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
August 3, 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.

Computer Audio: You can join the Zoom meeting by clicking on the following link:
https://zoom.us/j/8828665300

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. WATER EMERGENCY RESPONSE ORGANIZATION OF ORANGE COUNTY ASSESSMENT REPORT – 2026 UPDATE

ACTION ITEM

2. INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICTS OF ORANGE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – CALL FOR CANDIDATES

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. LEAD AND COPPER RULE IMPROVEMENTS SHARED SERVICES PROGRAM – PHASE 1

4. WATER POLICY FORUM – FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

5. ORANGE COUNTY WATER SUMMIT UPDATE

6. METROPOLITAN DIRECTORS' INSPECTION TRIP PRE-SEASON PLANNING

7. PUBLIC AFFAIRS HIGHLIGHTS

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

9. 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
August 3, 2026

TO: **Planning & Operations Committee**

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

Staff Contact: Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Mgmt./WEROC

SUBJECT: **WATER EMERGENCY RESPONSE ORGANIZATION OF ORANGE COUNTY ASSESSMENT REPORT – 2026 UPDATE**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Planning & Operations Committee receive the presentation.

REPORT

Purpose

This presentation item will provide the Planning & Operations Committee with an update on the Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County (WEROC) 2020 Assessment, highlighting progress since the assessment, the current state of the program, and strategic priorities for the future.

Discussion

In 2020, WEROC conducted a comprehensive assessment of its emergency management program to evaluate organizational capabilities, identify opportunities for improvement, and establish strategic priorities for the future. Since that time, WEROC implemented many of the assessment recommendations while significantly expanding regional services, partnerships, training, planning, technology, and emergency response capabilities.

The 2026 update provides a five-year progress review, highlights measurable improvements since the original assessment, and identifies key initiatives to guide the continued evolution of WEROC in support of Orange County's water and wastewater agencies. The presentation also outlines remaining opportunities to further strengthen regional preparedness, resilience, and coordination of mutual aid.

Next Steps

The 2020 assessment will serve as a living management document to guide WEROC's future priorities and continuous improvement efforts. Together with the annual Strategic Plan and Annual Business Report, it will provide a framework for measuring progress, establishing priorities, allocating resources, and ensuring the organization continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of Orange County's water and wastewater agencies.

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: WEROC Assessment Report - 2026 Update Presentation
Attachment 2: WEROC Other Projects and Accomplishments
Attachment 3: WEROC 2020 Assessment Report



WEROC

Emergency Management Program Assessment: 2026 Update

Planning & Operations Committee
August 3, 2026

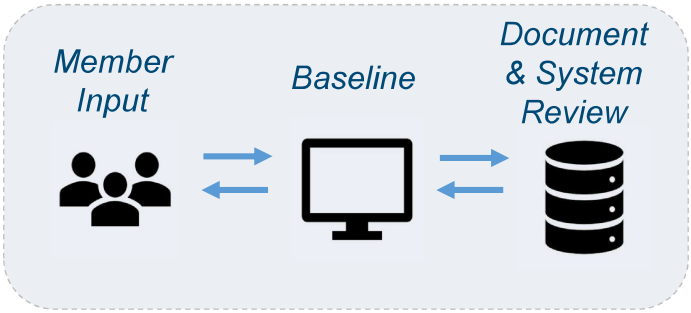
2020 WEROC Assessment

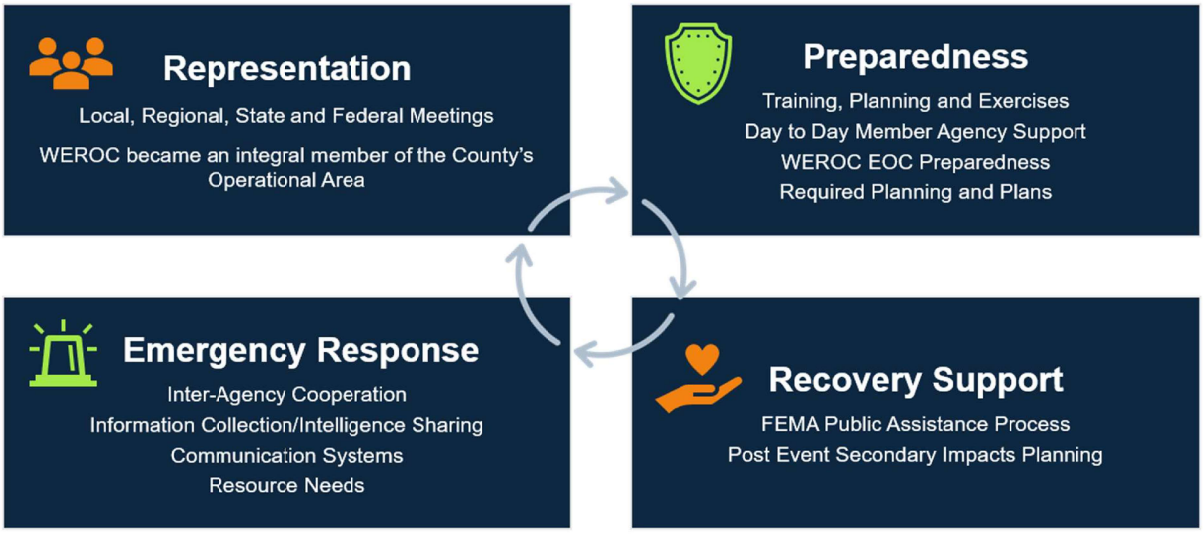




Assessment Process Used

- Baseline used the **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1600)** and Emergency Management Standard using the **Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)**
- Member Input
- Documents/Systems
  - E-file/Hardcopy
  - Admin Code
  - Plans
  - Different Systems





The WEROC Foundation

WEROC Mission & Vision Revamped

Mission Statement

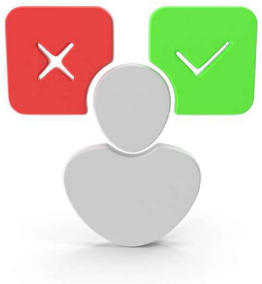
WEROC is charged with supporting the resiliency of Orange County's water and wastewater agencies, and the community it serves by working with these agencies and the County to build, sustain, and improve the capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters.

Vision Statement

Your Resiliency is Our Legacy

Progress at a Glance
Assessment Recommendations

- **32** program areas were evaluated.
- **23** program areas were identified as needing enhancement or improvement.
- Recommendations focused on:
  - Program Management & Administration
  - Planning
  - Implementation & Execution
  - Recovery
  - Training & Exercises
  - Program Maintenance & Continuous Improvement



The following slides track progress on recommendations, followed by the overall results of the five-year assessment update.

