contract.

Selected Firm Overview

Administered by the Orange County Department of Education, ITO has provided environmental education programming to TK–12 students across Orange County since 1974 and is the longest-running program of its kind in the county. ITO offers a standards-aligned K–12 water education program designed for MWDOC, its member agencies, and the Cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana, with curriculum sequenced across grade levels to provide a consistent regional learning progression. ITO was unanimously selected based on its prior experience working with water agencies, the quality and rigor of its standards-aligned curriculum, and its established capacity to deliver programming consistently across multiple participating agencies.

Next Steps

Staff recommends the Board of Directors select Option #1 to award Orange County Department of Education's ITO a 2-year contract with the option for three additional 1-year renewals, to design and deliver a comprehensive regional K-12 water education school program, and authorize the General Manager to execute the contract.

The projected amount for the FY 2026–27 Choice-funded K-12 program is $525,029, but may vary depending on actual provider participation. Choice-funded programs run on an annual cycle; the anticipated FY 2027-28 program budget will be based on participant selections.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- ☒ *Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
- ☒ *Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and OC values and interests.*
- ☒ *Strengthen communication and coordination of messaging.*
- ☐ *Work with member agencies to develop water supply and demand objectives.*
- ☒ *Solicit input and feedback from member agencies.*
- ☒ *Invest in workforce development and succession planning.*

BOARD OPTIONS

Option #1: Award Orange County Department of Education's ITO a 2-year contract with the option for three additional 1-year renewals, to design and deliver a comprehensive regional K-12 water education school program, and authorize the General Manager to execute the contract

Fiscal Impact: As a Choice Program, participation is determined by retail water providers that elect to fund program sessions within their respective service areas. The projected FY 2026–27 budget for the project is $525,029, but may vary depending on actual provider participation. Selecting this firm enables coordinated delivery of standardized water education programming, reduces duplication across agencies, and establishes a consistent regional platform for student engagement and workforce awareness.

Option #2: Do not award a contract to Orange County Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors to design and deliver a comprehensive regional K-12 water education school program.

Fiscal Impact: Without a contracted provider, regional water education efforts would be uncoordinated, resulting in inconsistent messaging, no standardized programming, and up to 50,000 Orange County students without access to water education resources and instruction.

Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: Design and Implementation of K-12 Water Education School Program Services RFP

MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TO PROVIDE

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF

K-12 WATER EDUCATION SCHOOL PROGRAM SERVICES

January 9, 2026

RFP NO. PA0109-001

Questions for Clarification Deadline: March 5, 2026

Proposal Deadline: March 12, 2026

Electronic submissions only. File attachments must be under 30 megabytes. For larger files, a secure file-transfer system is recommended.

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SECTION 1: NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

This Request for Proposals (RFP) describes the design and implementation of water education school program services for the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District), the required scope of work, the selection process, and the proposal requirements. Proposers are encouraged to carefully review this RFP, particularly the criteria outlined in *Section 5: Proposal Requirements*, prior to preparing a proposal.

Proposals (including accompanying materials) will become the property of MWDOC. Proposals will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. After a contract is awarded or all proposals are rejected, the proposals will become public records subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.).

MWDOC reserves the right to verify all information submitted; request additional information or meet with respondents; consider information beyond that provided in the proposal; amend this RFP or issue clarifications; reject any or all proposals; select the proposal most advantageous to the District; and negotiate with any qualified applicant. This request does not commit MWDOC to retain any consultants, to pay costs incurred in the preparation of proposals, or to proceed with the project.

Please submit all questions in writing via email to Sarah Wilson at swilson@mwdoc.com. For consideration, **questions must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 5, 2026**, with the subject line: "Questions for MWDOC RFP No. PA0109-001." All questions will be documented, and answers/clarifications will be posted on www.mwdoc.com/opportunities/rfps-rfqs/. Proposers should visit the website regularly, as responses may be posted before the deadline.

Proposals will be accepted until Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Electronic submissions *only*. File attachments must be under 30 megabytes to allow for email submission. Proposals must be emailed to Sarah Wilson at swilson@mwdoc.com with the subject line: **MWDOC RFP No. PA0109-001**. A confirmation of receipt will be sent. If you do not receive confirmation, please follow up prior to the submission deadline. Late proposals will not be accepted and will be automatically disqualified**.** For larger files, a secure file-transfer system is recommended. Assistance with large file transmission is available upon request.

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Section 2.1 DISTRICT OVERVIEW

MWDOC proudly serves safe, clean, and reliable drinking water to nearly 2.4 million Orange County residents through our 27 member agencies. Our service area spans the entire county, excluding the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana. However, all 3.1 million residents within the entire County benefit from our robust shared service programs and initiatives, including strategic planning and investments in regional water supply development, water use efficiency, public engagement, legislative advocacy, water education, and emergency preparedness.

Local water supplies meet more than half of Orange County's total water demand. To meet the remaining demand, MWDOC purchases imported water from the Colorado River and from the State Water Project in the north through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and distributes this water to its 27 member agencies. These agencies, comprising both city water departments and water districts, provide retail water services to the public.

A seven-member Board of Directors governs MWDOC, each elected by the public to represent a specific section of Orange County. Additionally, MWDOC appoints four (4) representatives to advocate for Orange County's water-related interests on the Metropolitan Board. Metropolitan is the nation's largest water provider, and MWDOC is the third-largest Metropolitan member agency. MWDOC holds key leadership positions on the Board, overseeing critical areas including finance, policy development, strategy, and implementation.

Additional information about MWDOC's programs and services can be found at www.mwdoc.com.

Section 2.2 MWDOC K-12 SCHOOL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MWDOC has helped more than 3.5 million students discover and explore the value of water across multiple subject areas. Our interactive K–12 Water Education School Programs connect water to science, health, history-social science, math, art, and more, all aligned with California state standards, curriculum frameworks, and guidelines. Offered as "choice programs," these sessions are funded by participating Orange County water providers who opt in to support water-focused lessons, activities, and guided instruction for Orange County students. The programs allow students to identify local and imported water supply sources, explore the challenges faced by local and regional water providers, and understand the importance of using water wisely, all at no cost to schools or families.

Section 2.3 MWDOC K-12 SCHOOL PROGRAM GOALS

The MWDOC Choice School Programs prepare students to understand how water, people, and natural systems connect and to apply that understanding to real-world decision-making. Lessons use water and environmental challenges as the context for learning, helping students investigate issues, analyze evidence, and design practical solutions that are memorable, simple, engaging, and accessible to all learners. Activities are hands-on, inquiry-based, and aligned with California standards, including the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Environmental Principles and Concepts (EP&Cs), to ensure program content remains relevant and connects with students' local communities.

Through this work, students grow into knowledgeable water stewards, thoughtful problem-solvers, and engaged community members who understand how policies, systems, and everyday choices affect the places they live. They also build the civic awareness and practical skills needed to become informed voters, resilient homeowners or renters, and residents prepared to support California's essential natural resource - water. Together, these experiences advance the program's core purpose: to develop environmentally literate citizens ready for civic participation and awareness.

SECTION 3: SCOPE OF WORK

MWDOC is seeking qualified firms to design, deliver, and evaluate a comprehensive regional K–12 water education program on behalf of MWDOC and participating Orange County water providers. The program will serve accredited public and private schools within MWDOC's service area, including the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana, and may explore expanding into other educational settings, such as Boys & Girls Clubs, homeschool groups, and other youth-serving organizations. Visit www.mwdoc.com/our-service-area for a service area map.

MWDOC anticipates awarding a two-year contract, with the option to renew for up to three (3) additional years at MWDOC's discretion. The scope of work includes program design, marketing, scheduling, implementation, and evaluation. One (1) or more firms may be selected to fulfill the requirements of this program. Upon completion of the RFP process, work will begin immediately to implement the education programs by the beginning of the 2026–2027 school year.

The scope of work described below constitutes the required services. Proposers may submit for all K–12 grade levels or for specific grade bands (e.g., any combination of K–12).

Proposers must describe in Section 5 of their proposals how they will meet each requirement in Section 3.

Section 3.1 K-12 WATER EDUCATION SCHOOL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The selected firm(s) will be responsible for delivering a complete, turnkey water education school program that reflects MWDOC's K-12 School Program goals and supports California's K-12 education system. All programs must be delivered on-site at eligible schools within the participating water providers' service areas. At minimum, the program(s) must include the following components:

3.1.1 PROGRAM DESIGN AND STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

a. Develop inquiry-based, grade-appropriate K–12 lessons and activities (or for grade bands defined by the proposer). Proposed programs should include learning outcomes for subjects such as science, math, language arts, social studies, and other relevant disciplines. All content should be simple, relevant, and memorable for participating students.
b. Align all curriculum with applicable California standards, including NGSS, EP&Cs, state curriculum frameworks, and guidelines.
c. Deliver instruction that is engaging, interactive, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate for diverse school settings and student populations.
d. Design a water-centric program that equips students to:
    i. Identify local water challenges.
    ii. Investigate water-related natural phenomena (e.g., filtration, runoff).
    iii. Recognize their personal and community connection to water.
    iv. Propose and evaluate solutions to water challenges.
    v. Explore water career opportunities.
e. Develop hands-on pre-program and post-program activities, with input and guidance from MWDOC, that directly support and extend the learning outcomes in item (d), ensuring a cohesive and comprehensive start-to-finish program.
f. Ensure all program messaging aligns with MWDOC K–12 School Program objectives and California K–12 academic goals, including civic readiness and career exploration.
g. Identify the grade levels most effectively served by the curriculum based on standards, frameworks, and developmental appropriateness.