Three (3) to Six (6) Months

Program Management and Administration (Pages 18-19)

- Obtain and assign a US Bank Government Cal Card to the WEROC program. — COMPLETED
- WEROC staff will organize all files in their possession and required to maintain. — COMPLETED

Planning Recommendations (Page 19)

- WEROC should be prioritizing program areas based on the criteria of state and federal mandates. — COMPLETED

7

Three (3) to Six (6) Months - Continued

Operational Procedures (Page 19)

- Develop a plan maintenance schedule program that incorporates updating all hazard-specific functional annexes. — COMPLETED / ONGOING

Training and Exercise Plan (Page 20)

- Increase training on basic emergency management. — COMPLETED
- Develop a Training and Exercise Plan/Integrated Preparedness Plan. — COMPLETED
- Establish a minimum training requirement for new and existing staff. — COMPLETED

8

Six (6) to Twelve (12) Months

Program Management and Administration (Page 20)

- Update and amend the MWDOC Administrative Code with expanded language. — IN-PROGRESS

Operational Procedures (Page 21)

- Develop a "Just in Time" training guide for the front of the position guides. — COMPLETED
- Eliminate the 45 USB drives. — COMPLETED

Continuous Improvement and Project Completion (Page 21)

- Develop a project and program work plan listing all the program/planning areas. — COMPLETED
- Present an annual report and business plan outlining its achievements, milestones and objectives. — COMPLETED

Twelve (12) to Twenty-Four (24) Months

Mutual Aid and WEROC Agreement (Page 21)

- Rewrite the Voluntary Emergency Preparedness Organization/WEROC Indemnification Agreement between 36 water and wastewater utilities.

IN-PROGRESS

Incident Management, Information Sharing and Situational Awareness Tools (Page 22)

- Develop, obtain, and implement a new WEROC-specific platform to meet specific needs of the member agencies to securely store, maintain, and disseminate files and information.

PENDING **under assessment*

Twelve (12) to Twenty-Four (24) Months - Part 2

Emergency Operations Center (Page 24)

COMPLETED

- No New WEROC EOC
- ETWD agreement terminated.
- MNWD providing space for ALT WEROC EOC
- Mobile Command Vehicle acquired.



11

Twelve (12) to Twenty-Four (24) Months - Part 3

Training and Exercise Plan (Page 24)

- Incorporate a training database and training calendar into the new information sharing platform. — PENDING

Resource Management and Logistics (Pages 24-25)

- Develop a Logistics Plan. — IN-PROGRESS
- Prepare a Compiled list of verified vendors for use by the water and wastewater agencies. — IN-PROGRESS
- Incorporate a Resource Tracking System within the new Information Sharing Platform. — PENDING

12

Long Term 24+ Months or More

Program Management and Administration (Page 25)

- Expand the number of emergency management staff positions from 3.0 Full-Time Employees (FTE) to 5.0 FTEs
  - Current Administrative Support Positions: 1.0 Full-Time Equivalent reclassified as a WEROC Coordinator Position.
  - WEROC Coordinator is an entry-level position
    - Assignments to augment professional growth
    - Tasks appropriate for the employee's knowledge base
  - Expand succession planning by having more opportunities for different program management.

IDLE

** Note: some areas identified have been addressed*

13

Long Term 24+ Months or More - Continued

Planning Recommendations (Page 26)

- Regional Water and Wastewater Fuel Project.

IN-PROGRESS

Recovery Plan (Page 27)

- Develop a Recovery Plan, which includes cost recovery and complements the Business Continuity Plan agencies have in place.

PENDING

14

WEROC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT MATRIX

2020 vs. 2026 COMPARISON

MISSION CAPABLE MINOR ISSUES CRITICAL ISSUES

2020 ASSESSMENT	
ASSESSMENT AREA	2020 STATUS
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	
Leadership and Commitment	✓
Program Manager/Staff	✓
Program Committee	✓
Program Administration	✓
Laws and Authorities	✓
Finance and Administration	✓
Records Management	✓
PLANNING	
Planning and Design Process	✓
Common Plan Requirements	✓
Risk Assessment	✓
Business Impact Analysis	✓
Resource Needs Assessment	✓
Performance Objectives	✓
Public Education	✓
IMPLEMENTATION / EXECUTION	
Common Plan Requirements	✓
Hazard Mitigation Program	✓
Grants and other funding programs/Services	✓
Crisis Communications and Public Information	✓
Warning, Notifications, and Communications	✓
Incident Management/Information & Situational Awareness Tools	✓
Resources Management	✓
Operational Procedures	✓
Emergency Operations Center	✓
Continuity of Operations	✓
Emergency Operations/Response Plan	✓
Mutual Aid	✓
RECOVERY	
Recovery Plan	✓
TRAINING AND EXERCISES	
Training and Exercise Plan (TEP)	✓
Record Keeping	✓
PROGRAM MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT	
Program Reviews	✓
Corrective Actions	✓
Continuous Improvement/Project Completion	✓

Assessment conducted: May 2020

2026 ASSESSMENT	
ASSESSMENT AREA	2026 STATUS
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	
Leadership and Commitment	✓
Program Manager/Staff	✓
Program Committee	✓
Program Administration	✓
Laws and Authorities	✓
Finance and Administration	✓
Records Management	✓
PLANNING	
Planning and Design Process	✓
Common Plan Requirements	✓
Risk Assessment	✓
Business Impact Analysis	✓
Resource Needs Assessment	✓
Performance Objectives	✓
Public Education	✓
IMPLEMENTATION / EXECUTION	
Common Plan Requirements	✓
Hazard Mitigation Program	✓
Grants and other funding programs/Services	✓
Crisis Communications and Public Information	✓
Warning, Notifications, and Communications	✓
Incident Management/Information & Situational Awareness Tools	✓
Resources Management	✓
Operational Procedures	✓
Emergency Operations Center	✓
Continuity of Operations	✓
Emergency Operations/Response Plan	✓
Mutual Aid	✓
RECOVERY	
Recovery Plan	✓
TRAINING AND EXERCISES	
Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) (Formerly known as Training and Exercise Plan (TEP))	✓
Record Keeping	✓
PROGRAM MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT	
Program Reviews	✓
Corrective Actions	✓

Assessment conducted: May 2026

ABOUT THIS MATRIX

This assessment matrix evaluates the current state of WEROC's emergency management program across core capability areas based on industry best practices and regulatory requirements.

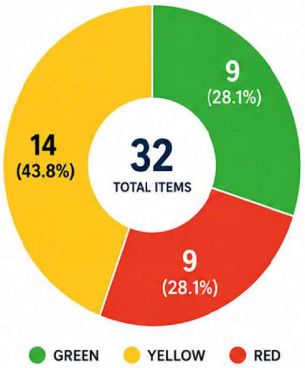
- **MISSION CAPABLE** – Area is functioning effectively and meets programmatic expectations.
- **MINOR ISSUES** – Area is generally functioning but has gaps or opportunities for improvement.
- **CRITICAL ISSUES** – Area has significant deficiencies.

Outcomes and the Future

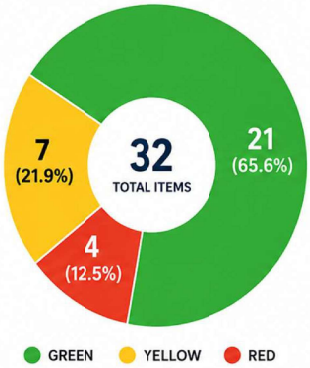
ASSESSMENT RESULTS: SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT

32 Total Assessment Items

BEFORE
Original Assessment



AFTER
Current Assessment



KEY TAKEAWAYS

GREEN INCREASED
+12
From 9 to 21
(28% to 66%)

YELLOW DECREASED
-7
From 14 to 7
(44% to 22%)

RED DECREASED
-5
From 9 to 4
(28% to 13%)







Questions?

Vicki Osborn
Director of Emergency Management
Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County
Municipal Water District of Orange County
714-593-5010
vosborn@mwdoc.com

WEROC
MWDOC 75 YEARS OF SERVICE
Municipal Water District of Orange County
mwdoc.com

OTHER PROJECTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2020–2025)

Beyond the 5-Year Assessment Report



LEADERSHIP & OPERATIONS

1 PARTNERSHIPS & LEADERSHIP

- Strengthened partnerships with Los Angeles County during wildfire mutual aid and recovery efforts.
- CalWARN Statewide President (2025–2026) and Region I Mutual Aid Coordinator.
- California Emergency Services Association (CESA) State Board Member-at-Large.
- Orange County Operational Area Executive Board (Water/Wastewater Representative).
- Active participant on statewide committees including Cal OES, SB 552 Drought Task Force, SEMS Guidance, and national water sector initiatives.
- Represented WEROC through regional, statewide, and national conferences.

2 INCIDENT COORDINATION & ACTIVATIONS

- Supported agencies throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Coordinated response support for:
  - Cyber incidents
  - Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)
  - Winter storms and flooding
  - Wildfires
  - Hazardous materials incidents
  - Water main breaks
  - Water agency vandalism/theft
  - Supply chain disruptions
- Coordinated mutual aid, resource requests, and information sharing between agencies.
- Supported Orange County Operational Area coordination during emergencies.

3 PLANNING & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- Developed the WEROC 2023–2025 Integrated Preparedness Plan.
- Developed the regional Five-Year Training & Exercise Program.
- Developed Agency Representative (AREP) ICP/EOC course.
- Supported development and review of emergency plans, annexes, SOPs and procedures for member agencies.
- Supported America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) implementation for participating agencies.
- Supported dam safety planning, drought preparedness, PSPS planning, and energy reliability initiatives.

4 TRAINING & EXERCISES

- Delivered certified ICS and G-Series Emergency Managements courses.
- Conducted in-house training saving agencies approximately **$165,000 annually.**
- Developed water and wastewater-specific curriculum.
- Delivered Cyber Security, Recovery, Agency Representative (AREP), Mutual Aid, AlertOC, WebEOC and 800 MHz Radio training.
- Conducted numerous tabletop and functional exercises.
- Including, but not limited to: OCWD, SOCWA, SMWD, SCWD, IRWD, Orange, ETWD, Huntington Beach, Fullerton, Westminster, Seal Beach, Buena Park, OC San, and others through exercise design and evaluation.

CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT

5 EQUIPMENT, LOGISTICS & FACILITIES

- Assessed member agency Emergency Operations Centers.
- Continued enhancements to the WEROC Mobile Command Vehicle.
- Upgraded Peters Canyon logistics facility.
- Maintained Mobile Command Vehicle readiness, maintenance, insurance and deployment capability.
- Managed emergency equipment, communications systems and logistics inventories.
- Supported the Department of Water Resources Emergency Water Tank Program.
- Coordinated logistics support for training, exercises and emergency activations.

6 CYBERSECURITY & TECHNOLOGY

- Strengthened the Water/Wastewater Cyber Security Working Group with OCIAC.
- Distributed timely cybersecurity advisories and threat information.
- Delivered cybersecurity awareness training.
- Supported member agencies during cyber incidents and preparedness activities.
- Supported AlertOC, WebEOC and regional emergency communications technology.

7 COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

- Enhanced public preparedness and stakeholder engagement.
- Delivered presentations to professional organizations throughout California.
- Supported National Preparedness Month initiatives.
- Developed regional situation reports, advisories and briefing materials.
- Supported public information coordination during regional incidents.

8 PLANNING DOCUMENTS SUPPORTED (EXAMPLES)

- Hazard Mitigation Plans (multiple agencies)
- Emergency Operations Plans
- Regional Mutual Aid Plan
- Regional Fire Response SOP
- Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) SOP
- Smoke Advisory SOP
- Disease Outbreak Annex
- Mass Care Annex
- Power Outage Annex
- Recovery Annex
- Tsunami Annex
- Carbon Canyon ERP
- Prado Dam ERP
- THIRA support
- Regional Water Commodities Distribution Plan

PROGRAM SUPPORT

FUNDING & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Managed annual WEROC operating budget.
- Maintained WEROC emergency operating reserves.
- Managed UASI grant-funded emergency water vessel project.
- Monitored BRIC and other federal funding opportunities.
- Identified significant cost savings through in-house planning, training and exercise development.