3.1.2 PROGRAM MARKETING AND OUTREACH

Promote program participation to all accredited public and private K–12 schools in Orange County that are eligible to receive MWDOC Choice School Programs.

a. Work with MWDOC to develop inclusive, accessible outreach materials that clearly communicate program offerings, educational benefits, and alignment with California content standards.
b. Coordinate with MWDOC and participating water providers to ensure consistent messaging and brand alignment.
c. Provide and maintain an up-to-date database of school and teacher contacts, including (but not limited to) school names, grade levels served, teacher names, email addresses, and participation history. The consultant shall:
    i. Regularly update and verify contact information to ensure accuracy.
    ii. Use the database to support equitable outreach and program promotion.
    iii. Make the database available to MWDOC upon request and manage all data in compliance with applicable privacy and data-handling requirements.

3.1.3 PROGRAM SCHEDULING AND LOGISTICS

a. Schedule and confirm programs with all eligible schools to meet participation targets established by each participating water provider for its service area.
b. Maintain clear, timely communication with school staff before and after program delivery to confirm logistics and address any necessary follow-up.
c. Enter all scheduled visits into the shared digital calendar immediately upon confirmation, ensuring MWDOC staff, Board members, and participating water providers have real-time access to program bookings.
d. Ensure the program can be delivered in classrooms, assemblies, virtual platforms, or other formats as needed to scale instruction and reach large student audiences.

3.1.4 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

a. Deliver high-quality, hands-on water-education programs at no cost to schools or families.
b. Use trained educators capable of teaching large, diverse student groups and adapting instruction to school or classroom needs.
c. Provide all materials, supplies, and resources needed for program delivery.
d. Ensure instruction reflects local water issues and supports understanding of regional water systems and stewardship.
e. Deliver programs onsite or remotely, based on school needs and MWDOC approval; larger schools may require multiple presentations.
f. Use props, visual aids, electronic displays, costumes, technology tools (e.g., projectors, laptops, student response systems), and video resources to enhance instruction, ensuring all items are well-maintained and in good condition.
g. For K–5 programs, include MWDOC's mascot, Ricky the Rambunctious Raindrop^{SM}, in lessons and visuals.
h. Acknowledge MWDOC and the participating water provider(s) verbally and visually in all presentations, with logos prominently displayed.
    i. Print the MWDOC logo and the Family of Orange County Water Providers logo on all take-home materials and visual aids.
    ii. Include the MWDOC and participating agency logos in all presentations.
    iii. Submit all program materials for MWDOC approval to ensure brand and messaging alignment.

3.1.5 PROGRAM EVALUATION

Collect, track, and report program data to MWDOC on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis. Required reports must include:

a. Program Attendance and Participation Data: Information necessary to document participating schools, contacts, program delivery details, and student reach.

b. Performance Metrics: Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) measuring student proficiency, concept retention, engagement, and overall program effectiveness.

c. Teacher Evaluation Results: Measures of program quality, relevance, instructional effectiveness, and overall value, including tracking and reporting on teacher use of the pre- and post-program activities and their perceived impact on student learning.

d. Program Summary and Analysis: Program delivery metrics, student reach, outcomes, key findings, and recommendations for improvement.

SECTION 4: SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

Section 4.1 RFP TIMELINE

The following table identifies and estimates the dates/timeframe for receipt, evaluation, award, and implementation of this work. Proposers should note these key dates when preparing responses to this RFP.

TASK DESCRIPTION	DATE
RFP Release	January 9, 2026
Deadline to submit written questions	March 5, 2026
Deadline for submission of proposals	March 12, 2026
Firm Interviews	March 19, 2026
Firm selection and Board approval	April 6, 2026, and April 15, 2026
Contract Execution	July 1, 2026
Contract Term	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028

Section 4.2 SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

4.2.1 SUBMISSION METHOD

Proposals for **RFP No. PA0109-001 Design and Implementation of K-12 Water Education School Program Services** will be accepted **electronically only**. Proposals must be emailed to Sarah Wilson at swilson@mwdoc.com no later than **5:00 p.m. (PST) on March 12, 2026,** with the subject line: **MWDOC RFP No. PA0109-001**. A confirmation of receipt will be sent. If you do not receive confirmation, please follow up prior to the submission deadline. Late proposals will not be accepted and will be automatically disqualified**.** Please keep file attachments under 30 megabytes to allow for email submission. For larger files, a secure file-transfer system is recommended. Assistance with large file transmission is available upon request.

All files must be clearly labeled with the proposer's name, the document type, and the submission date. For example:

- **ProposerName_RFP No. PA0109-001_Proposal_2026-03-12.pdf**
- **ProposerName_Attachments_2026-03-12.pdf**

4.2.2 PROPOSER RESPONSIBILITY

It is the sole responsibility of the Proposer to ensure that the complete proposal, including all required attachments and addenda, is received by the deadline.

4.2.3 FORMAT OF SUBMITTAL

Proposals must be submitted as a searchable PDF to ensure readability and compatibility. All proposal materials submitted become the property of MWDOC.

4.2.4 AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

The proposal must be signed by an individual who is legally authorized to bind the Proposer to the terms of the submission.

Section 4.3 PROPOSAL FORMAT & CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

4.3.1 PAGE LIMIT AND FORMATTING

a. Maximum length: 30 single-sided pages (8.5" x 11"), excluding attachments.
b. Minimum font size: 11-point.
c. Margins: 1 inch on all sides.
d. All pages, including attachments, must be clearly and consecutively numbered.

4.3.2 ORGANIZATION OF PROPOSAL

Proposals must follow the order and structure of **Section 5 of this RFP**. Each section and subsection must be clearly labeled and correspond directly to the requirements listed in Section 5.

Section 4.4 PROPOSAL DEADLINE

All proposals must be received by **5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2026**. Proposers may submit at any time prior to the deadline. Proposals received after the deadline, regardless of the cause, will not be considered.

SECTION 5: PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must directly address the requirements of this RFP and demonstrate the proposer's ability to design, market, schedule, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive K–12 water education program. Submittals should be concise, well-organized, and demonstrate a clear understanding of MWDOC's goals and the scope of work.

Proposal evaluation will be based on the criteria in Section 6. Proposals that fail to meet all requirements listed below may be deemed non-responsive.

Proposals shall follow the structure and numbering outlined in this section.

5.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

5.1.1 FIRM OVERVIEW

Provide a brief overview of the firm, including background, mission, size, and primary areas of expertise.

5.1.2 CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

Describe the firm's capacity to deliver a turnkey K–12 water education program, including the proximity of staff and resources to MWDOC's service area.

5.1.3 PROPOSED PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Provide a high-level summary of the proposed program, including grade levels served, instructional model, and key components.

5.1.4 DISTINGUISHING QUALIFICATIONS

Highlight the firm's unique capabilities, innovations, or past experience that distinguish it from other proposers.

5.2 KEY PERSONNEL AND QUALIFICATIONS

5.2.1 STAFF BIOS

Provide concise biographies for the project manager and key team members, including relevant experience in:

a. K–12 education program development
b. Environmental or water education
c. Program management, scheduling, and outreach
d. Program evaluation

5.2.2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Identify each team member's role and responsibilities within the proposed program, including the primary point(s) of contact.

5.2.3 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Include an organizational chart showing reporting relationships, team structure, and communication flow.

5.3 TECHNICAL APPROACH

Proposers shall describe their overall approach to meeting the requirements in *Section 3: Scope of Work*, including program design, outreach, scheduling, implementation, and evaluation.

5.3.1 PROGRAM DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Describe how your proposed program will meet the requirements in *Section 3, Item 3.1.1*, including:

a. Alignment with NGSS, EP&Cs, California curriculum frameworks, and other applicable standards
b. Integration of Orange County water supply information and local water challenges
c. Exploration of water industry careers
d. Development of pre-and post-program hands-on activities
e. Strategies for inclusivity, accessibility, and developmental appropriateness
f. Proposed grade levels and rationale for selection

5.3.2 PROGRAM PROMOTION

Describe how you will meet the marketing and outreach requirements in *Section 3, Item 3.1.2*, including strategies, materials, and approaches to ensuring accessibility and inclusivity.

5.3.3 PROGRAM COORDINATION

Describe how you will meet the scheduling and logistics requirements in *Section 3, Item 3.1.3*, including:

a. Strategies for meeting participation targets across service areas
b. Communication with school staff before and after program delivery
c. Maintenance of a real-time shared digital calendar
d. Capacity to scale for classroom, assembly, and virtual environments

5.3.4 PROGRAM FORMAT AND DELIVERY

Describe how you will meet the format and implementation requirements in *Section 3, Item 3.1.4*, including:

a. Delivery models (classroom, assembly, virtual, hybrid, etc.)
b. Student engagement strategies (hands-on activities, demonstrations, multimedia, etc.)
c. Use of props, visual aids, demonstration tools, and technology
d. Integration of Ricky the Rambunctious Raindrop℠ (grades K–6)
e. Methods for verbally and visually recognizing MWDOC and participating water providers

5.3.5 PROGRAM EVALUATION AND REPORTING

Describe how you will meet evaluation and reporting requirements in *Section 3, Item 3.1.5*, including:

a. Proposed KPIs to assess student proficiency, engagement, and concept retention
b. Teacher evaluation methodology, including the use/value of pre-and post-program activities
c. Processes for collecting attendance and program data
d. Preparation of monthly, quarterly, and annual reports for MWDOC

5.3.6 READINESS TO PROCEED

Demonstrate the firm's ability to begin work immediately upon award and fully implement the program by the start of the 2026–2027 school year. Include:

a. Staffing and operational capacity
b. Implementation timeline
c. Anticipated challenges and mitigation strategies

5.4 SAMPLES AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Proposers should provide sample materials that demonstrate their ability to deliver the proposed program and meet the requirements in Section 3. Samples may include, but are not limited to:

a. Sample lesson plans, interactive activity descriptions, or instructional materials
b. Sample pre-program and post-program student hands-on activities
c. Sample outreach or marketing materials
d. Summaries of relevant past projects

Samples should illustrate grade-appropriate, standards-aligned, and engaging instruction that actively involves students and supports the learning outcomes described in Section 3.

5.5 COST PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

5.5.1 PRICING STRUCTURE

Proposers must submit a fixed cost per session for each grade level or grade band they propose to serve.

a. Only one (1) cost may be provided per grade level or grade band.
b. All proposed costs must be whole numbers (no cents).
c. Pricing must be fully inclusive of all costs associated with program delivery.

5.5.2 SUBMISSION OF MULTI-TIER PRICING (IF PROPOSED)

MWDOC's preference is for one (1) fixed cost per grade level or grade band. If a proposer elects to submit a multi-tier pricing structure, they must:

a. Clearly identify the tiers and associated costs
b. Explain the rationale for proposing a multi-tier model
c. Demonstrate why a single fixed cost is not feasible
d. Confirm that instructional quality remains consistent across tiers

MWDOC reserves the right to accept or reject multi-tier pricing.

5.5.3 GRADE LEVELS / GRADE BANDS

Proposers may submit pricing for:

a. Individual grade levels, or
b. Grade bands (e.g., K–2, 3–5, 6–8, 9–12).

Each must include one (1) fixed per-session cost, unless otherwise specified in *Section 5.5.2*.

5.5.4 SESSION DEFINITION AND STUDENT CAPACITY

A "session" is defined as a single program presentation delivered to one (1) class, group, or instructional block. Proposers must specify a minimum number of students per session. The minimum must be instructionally appropriate and feasible across diverse school environments.

MWDOC encourages the ability to serve larger groups to maximize cost-effectiveness, where appropriate. However, unless justified under *Section 5.5.2*, the per-session cost must not change based on group size.

5.5.5 COST INCLUSIVITY

The fixed cost per session must include all expenses required to deliver the program, including but not limited to:

a. Educator staffing
b. Instructional materials, props, and supplies
c. Curriculum development
d. Travel and transportation
e. Technology and equipment
f. Outreach and scheduling
g. Evaluation and reporting
h. Administrative and overhead costs

No additional fees or surcharges will be accepted.

5.5.6 MULTI-YEAR PRICING

Proposers must provide:

a. Firm, fixed pricing for the initial two-year contract term (whole numbers only)
b. Optional projected pricing for up to three (3) additional renewal years (whole numbers only)

5.6 STANDARD AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES

A sample of MWDOC's Standard Agreement for Consultant Services is provided as Attachment A. At the time of proposal submission, each Proposer shall be presumed to have read, understood, and fully reviewed all specifications and contract documents, including all Attachments.

Proposers must be capable of complying with all insurance requirements and Conflict of Interest Statements included in the Standard Agreement. Proposers shall review the Agreement and, in their proposal, identify any modifications necessary to ensure compliance.

If selected, the Proposer must satisfy all specified insurance requirements. MWDOC may, at its sole discretion, negotiate proposed modifications with the selected Proposer; however, MWDOC will consider all requested modifications during the evaluation process and reserves the right to reject any portion of, or all proposed modifications.

5.7 REFERENCES

Proposers shall provide three (3) references from municipal (preferred) or private clients for whom comparable services have been provided within the past five (5) years. Each reference shall include:

a. Organization name and address
b. Contact name and job title
c. Phone number and email address
d. Brief summary of the scope and scale of services provided
e. Metrics regarding the number of students reached
f. Evaluation results or measurements of learning outcomes

5.8 SUBCONTRACTORS

Proposers should clearly identify any services that will be performed by subcontractors. If subcontractors will be used to administer or implement any portion of the program, the proposal must include:

a. A description of each subcontractor's relevant experience
b. Identification of personnel assigned to perform the work
c. A summary of qualifications demonstrating the subcontractor's capability to fulfill the proposed scope of services

SECTION 6: SELECTION PROCESS

6.1 COMMUNICATION RESTRICTIONS

Under no circumstances may the Proposer contact any staff member other than the contact listed in Section 4 regarding this RFP, including for the purpose of discussing the RFP or clarifying any requirements. This restriction also applies to members of the MWDOC Board of Directors, the Boards of MWDOC's member agencies, and the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana.

Failure to comply with this requirement may result in immediate disqualification.

All questions regarding the scope of work, proposal requirements, or selection process must be submitted via email to the contact identified in Section 4 by the deadline specified in the RFP Schedule. Responses to questions, including any addenda, will be posted on MWDOC's website at www.mwdoc.com/opportunities/rfps-rfqs/.

6.2 EVALUATION OVERVIEW

Proposals must directly address the requirements of this RFP and follow the structure and numbering outlined in Section 5. Proposals that fail to meet the requirements may be deemed non-responsive and may not be considered further.

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

a. The written material submitted in response to this RFP
b. Any required interviews, presentations, demonstrations, or proficiency testing
c. References, samples, and supporting materials

Each proposal will be competitively evaluated on its strengths and weaknesses against the criteria in *Section 6.3*. Criteria are not listed in order of importance.

An evaluation panel will review all complete, responsive proposals and will recommend the firm(s) that, in MWDOC's judgment, are best qualified to design, deliver, market, schedule, and evaluate a comprehensive, turnkey K–12 water education program.

6.3 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation of proposals will include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following:

6.3.1 COMPLETENESS AND RESPONSIVENESS

Adherence to the proposal format and structure in Section 5 and inclusion of all required information, forms, and attachments.

6.3.2 FIRM QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Demonstrated experience developing and delivering effective K–12 education programs, including environmental and/or water education for school-age children, and relevant past projects and references (*Section 5.7*).

6.3.3 KEY PERSONNEL AND CAPACITY

Qualifications and experience of key personnel identified in *Section 5.2*, and the firm's capacity to administer, market, schedule, and deliver the proposed program at the required scale.

6.3.4 TECHNICAL APPROACH AND PROGRAM QUALITY

Strength, clarity, and feasibility of the technical approach described in *Section 5.3*, including the proposed approach to meeting the requirements in Section 3; program design and standards alignment; and overall instructional quality.

6.3.5 PROGRAM REACH, IMPACT, AND EVALUATION

Proposed student reach and participation across MWDOC's service area, use of pre- and post-program activities to reinforce learning, and the quality of proposed KPIs, evaluation methods, and reporting processes.

6.3.6 SCHEDULING, LOGISTICS, AND TURNKEY READINESS

Ability to manage scheduling and logistics in coordination with schools, MWDOC, and participating water providers; use of tools such as a real-time shared digital calendar; and demonstrated readiness to fully implement the program by the start of the 2026–2027 school year.

6.3.7 SAMPLES AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Quality and relevance of sample instructional and outreach materials submitted under *Section 5.4,* and evidence that the proposed program can actively engage and educate students in a grade-specific, age-appropriate manner aligned with California academic standards, frameworks, and guidelines.

6.3.8 COST PROPOSAL AND VALUE

Clarity and completeness of the cost proposal (*Section 5.5*), competitiveness of the proposed pricing, overall value to MWDOC, and reasonableness of pricing relative to the proposed scope, scale, and quality of services, including pricing stability over the initial contract term and any optional renewal years.

6.3.9 SUBCONTRACTORS (IF APPLICABLE)

Qualifications and experience of any proposed subcontractors (*Section 5.8*), clarity of roles and responsibilities, and the demonstrated ability of the combined team to deliver a cohesive, turnkey program.

6.4 SELECTION PROCESS

6.4.1 PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SCORING

An evaluation panel will review and score all complete, responsive proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria outlined in *Section 6.3*.

6.4.2 INTERVIEWS, PRESENTATIONS, AND/OR DEMONSTRATIONS

If deemed necessary by the evaluation panel, short-listed Proposers may be invited to participate in interviews, presentations, and/or demonstrations of their proposed program. Proposers will be notified of the format, content, and timing of any such sessions in accordance with the RFP schedule.

6.4.3 REFERENCE CHECKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The evaluation panel may contact references, recent clients, and/or the Proposer to obtain additional

information or clarification. MWDOC reserves the right to request clarification or additional details regarding any part of a submitted proposal.