LEGISLATION & POLICY SUPPORT

- Provided legislative analysis on water sector emergency management legislation (SBs and ABs).
- Cal OES SEMS Advisory Council Representative (Special District Representative).
- SB 552 Drought Task Force participant.
- SEMS Guidance Revision Committee.
- Cal OES After Action Report Committee.
- Advocated for Orange County water and wastewater agencies on statewide emergency management policy.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- California Emergency Services Association Senator Nicholas C. Petris Award recipient.
- Expanded statewide and regional emergency management partnerships.
- Advanced organizational preparedness across 36 member agencies.
- Strengthened regional resilience through collaboration and innovation.
- Continued commitment to **"Your Resiliency is Our Legacy."**

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED (2020–2025)

- Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) support
- Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning
- Emergency communications interoperability
- Regulatory coordination (DDW, SWRCB, FEMA, EPA)
- Recovery planning and Public Assistance support
- Volunteer and Donations Management
- Infrastructure assessments and gap analysis
- Critical infrastructure protection
- Weather monitoring and situational awareness
- Emergency resource coordination
- Program development and organizational capacity building
- Continuous improvement and lessons learned
- Regional coordination with Operational Area partners
- Technical assistance to member agencies
- Grant support and funding assistance
- Emergency documentation and after-action improvement planning

Assessment Report: Emergency Management Program

WATER EMERGENCY RESPONSE ORGANIZATION OF ORANGE COUNTY (WEROC)

August 2020



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Scope 3
2 Introduction 3
3 Capabilities Assessment and Key Findings 7
3.1 Key Findings 8
3.2 Key Findings Identified: 12
3.2.1 Program Management and Administration 12
3.2.2 Planning 13
3.2.3 Implementation and Execution 13
3.2.4 Recovery 16
3.2.5 Training and Exercises/Program Maintenance and Improvement 17
4 Emergency Management Program Recommendations and Opportunities for Improvement 18
Recommendations Summary 18
4.1 Three (3) to Six (6) Months 18
4.1.1 Program Management and Administration Recommendations 18
4.1.2 Planning Recommendations 19
4.1.3 Operational Procedures 19
4.1.4 Training and Exercise Plan 20
4.2 Six (6) to Twelve (12) Months 20
4.2.1 Program Management and Administration Recommendations 20
4.2.2 Operational Procedures 21
4.2.3 Continuous Improvement/Project Completion 21
4.3 Twelve (12) to Twenty-Four (24) Months 21
4.3.1 Mutual Aid and WEROC Agreement 21
4.3.2 Incident Management, Information Sharing, and Situational Awareness Tools 22
4.3.3 Emergency Operations Center 24
4.3.4 Training and Exercise Plan 24
4.3.5 Resources Management/Logistics 24
4.4 Long-Term 24+ Months or More Discussion Required 25
4.4.1 Program Management and Administration Recommendations 25
4.4.2 Planning Recommendations 26
4.4.3 Recovery Plan 26
5 Summary of the future 27

1 SCOPE

This report provides the results of an assessment examining the Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County's current emergency management program by analyzing its function, organization, capabilities, and challenges. Key findings are provided, as well as recommendations. The document was developed by the Director of Emergency Management by reviewing existing emergency management policies, procedures, tools, references, and with input from stakeholders. Part of this assessment encompasses real-world events and coordination efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County (WEROC) Emergency Management Program is charged with supporting the resiliency of Orange County's water and wastewater agencies, and the community it serves by working with these agencies and the County to build, sustain, and improve the capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters.

Created in 1983[1] (37 years ago), WEROC's primary mission was originally to coordinate and support preparedness activities. Over the years, additional core functions were added to build a strong and resilient program supporting the member agencies during the response to a major emergency or disaster. In 2004 (16 years), a new program coordinator assumed the responsibilities of WEROC, assessed the program, and established additional mission activities as WEROC's core functions and capabilities including:

- Maintain the dedicated emergency radio system exclusively for the water utilities used by Orange County water utilities during any emergency or disaster response with required updates and enhancements.
- Prepare, update, and test a countywide emergency response plan, and provide assistance, as requested, for agencies to prepare and test their plans.
- Maintain two Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) in a state of readiness that will be staffed by trained water industry professionals.
- Organize emergency preparedness and response trainings among the water and wastewater agencies in Orange County.

[1] Original Volunteer Emergency Preparedness Organization Agreement, dated 1983

- Attend local and regional meetings regarding emergency preparedness and response issues on behalf of the Orange County water utilities.
- Include WEROC as an integral member of the County's Operational Area.

The groundwork of WEROC is its Indemnification Agreement between 35 water and wastewater utilities allowing for the provision of mutual assistance to each other during disasters and coordination efforts before a disaster. The WEROC staff provides the water utilities with required trainings, grant assistance, emergency plan review and development, and disaster exercise coordination. More importantly WEROC provides information sharing, resource coordination when disasters impact the water and waste water utilities of Orange County and sharing of how emergency response efforts proceeded in other parts of the State or County to ascertain lessons learned. WEROC is written into and fully integrated within the County's Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan.

The WEROC emergency management function has evolved from its early mission primarily due to the worldwide field of emergency management undergoing a significant evolution in the last 20 years, with an expansion in mission, role, organizational complexity, and program functions. This has been driven by several factors:

- With the implementation of California's Standardized Emergency Management System[2] (SEMS) in 1995, the county-level emergency management program became the lead agency for developing and maintaining the Operational Area concept. The Operational Area consists of all the county, municipal, and local district governments inside the county's geographic borders. County staff directly serve those residents in unincorporated county areas while indirectly supporting the cities and special districts. The county program serves as the primary conduit to state and federal organizations – before, during and after a disaster.

- Following 9/11, the federal government developed a tremendous body of regulation, policy, guidance, and practice (ex. the National Incident Management System). Initially intended to address the threat of major terrorism, these efforts have created many actual or implicit mandates and standards for how local government organizes and administers its emergency management function.

- The Homeland Security grants that also grew out of the post-9/11 initiatives have become increasingly complex to administer even as local governments grow more dependent upon them. In many ways, federal and state grant requirements drive priorities and programs, and funding from this source has become more competitive.

[2] California Government Code Section 8607
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=8607.&lawCode=GOV

- The increased level of knowledge, skill, and technical abilities required to conduct traditional emergency management preparedness activities such as planning, training, and exercising has forced many emergency managers to specialize. It is not uncommon to have staff spend most of their career in just one focus area.

- The effort to address the tactical level of emergency management (planning, etc.) often competes with needed policy-level work. Emergency managers are increasingly asked to support senior governance and policy programs including general plan development, infrastructure development, and post-disaster fiscal recovery. Emergency managers must balance workloads to ensure they can exercise their roles as leaders in support of executive management.

Recent advances in automation, information technology, and cutting-edge communications have produced an increasingly efficient but brittle society. For example, the shift to "just-in-time" inventories dependent upon overnight shipping have created inherent vulnerabilities. For example, the potential disruption in chemical supply deliveries, or as seen recently with COVID-19 and personal protective equipment used by multiple disciplines. Interruptions in communications, transportation, and electrical utilities and other lifelines can produce significant second-level threats to life and safety.