6.4.4 NEGOTIATIONS AND RECOMMENDED AWARD

Following evaluation, the panel may recommend one or more top-ranked Proposers for negotiations. MWDOC may negotiate scope, schedule, and pricing with the selected Proposer(s). Any award is contingent upon final contract terms acceptable to MWDOC. MWDOC makes no guarantees regarding revenue, agency participation, or the level of participation in the program(s).

6.4.5 CONFIDENTIALITY

Proposals will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law until a contract is awarded. Once an agreement is executed, certain documents may be subject to disclosure under applicable public records laws.

6.4.6 FINAL APPROVAL AND CONTRACT EXECUTION

The evaluation panel will recommend one (1) or more firm(s) to fulfill the requirements of this RFP. The recommendation will be submitted to the MWDOC General Manager and Board of Directors for consideration. Upon approval, MWDOC will execute an agreement with the selected firm(s). Selected firm(s) will be notified via email.

If MWDOC and the selected Proposer cannot successfully finalize an agreement, MWDOC reserves the right to terminate negotiations and select another Proposer or withdraw the RFP.

SECTION 7: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

a. MWDOC and participating Orange County water providers may make inquiries as necessary to determine the Proposer's ability to provide services as specified. Upon request, the Proposer must submit all such information and data to MWDOC for this purpose. MWDOC may discuss or negotiate with one or more firms prior to award.

b. MWDOC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, either separately or as a whole, and accept any proposal presented which it deems best suited to the interest of MWDOC and participating Orange County water providers. MWDOC is not bound to accept the lowest price.

c. The cost for developing the proposal is the sole responsibility of the Proposer. All proposals submitted become the property of MWDOC.

d. Proposers must comply with all insurance requirements and Conflict of Interest Statements as stated in MWDOC's Standard Agreement (see Attachment A). Please review this agreement and note in your proposal if any modifications are needed to ensure compliance.

e. Be advised that all information contained in the submitted proposals may be subject to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.).

ATTACHMENT A: MWDOC STANDARD AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES

Please note any exceptions or amendments, if any, to the sample agreement attached.

Item No. 3

INFORMATION ITEM
April 6, 2026

TO: **Planning & Operations Committee**

FROM: **Harvey De La Torre, General Manager**

Staff Contact: Tiffany Baca, Education & Workforce Dev. Manager
Sarah Wilson, Education & Workforce Dev. Supervisor

SUBJECT: **SOLE SOURCE – PROJECT WET (WATER EDUCATION TODAY) FACILITATOR TRAINING**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Planning & Operations Committee receive and file the information.

REPORT

Purpose

This item provides information on the sole-source selection of Water Education Foundation to administer the Project WET (Water Education Today) Facilitator Training. As the sole organization offering Project WET facilitator certification, Water Education Foundation is uniquely qualified to deliver this training.

Pursuant to Administrative Code Section 8004, under the General Manager's authority, Water Education Foundation was selected to lead the full-day training, including travel, meals, and lodging, in an amount not to exceed $2,500 for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Discussion

The Municipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC) Education & Workforce Development Division links local K-20 education with statewide workforce development efforts, supporting water education and stewardship, career pathway exposure, and workforce readiness. Increasing local capacity to deliver high-quality, standards-aligned

Budgeted: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		Budgeted amount: $2,500
Core: ☒	Choice: ☐	Movement between funds: ☐ Yes ☒ No
Action item amount: $2,500		

water education programming is a priority. There are currently fewer than five active certified Project WET facilitators serving Orange County.

The Project WET Facilitator Training will expand MWDOC's educational capacity by building a network of educators, member agency staff, and community partners to deliver water education across the region. The training focuses on the *Water in Earth Systems* guide, which supports instruction from pre-K through high school and covers water conservation, water management, water quality, water supply, water use, and weather and climate.

The training will be held on April 9 in partnership with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and will include MWDOC Education and Workforce Development staff, as well as representatives from MWDOC Member Agencies, local education providers, and community organizations. It also supports a planned Orange County teacher training, in partnership with the Moulton Niguel Water District, on May 16.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- ☒ *Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
- ☒ *Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and OC values and interests.*
- ☒ *Strengthen communication and coordination of messaging.*
- ☐ *Work with member agencies to develop water supply and demand objectives.*
- ☐ *Solicit input and feedback from member agencies.*
- ☐ *Invest in workforce development and succession planning.*

Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: Sole Source Procurement Justification

Docusign Envelope ID: 5FB00515-7F79-4147-996F-93B76AE1F05E

MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY

*Sole Source Procurement Justification for Projects under $25,000**

A. Supplier Information/Name of Company and Prime Contact at the Supplier and at MWDOC: Project WET Facilitator Training, administered by Water Education Foundation

B. Actual Expense to MWDOC for Fiscal Year 2025-2026:
Not to exceed $2,500

C. Product(s) or Service(s) to be provided and Deliverables:
The Project WET Facilitator Training will certify participating MWDOC staff, member agency representatives, educators, and community partners. Participants will receive the *Water in Earth Systems* educator guide, featuring 23 adaptable, standards-aligned water activities for pre-K through high school. Upon completion, participants will earn facilitator certification, authorizing them to deliver the curriculum and lead future trainings, along with access to Project WET materials and instructional resources.

D. Justification Definition:
The Project WET (Water Education Today) Facilitator Training is a standards-aligned, "train-the-trainer" program and one of the most prominent, interdisciplinary water education programs available. It is widely recognized for its specialized, hands-on curriculum that prepares teachers, water professionals, and community leaders to teach water science, management, and conservation. With fewer than five active certified Project WET facilitators currently serving Orange County, opportunities to provide consistent, high-quality water education are limited. By certifying MWDOC staff, member agencies, and local education partners, the training will expand the pool of qualified facilitators who can train additional educators and increase the reach of water education, supporting MWDOC's education and workforce development goals through vetted, activity-based resources for classroom and community outreach.

E. Budget Line Item Reference & Amount:
7670-32 $2,500

F. Core or Choice designation:
Core

G. Signature/Approvals:

DocuSigned by:
E2E1AFF90BAF432...
Requestor — 3/24/2026 | 12:26 PM PDT
Date

DocuSigned by:
Harvey De La Torre
DB0E5C258E3B412...
General Manager — 3/25/2026 | 10:48 AM PDT
Date

* Projects over $25,000 must go to a Committee of the Board.
** Possible justifications include but are not limited to: Only qualified bidder; Proprietary item; Urgent necessity; Bid process did not produce competitors; Governmental agency, association or Utility; Prior phase of professional services contract completed successfully by same Consultant; and Special technical expertise by Consultant for tasks desired.

Item No. 4

INFORMATION ITEM
April 6, 2026

TO: **Planning & Operations Committee**

FROM: **Harvey De La Torre, General Manager**

Staff Contact: Sarah Wilson, Education & Workforce Development Supv.

SUBJECT: **QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY (MWDOC) K-12 CHOICE SCHOOL PROGRAMS UPDATE**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Planning & Operations Committee receive and file the information.

REPORT

Purpose

This item provides an update on the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) K-12 Choice School Programs, including currently scheduled visits for the 2025 – 2026 school year, program participation to date, and overall program performance.

Discussion

MWDOC K-12 Choice School Program contractors, *Shows That Teach*, and the Orange County Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors (OCDE/ITO), continue to schedule live, interactive water education lessons for the 2025–2026 school year.

Attachment 1 provides a three-month preview of scheduled school visits. The shared calendar is updated frequently and reflects the most current information available. Scheduled visits remain subject to change based on school and teacher availability. The calendar is updated regularly as new visits are confirmed.

The scheduling platform allows participating agencies to view visits within their respective service areas and opt in to receive email notifications when additional visits

Budgeted: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		Budgeted amount: $511,211
Core: ☐	Choice: ☒	Movement between funds: ☐ Yes ☒ No
Action item amount: N/A		

are added. For access to the complete calendar or to request notifications for the upcoming school year, please contact the Education & Workforce Development Division of the Public Affairs Department.

Attachments 2 – 4 outline participation progress to date for the elementary, middle, and high school programs, including student reach, teacher feedback, and additional program details. All MWDOC K-12 Choice School Programs include hands-on activities and pre- and post-program learning opportunities. A snapshot of overall program performance is provided below:

FY 2025-2026 Student Counts to Date*

Grade Level	Students Seen	Students Scheduled	Total
K-2	13,369	3,738	17,107
3-5	10,149	6,043	16,192
6-8	2,741	646	3,387
9-12	146	532	678
Total	**26,405**	**10,959**	**37,364**

*Scheduled student #s are based on school registration at the time of booking.

FY 2025-2026 Sessions to Date

Grade Level	Sessions Completed	Sessions Scheduled	Total
K-2	70	19	89
3-5	173	92	265
6-8	106	21	127
9-12	5	20	25
Total	**149**	**220**	**506**

Next Steps

MWDOC staff and program contractors will continue coordinating with schools to schedule additional K-12 Choice School Program visits for the 2025 – 2026 school year and will update the shared calendar as new bookings occur. Staff will monitor participation levels and budget utilization closely and bring forward any additional overage requests as needed. Ongoing program evaluation, including teacher feedback and performance metrics, will inform future program planning and resource allocation.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- ☒ *Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
- ☒ *Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and OC values and interests.*
- ☒ *Strengthen communication and coordination of messaging.*
- ☒ *Work with member agencies to develop water supply and demand objectives.*
- ☒ *Solicit input and feedback from member agencies.*
- ☒ *Invest in workforce development and succession planning.*

Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: MWDOC Choice School Program Calendar of Visits (March-May 2026)
Attachment 2: MWDOC K-2 Choice Elementary School Program
Attachment 3: MWDOC 3-5 Choice Elementary School Program
Attachment 4: MWDOC 6-12 Choice Middle and High School Programs
Link 1: Tijeras Creek Elementary Teacher Feedback - https://go.mwdoc.com/1fgqhW

MWDOC K-12 Choice School Program

MWDOC School Programs

Calendars

- City of Anaheim
- City of Brea
- City of Buena Park
- City of Fountain Valley
- City of Fullerton
- City of Garden Grove
- City of Huntington Beach
- City of La Habra
- City of Orange
- City of San Clemente
- City of Santa Ana
- City of Seal Beach
- City of Tustin
- City of Westminster
- East Orange County Wate...
- El Toro Water District
- Irvine Ranch Water District
- Moulton Niguel Water Dist...
- Santa Margarita Water Dis...
- Serrano Water District
- South Coast Water District
- Trabuco Canyon Water Di...
- Yorba Linda Water District

March 2026

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10	Mar 1, 2026	2 Gilbert School (3-5) San Juan Hills High	3 St. Columban Scho	4	5 Harbour View Scho Heritage Elementar Tijeras Creek Elem	6 Brea Country Hills	7
11	8	9 Westmont School (	10 Hope View School Don Juan Avila Sch	11 Meairs School (3-5) Peters 4-6 School	12 Lampson School (3	13	14
12	15	16	17 Reid School (6-8)	18	19	20 Heroes Elementary Beswick Elementar Fryberger School (	21
13	22	23 Courreges School Red Hill School (3-5	24 Sierra Vista School Bergeson School (3	25 Guin Foss School	26 Huntington Seacliff Montevideo School Travis Ranch Middl	27 Hermosa Dr Schoo Ivy Crest Montesso Palisades School (3 Linda Vista School	28
14	29	30 Garden Park Schoo Parkview School (3	31 Price School (3-5) El Cerrito School (3 Bergeson Elementa Lakeview School (3	Apr 1	2	3 Buena Terra Schoo Rose Drive School	4

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MWDOC K-12 Choice School Program

Calendars

- City of Anaheim
- City of Brea
- City of Buena Park
- City of Fountain Valley
- City of Fullerton
- City of Garden Grove
- City of Huntington Beach
- City of La Habra
- City of Orange
- City of San Clemente
- City of Santa Ana
- City of Seal Beach
- City of Tustin
- City of Westminster
- East Orange County Wate...
- El Toro Water District
- Irvine Ranch Water District
- Moulton Niguel Water Dist...
- Santa Margarita Water Dis...
- Serrano Water District
- South Coast Water District
- Trabuco Canyon Water Di...
- Yorba Linda Water District

April 2026

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
14	Mar 29, 2026	30 Garden Park Schoo Parkview School (3	31 Price School (3-5) El Cerrito School (3 Bergeson Elementa Lakeview School (3	Apr 1	2	3 Buena Terra Schoo Rose Drive School	4
15	5	6 Olive Elementary (K	7	8 California School (3	9	10 Lawrence School (3 Panorama School (	11
16	12	13 Oka School (3-5)	14 St. Junipero Serra C	15	16 Olinda Elementary Kinetic Academy (6	17 Grace Lutheran Sch Moffett Elementary Lowell School (3-5) Marshall Elementar	18
17	19	20 College View Eleme Roosevelt-Walker S La Quinta High Sch	21 Patrick Henry Elem College View (3-5) Sunnyside Element	22	23 La Quinta High Sch	24 La Quinta High Sch	25
18	26	27 Clegg School (3-5)	28 Olinda School (3-5)	29 Wakeham School (3 Truman Benedict E Bathgate Elementa Capistrano Valley C	30	May 1 Rosita School (3-5)	2

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MWDOC K-12 Choice School Program

Calendars

- City of Anaheim
- City of Brea
- City of Buena Park
- City of Fountain Valley
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- City of Garden Grove
- City of Huntington Beach
- City of La Habra
- City of Orange
- City of San Clemente
- City of Santa Ana
- City of Seal Beach
- City of Tustin
- City of Westminster
- East Orange County Wate...
- El Toro Water District
- Irvine Ranch Water District
- Moulton Niguel Water Dist...
- Santa Margarita Water Dis...
- Serrano Water District
- South Coast Water District
- Trabuco Canyon Water Di...
- Yorba Linda Water District

May 2026

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18	Apr 26, 2026	27 Clegg School (3-5)	28 Olinda School (3-5)	29 Wakeham School (Truman Benedict E Bathgate Elementa Capistrano Valley C	30	May 1 Rosita School (3-5)	2
19	3	4 Jefferson School (3	5	6 Don Juan Avila Ele	7	8	9
20	10	11 Raymond Temple S	12 Monroe Elementary	13	14 Garden Park Schoc	15 Tustin Memorial Sc	16
21	17	18 Middle College High	19 Holy Family Catholi Middle College High	20	21 Meairs Elementary	22	23
22	24	25	26 Willmore School (3- Las Flores K-8 (6-8	27	28 Hayden School (3-5	29	30
23	31	Jun 1 Van Buren School (	2 Hawes School (3-5	3	4	5	6

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Attachment 2
MWDOC K-2 Choice Elementary School Program

Shows That Teach offers Orange County students in grades K-2 fun and informative assemblies that use music, humor, and audience participation to engage students in water-centric topics such as the water cycle, water supply resources, and using water wisely. This interactive program also includes hands-on pre- and post-activities that encourage students to reflect on their relationship with water. This program is offered either in person or virtually to K-2 students combined. Multiple classrooms and grade levels can participate simultaneously.

COMPLETED PARTICIPATION TO DATE:
Totals reflect the number of presentations *completed* and students seen since the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

- **In-person presentations hosted:** 70
- **Virtual presentations hosted:** 0
- **Total number of students seen:** 13,369
- **Presentations have been completed in the following service areas:** City of Anaheim, City of Brea, City of Buena Park, El Toro Water District, City of Fountain Valley, City of Fullerton, City of Garden Grove, City of Huntington Beach, City of La Habra, Moulton Niguel Water District, City of Orange, City of Santa Ana, Santa Margarita Water District, South Coast Water District, City of Tustin, City of Westminster

SCHEDULED PARTICIPATION TO DATE:
Totals reflect the number of presentations currently *scheduled* and students expected to participate in the upcoming months of the 2025-2026 school year.

- **In-person presentations scheduled:** 19
- **Virtual presentations scheduled:** 0
- **Total number of students expected:** 3,738
- **Upcoming presentations have been scheduled in the following service areas:** City of Anaheim, City of Brea, City of Fullerton, City of Garden Grove, City of Huntington Beach, Moulton Niguel Water District, City of Orange, City of San Clemente, City of Santa Ana, Santa Margarita Water District, City of Westminster

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM DETAILS AND MEASUREMENTS:
An educator's comments following a presentation on March 5, 2026, at Tijeras Creek Elementary School in Santa Margarita Water District's service area:
https://go.mwdoc.com/1fgqhW

Attachment 3
MWDOC 3-5 Choice Elementary School Program

Orange County Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors offers Orange County students in grades 3-5 interactive, grade-specific lessons that engage students in valuable instruction on the history of California water, local climate and water sources, and how to use water efficiently. Each session includes student prompted interaction, demonstrations, and pre- and post-activities that guide students to examine how access to a reliable source of drinking water is important to every community. Participating students and their families also receive resources that complement the topics covered during the classroom session. This program is offered either in person or virtually to students in grades 3-5.

- **3rd Grade:** Compare and describe diverse weather and climate data and explore personal choices to protect our local water resources.
- **4th Grade:** Identify the key role water plays in California's history including the growth and expansion of towns and cities.
- **5th Grade:** Examine existing water management solutions and determine ways to protect the quality and quantity of water.

COMPLETED PARTICIPATION TO DATE:
Totals reflect the number of presentations *completed* and students seen since the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

- **In-person presentations hosted:** 173
- **Virtual presentations hosted:** 0
- **Total number of students seen:** 10,149
- **Presentations have been completed in the following service areas:** City of Anaheim, City of Brea, City of Buena Park, El Toro Water District, City of Fountain Valley, City of Fullerton, City of Garden Grove, City of Huntington Beach, City of La Habra, Moulton Niguel Water District, City of Orange, City of Santa Ana, Santa Margarita Water District, Serrano Water District, Trabuco Canyon Water District, City of Tustin, City of Westminster

SCHEDULED PARTICIPATION TO DATE:
Totals reflect the number of presentations currently *scheduled* and students expected to participate in the upcoming months of the 2025-2026 school year.