The recognition of threats from occurrence of natural hazards and man-made threats has resulted in the expansion of efforts to mitigate these threats greatly in the last 20 years. The true probabilities of existing hazards such as earthquakes, floods, and wildfires are now being appreciated. The threat of terrorism and cyber-attack incidents have challenged agencies like nothing before. The effects of climate change are already producing demonstrable extreme weather effects including extreme peak rainfall intensity, or lack of rainfall leading to drought, potentially more significant wildland fire incidents, significant winter storms, increased extreme heat incidents, and coastal storm surge. Therefore, the recognition of planning for and mitigating against these threats has a return on investments as all these events have an impact in different ways to the water/wastewater infrastructure.

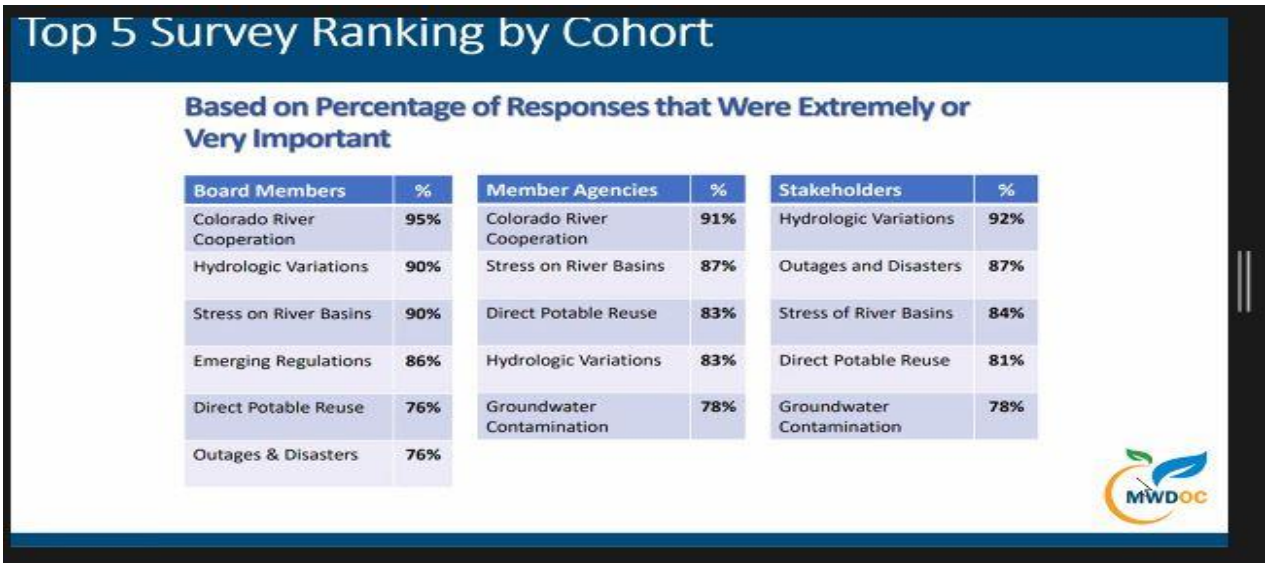
Concurrently, public expectations for local government services before and after a disaster have also risen dramatically. Residents are increasingly reliant upon collective infrastructure, utility, transportation, and information systems. Disruptions to these physical systems and the corresponding tears in the social fabric are effectively outside the control of individuals. In a disaster, communities expect local government to respond as quickly and with the same capabilities as our institutions provide in our daily lives. Additionally, there is an expectation of transparency as a public agency.

The federal government is urging local governments to adopt a culture of preparedness. This is no different for the water/wastewater agencies as demonstrated with more stringent federal regulations, such as the American Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. Local governments are being asked to increase preparedness resources, mitigate and

harden infrastructure, and stand ready to address their own needs following a disaster, and not depend on state or federal assistance.

In July at the MWDOC Manager Meeting, information was shared on the drivers for change in regards to the IRP study where outages and disasters were included. Below is the table highlighting Outages & Disasters at 76% and 87% by two of the three groups. An important reference in regards to linking the benefits of the WEROC program for its member agencies and the community.

Table 1.1 - June 2020 Survey IRP Drivers of Change



Additionally, the future of the WEROC program must incorporate the lessons learned from recent events that occurred both within our state and nationwide. It is critical to keep in mind that Orange County has been extremely lucky over the past 20 years, even though the county has been part of 13 federally declared disasters, Orange County has not had a significant event impacting all jurisdictions and agencies at one time to a catastrophic degree (not including COVID-19). A major earthquake poses grave challenges, while new and evolving threats such as active shooter, cyber disruption, or climate change-influenced weather incidents may test our readiness and resilience at any time.

3 CAPABILITIES ASSESSMENT AND KEY FINDINGS

WEROC has a solid program foundation that was built over the years by the previous dedicated Director of Emergency Management. The WEROC program is a recognized, best practice model for developing and implementing collaboration and cooperation among water and wastewater agencies for preparedness and response. The previous Emergency Manager was a dedicated advocate, mentor, and leader for the program by instilling an architecture of success for all who participated.

The Leadership and support at the executive and elected level comes from the Municipal Water District of Orange County and its member agencies, Orange County Sanitation District, Orange County Water District, South Orange County Wastewater Authority, City of Anaheim, City of Fullerton, City of Santa and WEROC's signatory member agencies. Collectively, this group validates the importance of the WEROC program and its day-to-day role and emergencies activities.

WEROC has developed a multitude of programs and overarching, high level plans to aid agencies with different types of event scenarios. Whenever possible, WEROC obtained grant funding for regional projects, such as improving the EOC's, purchasing fuel trailers and emergency drinking water trailers, and to secure emergency generators.

WEROC has built a network of communications and partnerships not only with member agencies, but other organizations, such as County of Orange Emergency Management, Orange County Fire Authority, Cities, CalOES, CalWARN, California Public Utilities Commission, Independent Special Districts of Orange County, and Orange County Water Association to name a few.

WEROC advocates on behalf of member agencies with federal, state, and local partners representing their needs and concerns to influence positive changes to legislation, procedures, and operational capabilities. Examples of representing advocacy is inclusion of water and wastewater agencies with mapping programs, the 800MHz radio system , the Public Safety Power Shutoff Program and approval of the Hazard Mitigation Program. WEROC has demonstrated its value and worth to all of its member agencies over the years.