- **In-person presentations scheduled:** 92
- **Virtual presentations scheduled:** 0
- **Total number of students expected:** 6,043
- **Upcoming presentations have been scheduled in the following service areas:** City of Anaheim, City of Brea, City of Buena Park, East Orange County Water District, City of Fountain Valley, City of Fullerton, City of Garden Grove, City of Huntington Beach, City of La Habra, Moulton Niguel Water District, City of Orange, City of Santa Ana, South Coast Water District, City of Tustin, City of Westminster, Yorba Linda Water District

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM DETAILS AND MEASUREMENTS:
To date, OCDE/ITO has received interest from schools in the following service areas and is working with teachers to schedule those presentations:

- Four (4) schools in the City of Anaheim
- One (1) school in the City of Buena Park
- Two (2) schools in the City of Fullerton
- One (1) school in the City of Santa Ana
- One (1) school in Serrano Water District

PHOTOS AND QUOTES:
"The students have a better understanding of where their water comes from and can be more mindful about how to conserve water as well." *-4th Grade Teacher in the City of Garden Grove's service area*

"This presentation fits perfectly with our standards. I love the visuals and the props. It helped the students stay engaged." *-4th Grade Teacher in the City of Garden Grove's service area*

"I love how interactive it was. The students were highly engaged." *-4th Grade Teacher in the Santa Margarita Water District's service area*

"I was really impressed by how the content of the program went hand in hand with 4th-grade California History." *-4th Grade Teacher in the Moulton Niguel Water District's service area*



4th-grade students participating in the Drip Drop Assembly program are filling out a timeline of water projects at Las Flores School in the Santa Margarita Water District's service area.

Attachment 4
MWDOC 6-12 Choice Middle and High School Programs

Orange County Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors offers Orange County students in grades 6-12 grade-specific classroom sessions that guide students to investigate challenges faced by water providers and identify sources of human impact on the quality, quantity, and availability of water in their communities. Each session includes student-prompted interaction, demonstrations, and pre- and post-activities that engage students in developing solutions to real-world problems. This program is offered either in person or virtually to students in grades 6-12.

- **6th-8th Grade:** Students analyze water samples to identify sources of potential pollution and form strategies to monitor or minimize pollution.
- **9th-12th Grade:** Students collect and analyze data to explore the role of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and its connection to our local water resources.

COMPLETED PARTICIPATION TO DATE:
Totals reflect the number of presentations *completed* and students seen since the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

Middle School Program (grades 6-8)

- **In-person presentations hosted:** 106
- **Virtual presentations hosted:** 0
- **Total number of students seen:** 2,741
- **Presentations have been completed in the following service areas:** City of Anaheim, City of Brea, El Toro Water District, City of Fullerton, City of Garden Grove, City of Huntington Beach, City of La Habra, City of San Clemente, City of Santa Ana, Trabuco Canyon Water District, City of Tustin, City of Westminster

High School Program (grades 9-12)

- **In-person presentations hosted:** 5
- **Virtual presentations hosted:** 0
- **Total number of students seen:** 146
- **Presentations have been completed in the following service areas:** City of La Habra, Santa Margarita Water District

SCHEDULED PARTICIPATION TO DATE:
Totals reflect the number of presentations currently *scheduled* and students expected to participate in the upcoming months of the 2025-2026 school year.

Middle School Program (grades 6-8)

- **In-person presentations scheduled:** 21
- **Virtual presentations scheduled:** 0
- **Total number of students expected:** 646

- **Upcoming presentations have been scheduled in the following service areas:** City of Buena Park, City of Garden Grove, City of Huntington Beach, City of La Habra, Santa Margarita Water District, Yorba Linda Water District

High School Program (grades 9-12)

- **In-person presentations scheduled:** 20
- **Virtual presentations scheduled:** 0
- **Total number of students expected:** 532
- **Upcoming presentations have been scheduled in the following service areas:** City of Santa Ana, City of Westminster

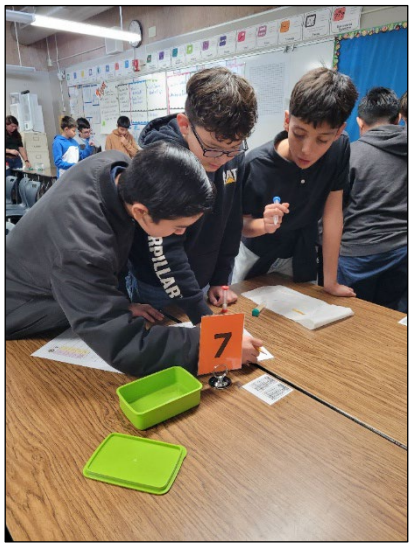
ADDITIONAL PROGRAM DETAILS AND MEASUREMENTS:
To date, OCDE/ITO has received interest from schools in the following service areas and is working with teachers to schedule those presentations:

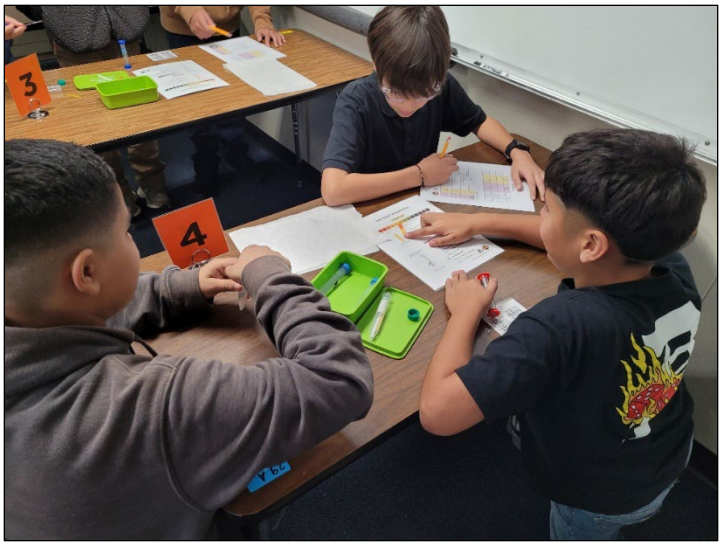
- Three (3) schools in the City of Anaheim
- One (1) school in the City of Fullerton
- One (1) school in the City of Santa Ana

PHOTOS AND QUOTES:
"I got to learn that eventually, I could also help the environment as a career and make this world a healthier and better place." *-7th Grade Student from the City of Huntington Beach*

"I like getting to learn about ways to take care of our planet, and how cool it would be to be a scientist." *-7th Grade Teacher in the City of Huntington Beach*

"The best part of the program was the experiment and figuring out why the pollution happens and how it affects the water." *-7th Grade Teacher in the City of Huntington Beach*





6th grade students participating in the Wonders of Water program with a water quality experiment at MacArthur Fundamental Intermediate School in the City of Santa Ana

Public Affairs Department: Activity Highlights



Ricky at RH Dana Elementary School Jogathon with SCWD



Director Crane's Inspection Trip: State Water Project



WEEA Career Event & OCWD Tour: 35 High School Students

75th Anniversary Video Series: FACES Campaign

Al Nederhood

Harvey De La Torre

Katie Vo

Rachel Davis

Tiffany Baca



OCBC Career Panel: Early Talent Signals



Water Industry Careers Workshop: 150 Attendees



MWDOC Booth: Walk 4 Water Event



6.4% Social Media Engagement Rate

February 25 - March 31, 2026

ENGINEERING & PLANNING	
2025 UWMP and 2025 WSCP	See Agenda for Presentation Item No. 1: Staff will present a status update on the MWDOC and Shared Services Program for the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) to the Planning & Operations Committee.
MWDOC GIS Implementation	A Request for Proposal (RFP) to invite qualified and experienced consulting firms to submit a proposal to assist with the Year 1 implementation of a Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) GIS system was released on November 21, 2025 and proposals were due January 20, 2026. Staff have been reviewing the proposals and conducting interviews with consultants. Staff will provide recommendations for the consultant contract award to the Board in May 2026.
Upcoming Metropolitan Shutdowns	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has scheduled two shutdowns in the Spring 2026 timeframe with impacts to Orange County. The schedules remain unchanged from last month, including: • Diemer Water Treatment Plant Shutdown (March 2-8) – Installation of backup chlorine feed lines, diffusers, and additional sampling lines to provide additional redundancy. The shutdown was successful and completed ahead of schedule. • Irvine Cross Feeder Shutdown (April 8-10) – Pre-stressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) inspection.

Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County (WEROC) Activities Report

March 2026

INCIDENTS/EVENTS

(EVENTS LISTED ONLY INCLUDE WEROC INVOLVEMENT. EVENTS AND INCIDENTS HAPPEN EVERYDAY, BUT MAY NOT REQUIRE REPORTING, OR COORDINATION WITH WEROC)

Suspicious Activity (2 Agencies)

WEROC MEMBER AGENCY PLANNING, COORDINATION AND PROGRAM EFFORTS

America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Compliance

In March, Herndon Solutions Group (HSG) conducted Emergency Response Plan (ERP) revision workshops, including Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRAs) with Tier 3 agencies. The WEROC team participated in all meetings to provide direct technical support and coordination assistance to member agencies. In March, 11 meetings were held with member agencies for this project.

The WEROC Team continues to provide comprehensive project coordination support to the WEROC Director, including participation in local Muncipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) AWIA monthly progress meetings with HSG and attendance at multiple agency-specific coordination meetings. Miriam is currently undergoing training to assume responsibility for these duties upon Janine's retirement at the end of March.