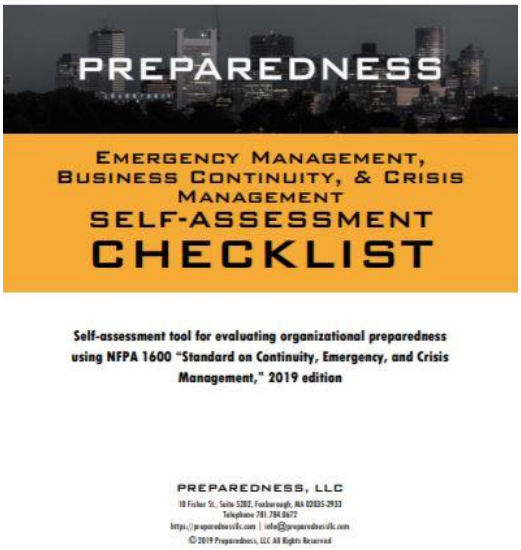
3.1 Key Findings

While an assessment of the emergency management program duly respects the successes and previous work performed by its predecessors, it is essential to acknowledge that a successful program needs to continue to evolve and adapt to changing principles and values of doing business. Infrastructure, technology, regulations, politics, and the expectations of agencies, along with the community it serves, is different now than it was just five (5) years ago. Technology, skills, and the overall business culture has transformed emergency preparedness and response into a highly complex system. The plans, procedures, programs, and technology systems in place must continually be evaluated and adjusted to meet the daily needs.

The WEROC program was assessed and evaluated using the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1600)[3], and the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) assessment standards. Since it was first published, NFPA 1600 has become the gold standard in emergency management. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has adopted it as a voluntary consensus standard for emergency preparedness. It is not a fire-based standard, rather it's a universal standard that emergency management and business continuity professionals can use to prepare and protect their people, property, and businesses. FEMA, the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), and the National Emergency Managers Association (NEMA) all endorse NFPA 1600. In fact, these organizations worked with the NFPA to develop the standard.

The chart on the next page summarizes the internal staff assessment of the current emergency management program capabilities based on categories identified in the NFPA 1600 Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs, the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, document review of both electronic and hard-copy files, and interviews and/or survey questions with stakeholders regarding the overall WEROC program. Additionally, the current COVID-19 response lessons learned so far have been incorporated into this assessment.

To aid in understanding the categories and criteria within each area is outlined on the following page.



[3] http://preparednessllc.com/assets/emergency_management_business_continuity_program_self-assessment-checklist.pdf

Program Management:

- Requires the commitment of the organization's leadership and managers through:
  - Committing to all phases of the program–development, implementation, and maintenance
  - Providing the resources to support the program
  - Ensuring program review and continuing evaluation to maintain program effectiveness
  - Supporting needed corrective measures to correct deficiencies in the program
- This area also requires the appointment of a program coordinator and program committee responsible for carrying out the above.
- Program administration requirements also include:
  - A documented program on policy, scope, goals, etc.
  - Acknowledgment, articulation and ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations
  - Finance and Administration procedures and records management

Planning:

- This area outlines the planning and design process in five areas:
  - A definition of the organization's vision, mission, and goals
  - A risk assessment and business impact analysis (BIA)
  - A resource needs assessment for:
    - emergency operations/response
    - crisis communications
    - developing a business continuity standard
    - actionable recovery plans
- Crisis management to address those events that could severely impact:
  - The organization's operations
  - Its ability to do business
  - Impact on relationships with key stakeholders both inside and outside the organization in the planning process
- Hazard analysis and risk assessment provides a list of hazards the organization needs to evaluate (geological, weather, disease, accident, sabotage, and technological) and examples of each. This area also describes the elements of a business impact analysis (BIA) and the analysis of the areas should identify and address.

Implementation

- Requires an emergency operations and response plan to define specific responsibilities and state what actions need to be taken and measures to stabilize the situation. Continuity and recovery plans to restore vital operations need to be included.
- This area analyzes measures an organization needs to take in developing strategies to:
    - Prevent a life-threatening or other serious incident
    - Mitigate or control the consequences of an incident
    - Provide for crisis communications and public information
    - Establish operational procedures to control access, identify and account for key personnel, and mobilize necessary resources

Training and Education

- This area prescribes "competency-based training tat supports all employees who have a role in the program." The training must focus on program awareness with the goal to "enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to implement, support, and maintain the program."

Exercises

- Periodic exercises and tests of the plan promote continuous improvement. The area requires a "standardized methodology to practice procedures." The design of the exercises and program tests include evaluation, measurement, and identification of deficiencies with the goal of improving group and individual performance.
- In sum, the exercises "shall evaluate program plans, procedures, training, and capabilities" and evaluation results shall be stated as either pass or fail. The exercises and drills "shall be conducted on the frequency needed to establish and maintain required capabilities."

Program Maintenance and Improvement

- This area prescribes a process to evaluate the organization's adherence to NFPA 1600 "through evaluation of the implementation of changes resulting from preventive and corrective actions." The program must be re-evaluated on a regular schedule, and when changes in the organization's operational environment impact the program.

The assessment yielded results in 11of 33 categories having critical issues needing to be addressed and amended. The key findings following the chart on the next page correlates directly to those categories marked in red highlighting identified critical areas missing or current practice does not meet the program needs to be proficient in this area.

Table 1.2 WEROC Evaluation Matrix Results

Mission Capable	Minor Issues	Critical Issues
Program Management and Administration		
Leadership and Commitment		
Program Manager/Staff		
Program Committee		
Program Administration		
Laws and Authorities		
Finance and Administration		
Records Management		
Planning		
Planning and Design Process		
Common Plan Requirements		
Risk Assessment		
Business Impact Analysis		
Resource Needs Assessment		
Performance Objectives		
Public Education		
Implementation/Execution		
Common Plan Requirements		
Hazard Mitigation Program		
Grants and other funding programs/Services		
Crisis Communications and Public Information		
Warning, Notifications, and Communications		
Incident Management/Information & Situational Awareness Tools		
Resources Management		
Operational Procedures		
Emergency Operations Center		
Continuity of Operations		
Emergency Operations/Response Plan		
Mutual Aid		
Recovery		
Recovery Plan		
Training and Exercises		
Training and Exercise Plan (TEP)		
Record Keeping		
Program Maintenance and Improvement		
Program Reviews		
Corrective Actions		
Continuous Improvement/Project Completion		

3.2 Key Findings Identified:

The following key findings are listed in the order lists in the assessment table and are not prioritized at this time. Priortization of key findings and recommendations will occur after presenation of the information, and further discussion of findings and recommendations with key stakeholders.