WEROC Legislation Watch

Vicki continues to monitor state legislation and policy proposals emerging from the January 2025 Los Angeles County wildfires that impact water and wastewater emergency operations, infrastructure resilience, and mutual aid. Vicki participated on multiple calls with American Water Works Association (AWWA), California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), and Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA).

Vicki is actively working with partner associations to provide input, recommended language, and operational considerations on proposed legislation. This coordination is focused on ensuring alignment with real-world operations, mutual aid frameworks, and established emergency management principles.

WEROC Readiness Mobile Command Vehicle/Peters Canyon Location
The Mobile Command Vehicle is regularly tested to ensure its continued readiness phase.

WEROC Presentations, Training, and Exercises

Training and Exercises for Member and Partner Agencies in March:
ICS 100/700 - SOCWA - March 11 (Vicki) (Cancelled due to Federal Shutdown)
ICS 200/800 – Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) - March 12 (Vicki) (Cancelled due to Federal Shutdown)

Vicki is developing the custom Management Training for Orange County Water District (OCWD) which will include classroom training and a tabletop to be offered April 2.

WEROC Regional Fuel Planning Project
In the first week of April, Thevin submitted the Regional Fuel Plan Request for Proposal (RFP) to legal for review, advancing the document to the next step in the RFP process.

In parallel, staff engaged with member agencies through meetings and email correspondence to support fuel planning efforts and identify potential gaps. This coordination with Member Agencies is critical to ensuring the Regional Fuel Plan is operationally effective when needed. These discussions focused on fuel types, operational uses, and whether agencies have established Fuel Points of Distribution (FPODs) to support continuity of operations during emergencies, as identified by operations staff of WEROC member agencies.

Operational Area, State and Federal Meetings

(Specific details can be provided as requested from the board)
March 05: Orange County Emergency Management Meeting
March 10: California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Tank Project Coordination Meeting
March 10: CMUA Water Supplier Wildfire Strike Team Meeting
March 24: South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Coastal Treatment Plant Technology Day Presentation and Tour

Other Events, Information and WEROC Activities

Federal Shutdown impacts to WEROC Agencies (Training & Grant Impacts)
Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) online Independent Study (ICS) training platform remains temporarily offline. This has directly impacted WEROC member agencies by cancelling two additional scheduled classes this month, affecting approximately 65 personnel who were unable to complete required coursework following WEROC-led training. The duration of the outage remains unknown.

Potential additional impacts to member agencies may include delays in FEMA Public Assistance reimbursements, slowed processing of Project Worksheets, and pauses in Hazard Mitigation and preparedness grant awards or modifications.

WEROC continues monitoring the situation and will provide updates as federal operations resume.

In the midst of the federal funding lapse and the resulting temporary shutdown of FEMA's training systems, WEROC is discussing internally how to proceed after May, in the event that the site remains offline for an extended period of up to six months. Member Agencies will be briefed on the options, and Vicki is reaching out to the State Training Officer for additional.

DWR Tank Project Coordination Meeting

Following last month's Member Agency Coordination Meeting, Vicki coordinated with the DWR to provide a briefing on the State's Water Tank Program. This drought resilience initiative distributes 2,500-gallon potable water storage tanks to eligible agencies. Participation requires a minimum request of five tanks per order. The program is scheduled to conclude in June 2026, with all tank deliveries required by May 1, 2026. Post-delivery requirements are minimal, consisting only of documenting tank locations; registration with the California Department of Public Health is not required, and agencies are responsible for maintaining internal records.

During the discussion, participants raised questions regarding potential expansion of the resource to support critical facilities, including hospitals, law enforcement, and other essential service providers. WEROC will follow up with relevant partner agencies to share program information and assess potential applicability. Agencies interested in participating must ensure delivery can be completed by the May 1 deadline.

Vicki also coordinated with the Orange County Health Care Agency to evaluate whether this program could support hospital compliance with backup water supply requirements. Feedback from the California Department of Public Health indicated limited benefit for hospital settings, as typical facility demand significantly exceeds the 2,500-gallon capacity—often requiring a minimum of approximately 40,000 gallons. Additionally, the expedited delivery timeline further limits the feasibility for healthcare applications.

Regional Water Distribution Plan - Vendor Outreach for Packaged and Bulk Potable Water

The WEROC Team has initiated targeted outreach to water distribution providers to enhance emergency potable water supply capabilities across Orange County. This ongoing effort is focused on identifying vendors that provide bottled and canned water, three and five gallon jug services, and bulk water hauling/tanker delivery, while gaining a general

understanding of scalability, prioritization during incidents, and potential alignment with emergency procurement and mutual aid frameworks.

This work remains in progress, and no decisions or agreements have been finalized at this time. Information gathered will help inform future considerations for a “menu of options” for emergency water distribution, including potential approaches for contracts, activation, and coordination. A more detailed update will be provided to the Board in the coming months.

SOCWA Coastal Treatment Plant Technology Day Presentation and Tour
The WEROC team participated in the Technology Day at SOCWA Coastal Treatment Plan. The event offered an opportunity to learn about plant facility operations, lessons learned from past events, risk vulnerabilities posed by hazards such as wildland fires and debris flows, and to network with representatives not only from SOCWA but from water agencies and private sector companies from Los Angeles and San Diego Counties.

WEROC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Readiness Equipment Inventory
On March 3, 2026, Miriam and Thevin conducted a preliminary inventory of MWDOC’s EOC equipment in Conference Room 101. As one of the locations earmarked to be used as a WEROC EOC, this effort is important for establishing a clear understanding of available resources and identifying opportunities to enhance readiness. Ongoing evaluations will focus on optimizing the layout, technology, and resource needs to ensure staff are fully supported during an EOC activation.

California Water/Waterwater Agency Response Network (CalWARN) Update
The new CalWARN website has launched with an updated look and improved functionality. Initial 30-minute virtual training sessions are being conducted with the regional chairs to support familiarization and use of the new platform.

The system was recently utilized to support a mutual aid request, providing an opportunity to assess real-world functionality. During this initial use, several minor bugs and operational impacts were identified. These findings are informing ongoing refinements and will support continued improvements as implementation progresses.

WEROC Personnel – Vicki Osborn and Janine Schunk
During the period of April 6 through May 4, Vicki will be on a scheduled leave of absence. To ensure continuity of operations and ongoing support to member agencies and MWDOC, both the WEROC Specialist and WEROC Coordinator will assume temporary Duty Officer responsibilities during this time. They will serve as the primary points of contact for emergency management coordination and support functions. All staff and partner agencies will be advised to direct relevant communications and requests through the designated Duty Officers for the duration of this period.

Janine Schunk’s retirement celebration was held on March 25, providing Member Agencies and the MWDOC team an opportunity to celebrate her contributions and wish her well in her new endeavors.

Status of Water Use Efficiency Projects
February 2026

Description	Lead Agency	Status % Complete	Scheduled Completion or Renewal Date	Comments
SoCal Water$mart Residential Indoor Rebate Program	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan)	Ongoing	Ongoing	In February 2026, 71 high-efficiency clothes washers and 2 residential premium high-efficiency toilets were installed in Orange County. To date, 131,768 high-efficiency clothes washers and 62,020 high-efficiency toilets have been installed through this program.
SoCal Water$mart Commercial Rebate Program	Metropolitan	Ongoing	Ongoing	In February 2026, 1 ice-making machine was installed in Orange County. To date, 119,832 commercial devices have been installed through this program.
Flow-Monitoring Device Rebate Program	Metropolitan	Ongoing	Ongoing	In February 2026, 15 flow-monitoring devices were installed in Orange County. To date, 1,099 flow-monitoring devices have been installed through this program. More than 3,300 verified flow-monitoring devices have been installed in Orange County; however, not all were installed via the rebate program.
Smart Timer Rebate Program	Metropolitan	Ongoing	Ongoing	In February 2026, 46 residential and 13 commercial smart timers were installed in Orange County. To date, 36,391 smart timers have been installed through this program.

Description	Lead Agency	Status % Complete	Scheduled Completion or Renewal Date	Comments
Rotating Nozzles Rebate Program	Metropolitan	Ongoing	Ongoing	In February 2026, 30 rotating nozzles were installed in Orange County. To date, 586,687 rotating nozzles have been installed through this program.
Rain Barrel Rebate Program	Metropolitan	Ongoing	Ongoing	In February 2026, 6 rain barrels were installed in Orange County. To date, 9,099 rain barrels have been installed through this program.
Turf Replacement Program	MWDOC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In February 2026, 10 rebates totaling $745,660.73 were paid in Orange County. To date, the Turf Replacement Program has removed approximately 30.8 million square feet of turf.
Spray to Drip Rebate Program	MWDOC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In February 2026, 8 rebates totaling $97,869.58 were paid in Orange County. To date, the Spray to Drip Program has converted approximately 6.4 million square feet of standard spray irrigation to drip irrigation.
Tree Rebate Program	MWDOC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In February 2026, 13 eligible trees were planted in Turf Replacement Program project areas. To date, 534 trees have been planted through this program.
Landscape Design Rebate Program	MWDOC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In February 2026, 0 landscape designs received a rebate through the MWDOC Turf Replacement Program.

Description	Lead Agency	Status % Complete	Scheduled Completion or Renewal Date	Comments
Landscape Design Rebate Program (cont.)				To date, a total of 1,195 landscape design and/or landscape maintenance packages have been delivered to MWDOC Turf Replacement Program customers.
Industrial Process/ Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP)	Metropolitan	Ongoing	Ongoing	This program is designed to improve water efficiency for commercial customers through upgraded equipment or services that do not qualify for standard rebates. Incentives are based on the amount of water customers save and allow customers to implement custom water-saving projects. The Laguna Beach Fire Department, served by the Laguna Beach County Water District, purchased a PumpPod training unit, a closed-loop recirculation and water-capture technology designed to maximize training efficiency and minimize water loss. This unit has an estimated water savings of 3.78 acre-feet per year (AFY). Total water savings to date for the entire program is 1,286 AFY and 11,893 AF cumulatively.
Recycled Water Retrofit Program	Metropolitan	Ongoing	Ongoing	This program provides incentives to commercial sites for converting dedicated irrigation meters to recycled water. To date, 194 sites irrigating a total of 1,756 acres of landscape have been converted. The total potable water savings achieved by these projects is 3,901 AFY and 34,121 AF cumulatively.

Public & Government Affairs Activities Report
February 25, 2026 – March 31, 2026

Member Agency Support

Public Affairs Staff:

- Met with Orange County Water District (OCWD) to discuss doing a Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) tour for our 2026 Poster Contest Winners.
- Sent an invitation to the Member Agency Public Affairs Workgroup for a meeting on April 29.
- Participated in the Municipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC) Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Workgroup meeting with member agencies on March 5 and featured the meeting on social media.
- Coordinated with administrative staff to support MWDOC's 75th anniversary recognition at the Joint Orange County - Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and MWDOC Member Agencies Managers meeting on March 19.

Government Affairs Staff:

- Distributed the monthly Grants Tracking and Acquisition Report to all participating member agencies.
- Met with staff at Santa Margarita Water Districit (SMWD) to review MWDOC's grants program and how we can provide assistance to them.

Community and Special Events

Public Affairs Staff:

- A Ricky appearance at Richard Henry Dana Elementary School Jogathon alongside the South Coast Water District on March 6.
- Collected and recorded more than 650 posters for MWDOC's Annual Water Awareness Poster Contest.
- Hosted an information booth with promotional materials at the Walk 4 Water event in Fountain Valley on March 21.
- Provided giveaways and printed materials for a Speakers Bureau opportunity with Shadow Lane Homeowners Association in Fountain Valley on March 21, in collaboration with WUE.
- Co-hosted Director Randall Crane's Inspection Trip to the State Water Project and Delta Islands on March 27-28.

Government Affairs Staff:

- Attended the Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) Legislative and Regulatory Committee meeting.
- Along with Director Dick, attended the Cal Cities, Orange County Division, Quarterly meeting.

- Attended the Orange County Business Council (OCBC) Government Affairs Committee meeting.
- Moderated a panel on "Navigating Legislative Pathways" that included Andrea Abergel, Director of Water at California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), and Christine Castillo, Director of Federal Relations, at Scripps Institute of Oceanography at the 9th Annual Women in Water Symposium in San Diego.

Education Initiatives

Public Affairs Staff:

General Education

- Participated in two California Environmental Literacy Initiative Community of Practice meetings. Topics included outdoor learning and education program evaluation.
- Participated in the bi-monthly Department of Water Resources Water Education Committee meeting.
- Continued coordination of two Project Water Education Today (WET) Orange County trainings: Facilitator Training on April 9 with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and Orange County Teacher Training on May 16 with the Moulton Niguel Water District.
- Attended the Orange County Department of Education's State of Education featuring Dr. Stefan Bean, County Superintendent of Schools.
- Met with Metropolitan's Education and Workforce Development teams to discuss current and upcoming efforts, and how they align with the Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA) and MWDOC's education and workforce priorities and direction.
- Shared a volunteer opportunity to participate in Orange Unified School District's Career Days with the City of Anaheim, the City of Orange, and East Orange County Water District.

MWDOC Choice K-12 School Programs

- Conducted panel proposal review and interviews for MWDOC Request for Proposal Design and Implementation of K-12 Water Education School Program Services. Panelists included representatives from Metropolitan, Moulton Niguel Water District, and the City of Santa Ana.
- Provided information regarding MWDOC Choice K-12 School Programs to the City of Anaheim, City of Santa Ana, Irvine Ranch Water District, and Yorba Linda Water District.

Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA)

- Hosted 35 Villa Park High School students and faculty for a pilot student career day with hands-on activities, a professional industry panel, and a tour of OCWD's GWRS. Partners included MWDOC, Metropolitan, OCWD, and Orange Unified School District.
- Participated as a panelist at a workforce pathways networking event hosted by the OCBC, the College Board, and Orange County Pathways.
- Participated in the American Water Works Association Water (AWWA) 2050 Initiative Workforce Advisory Sub-Committee.
- Participated in Metropolitan's Veteran Workforce Sub-Committee.
- Participated in the Water Replenishment District's full-day Water Industry Careers Workshop, supporting student networking and mock interviews.
- Participated in Metropolitan's Member Agency Workforce Development Summit Planning Meeting.
- Met with UndauntedK12 to discuss a proposed Seal of Climate Literacy as it relates to real-world experience and career pathways.
- Participated in the Villa Park Sustainable Water Systems Career Technical Education Advisory Committee.

Digital Communications, Publications, and Media Engagement

- Developed and distributed social media content across all MWDOC social media channels.
- Created posts for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense Fix a Leak Week campaign and added a webpage with resources on the MWDOC website.
- Interviewed Mary Jane Foley for an upcoming 75th Anniversary Reflections video.
- Created and released five 75th Anniversary FACES videos on MWDOC social media featuring Director Al Nederhood, Harvey De La Torre, Katie Vo, Rachel Davis, and Tiffany Baca.
- Joined a virtual California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) Education & Outreach Taskforce meeting on March 11.
- Attended the CalWEP Spring Plenary on March 18, featuring Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) Outreach guidelines in collaboration with WUE.

Special Projects

Public Affairs Staff:

- Conducted a training for all MWDOC staff to utilize Microsoft's built-in "Accessibility Checker" tools to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Hosted an Orange County Water Summit Planning Committee meeting.

- Delivered promotional materials to Huntington Beach's Central Library to support a Seed Library program in partnership with WUE.

Government Affairs Staff:

- Drafted the agenda and edited minutes for the Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC) Executive Committee meeting.
- Circulated the agenda/minutes, and staffed the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting.
- Worked with staff at the Registrar of Voters' office to coordinate Bob Page speaking at the next ISDOC Quarterly Luncheon on April 30.
- Drafted and circulated the Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO) Planning meeting agenda.
- Staffed the WACO Planning Committee meeting.

Outreach Metrics

Public Affairs Staff:

- Google Performance Analytics (GM Report Timeframe)
  - 212 business profile interactions
  - 2,292 people viewed the business profile
- Website Analytics (GM Report Timeframe)
  - 16,308 pageviews
  - Top pages for this date range
    - Home Page – 3,570
    - Poster Awareness Contest – 785
    - Board Meetings – 692
    - Turf Replacement Rebate – 578
    - Residential Rebates – 545
    - RFPs and RFQs – 357
  - ocwatersmartparks.com: 10 site sessions
- ocwatersmartgardens.com Analytics (February 2026)
  504,553 Sessions, 483,000 New Users
  - Top pages for this date range
    - Guided Plant Search
    - Landing Page
    - Plant Botanical Name
- Social Media (GM Report Timeframe)
  According to a global leader in social media management, a good engagement rate is between 1% and 5%.
  For this period, MWDOC's engagement rate is 6.4%
  - 6,874 post reach (number of people)
    - 440 post engagement (actions taken – likes, shares, etc.)

Public & Government Affairs Activities Report
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Legislative Affairs

Government Affairs Staff:

- Met with staff at Metropolitan to discuss Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W).
- Participated in the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance Water, Chemistry, and Waste (CCEEB WCW) Project meeting.
- Participated in the Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC) Legislative Task Force meeting.
- Attended the CMUA Low Income Water Rate Assistance (LIRA) working group meeting.
- Participated in the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 10 State Legislative Committee meeting prep call.
- Attended the ACWA State Legislative Committee meeting.
- Attended the CMUA Regulatory Committee meeting.
- Participated in the CMUA Legislative Committee meeting.
- Participated in the CCEEB WCW Project - March 2026 Monthly & Legislative Review/Positioning meeting.
- Participated in the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Legislative Committee meeting.
- Along with Director Dick, attended the OCBC Sacramento Advocacy Trip, where we heard from speakers such as:
    - Senator Tony Strickland
    - Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris
    - Assembly Member Avelino Valencia
    - Assembly Member Heath Flora
    - Senator Catherine Blakespear
    - Toks Omishakin, Secretary of Transportation
    - Durriya Syed, Deputy Commissioner, California Department of Insurance

  In addition, Director Dick had the opportunity to moderate a discussion with Samanta Arthur, Deputy Secretary for Water.
- Participated in the ACWA Region 10 State Legislative Committee prep call.