3.2.1 Program Management and Administration

1. The WEROC program was significantly impacted by staff turnover in the WEROC Coordinator/Specialist role. This position was unfilled for long periods. Personnel hired in many cases did not have strong experience and knowledge in the overall emergency management field. Consequently, a learning curve was present which slowed the ability to assign and complete projects. While the one constant was the previous Director of Emergency Management, who was in place for 15 years, the other support position went through a total of six people during a time when the expectations and requirements of WEROC grew.
2. The WEROC program has 36 identified programs/project areas it maintains on an on-going basis. Under each program area, there are sub-projects and requirements embedded within each project, for instance, plan development and training. This does not include the staff commitments when emergency events occur; day-to-day activities have to cease or slow down to cover issues such as COVID-19 or new emerging unfunded mandates, or regulations not accounted for within the staffing requirements for the current programs and project areas. This understaffing issue has impacted WEROC's ability to stay current, accurate, and continually update documents, provide on-going training, and complete implementation of important programs with member agencies.
3. Mounting and conflicting priorities have degraded capabilities due to staff vacancies (and understaffing) for basic maintenance of plans, basic training offerings, standard operating procedures, and many documents that have been untouched for 3 years or more.
4. The Municipal Water District of Orange County's current emergency language within its Administrative Code contains basic language to enable an effective response to a disaster. However, there is a lack of clarity in the relationship and the delegation of authority between the WEROC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Director, MWDOC General Manager, and the Board of Directors.
5. The Finance and Administration Department at the Municipal Water District of Orange County are managed and supported by an extremely capable and dedicated financial and IT team. In regards to the support of the WEROC mission, the current financial management software makes it challenging to extract information required to track disaster costs. Additionally, the Finance &Administrative role is not well defined outside the basic checklists or language in

the Administrative Code. There are not any standard operating procedures or process documents that currently exist to be implemented during emergencies or events outside of what is included in the Contracts Manual and the Administrative Code.

6. WEROC has a limited amount of petty cash available for use during an event that would not be able to sustain operations for more than one-two days. Moreover, there is not a chain of custody for expenditures each day, or approval authority hierarchy established to approve resource requests or EOC needs during an actual event. This was evident during the COVID-19 event when by the second day following the WEROC EOC activation, the expenditures for ordering personal protective equipment already surpassed the 1000.00 expenditure mark.
7. The WEROC records management is a strong area of concern as the current state of the WEROC files both electronic and hard copy files is difficult to navigate and find current records as there is no consistent naming convention for the files. Furthermore, many of the records kept are obsolete as they have been either superseded, old or they have no historical value. MWDOC has comprehensive record management and retention policy along with a dedicated program manager, but WEROC staff maintained its internal department drive which is out of compliance with not only MWDOC's policy but state and federal recommendations.

3.2.2 Planning

8. While conducting a resource needs assessment by looking at plans, procedures, and conducting stakeholder interviews, the Regional Fuel Project came up multiple times which was started by WEROC previously but never completed or implemented. WEROC began to ascertain the needs of agencies for critical equipment including facilities, generators, and vehicles requiring fuel during a catastrophic event. This project was not completed nor were any agreements established with local fuel suppliers during this time. There will be competition for fuel resources between all levels of government during a catastrophic event and therefore it is very important to complete and implement this project at the water agency level.

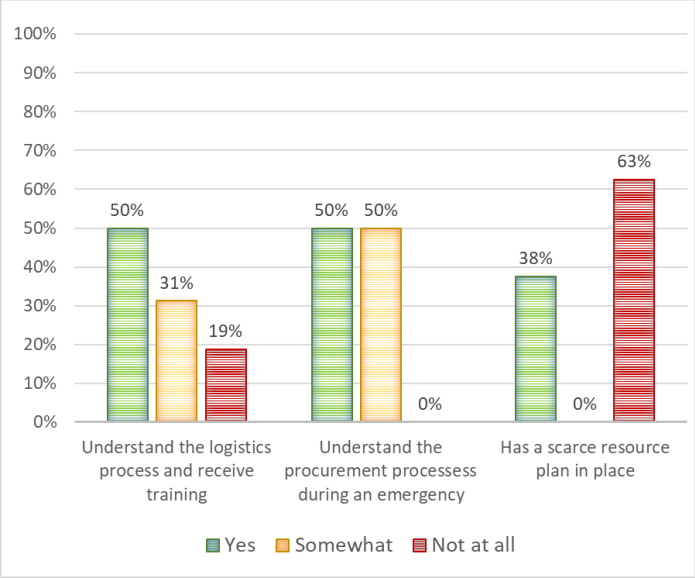
3.2.3 Implementation and Execution

9. Many member agencies indicated that sharing and accessing information is difficult and not everyone is comfortable with all the different platforms used. WEROC implemented eight different platforms to share or obtain information and situational awareness with member agencies and other partner agencies (Safety Center, WebEOC, Email, Google Drive, Dropbox, Facebook, Twitter, and WEROC's

Website). WEROC implemented multiple platforms to bridge a gap of obstacles and challenges different agencies had to suit their needs; however, none of the platforms used are interoperable or able to transfer information automatically. Each system needs to be manually inputted therefore ensuring accurate information contained within each platform at all times is open for human error. Misinformation leads to liabilities and bad decision making which has consequences potentially legally and financially. None of the current platforms have a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping and resource availability. Many of these platforms do not have a mechanism for sharing Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) for cyber information which is a high concern for many agencies.

10. WEROC maintains an excel spreadsheet of water and wastewater resources available during a mutual aid/assistance request. This document is not uploaded into any of the systems being used such as WebEOC Resource Manager. The tracking of resources request process and deployment is a gap as the WebEOC Resource Manager Platform which is currently used for resource requests is not functioning properly and has been in this state for years. At this time, WEROC remains unable to receive resource requests from agencies from WebEOC and is using a paper-based form and email. There is currently no process documents or a Logistics Plan available to member agencies to explain how resource requests and procurement works, and agencies do not have access to or knew where to obtain the resource request forms without inquring from WEROC.

11. Results from the member agency survey highlighted what was observed as the actual process during COVID-19, a real event outside of an exercise impacting a large number of agencies at one time. Most survey participants who answered the open-ended questions responded that they have multiple contracts, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), or processes in place to obtain equipment and personnel. Additionally, most respondents expected WEROC and Orange County Operational Area/Emergency Management Division to provide coordination, information, assistance, resources (including vendor lists or supplies), and guidance. Most



agencies do not have a Scarce Resource Plan in place to address needs during a catastrophic situation (example fuel resources), and have the misinformation that WEROC at the onset of event is supposed to have any supply a jurisdiction needs. WEROC was not set up, nor did it have any established contracts with vendors for emergency supplies.

12. WEROC's Emergency Operations Plan is due for revision in accordance with the AWIA 2018 standards. Member agencies maintain individual Emergency Operations and Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs), however, there is not a synchronizing document addressing the WEROC and Operational Area coordination mission or the ability to directly support member agencies by means of process documents, or an ongoing training program for hazard specific events such as cyber terrorism, water quality, wildland fire.

13. Many of the operational plans (specific to the hazard) reviewed are incomplete, out of date, inconsistently formatted or not well integrated with each other or the All-Hazards EOP. Most existing annexes do not reference or incorporate emergency response planning documents developed by individual agencies or for specific threats/hazards such as Standard Operating Procedures. In some instances, the only procedure developed was by means of an email sent to the agencies and never formalized. There is a good foundation in the overall EOP and a lot of forms, but the process documents or trainings on how to use these tools does not exist. Additionally, some of the information loaded in to the Safety Center does not match what is in the EOP updated in 2018.

14. There are 45 position guides with hard copy forms and reference documents along with a portable USB drive within each guide. On the USB drive there are 40 sub folders. There is no document that outlines the contents or how to use this information. Moreover, a considerable amount of the information contained on the USB drives is outdated, some information by more than 5 years old. As part of Federal Comprehensive Planning Guidance (CPG) 101 v2, plans are on a cycle of revision. The overall EOP is on a 2 year cycle, Hazard Mitigation 5 year, etc.

15. One of the most visible features of an emergency management program is the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). WEROC staff maintains facilities at both the South and North EOCs. The South EOC facility was constructed in 1982 and has undergone minor renovations in the intervening years. A facility assessment study conducted in 2016, revealed critical defects requiring further renovation to bring this building up to safety standards. The North EOC was constructed in 1988 to essential facility standards. The facility is intended to survive a major earthquake and remain operational. However, after analysis of past reports on both locations and using both the South and North EOC during the COVID-19 response, critical deficiencies were revealed at both locations including inadequate workspace and walkways, inflexible workstations, constrained floor plan layout, inability to

expand current electrical and data needs, outdated and inoperable communications systems, outdated or non-working computer equipment, underpowered HVAC system, insufficient storage, and incomplete ADA compliance. Neither EOC in its current form is capable of fully supporting large, complex, or extended-duration incidents.

16. The groundwork of WEROC is its Indemnification Agreement between 35 water and wastewater utilities allowing for the provision of mutual assistance to each other during disasters and coordination efforts before a disaster. The WEROC staff provides the water utilities with required trainings, grant assistance, emergency plan review and development, and disaster exercise coordination. More importantly WEROC provides information sharing, resource coordination when disasters impact the water and waste water utilities of Orange County. WEROC is written into and fully integrated within the County's Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan, but this is not identified in the original VEPO Indemnification Agreement as it was created prior to the Operational Area Agreement and OA EOP in 1995 and is out of date based on the concepts of Emergency Management today.

3.2.4 Recovery

17. Disaster recovery planning, not Information Technology Disaster Recovery, but overall recovery of operations and cost recovery may warrant an expanded planning focus. Recent events have repeatedly demonstrated that disaster recovery activities are often more challenging for local jurisdictions than emergency response requires. While WEROC is represented in the Operational Area Recovery Annex (plan), there is no specific planning for water agencies to address the priorities of restoration, multi-agency coordination of recovery activities, and agency cost recovery which are two different issues. Agencies do not have a through knowledge on what cost recovery is and the components requirements an agency needs to perform to quaify for federal recovery funding. One key example is debris management and debris removal. Over the years, while I was at the County, many water agencies failed to claim and loss the opportunity to seek reimbursement funding in the hundreds of thousands of dollars for Emergency Work-Category A-Debris Removal due the minunderstanding is this is solely for public works and community debris removal item. Likewise, contained within the WEROC Emergency Operations Plan, the Public Assistance section is a brief summary of some considerations but does not serve as an effective operational guide to aid agencies with the complex requirements to execute their agencies' recovery program.

3.2.5 Training and Exercises/Program Maintenance and Improvement

18. Many notable, innovative critical projects and programs were created or started by WEROC over the years, however, not all projects were completed or implemented. Some examples include, Water Commodities Distribution Plans, and the Regional Fuel Project. Moreover, the Emergency Water Quality Sampling Kits program was started, training conducted and an exercise conducted, but the WEROC process documents were not fully implemented nor was an on-going training program established past its initial offerings in 2017. Furthermore, an effort was initiated to begin securing additional generators and standardizing the connections of such with various types of transfer switches; this project faced technical issues and was not completed.



Santiago Fire 2007 via Mission Viejo Lake source OC Register

4 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Recommendations Summary

- Commit. Build a responsive and effective emergency management program that engages our agencies, mitigates hazards, prepares our agencies, and guides our agencies to understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to response and recovery to major emergencies and disasters.
- Resource. Commit staff and funding resources to reinforce and sustain the emergency management program.
- Manage. Prioritize and implement the recommendations set forth in the assessment by transitioning this document into a WEROC Strategic Plan.
- Evaluate. Incorporate performance measures of the emergency management program into an annual report for the Board of Directors and member agencies to analyze and quantify the future vision and mission of the WEROC program.

The following recommendations focus on the major, critical areas identified in the key findings section of this report. These are not listed in priority order, but divided into potential timelines for implementation. It should also be noted that items listed as "minor issues" on the NFPA 1600 matrix will be addressed throughout the year as staff time allows.

4.1 Three (3) to Six (6) Months

4.1.1 Program Management and Administration Recommendations

1. Obtain and assign a US Bank Government Cal Card to the WEROC program. By obtaining an Integrated Card combining capabilities of purchase, travel and fleet programs into a single solution. This card would have a procedure and process in place for its use for both non-emergency and emergency event. The process will:
    - Identify the authorized users
    - Authorized spending limits
    - Approval authority
    - Establish a process incorporated into the logistics, and financial standard operating procedures.

- The current petty cash system can remain in effect for small events, but the process document will identify when the activation of the Cal Card system will occur.

2. WEROC staff will organize all files in possession and required to maintain. It should include:
    - Development of a naming convention
    - Development of a process document that complements the MWDOC records management policy
    - Inclusion of a consistent date stamp and file pathway policy at the bottom of each document.

    All old, obsolete or draft paperwork no longer containing a historical value or in accordance with the MWDOC record retention/management policy will be deleted.

4.1.2 Planning Recommendations



1. WEROC should be prioritizing program areas based on the criteria of state and federal mandates (example – AWIA), risk assessment (probability vs. consequence), and business impacts (operational, financial, reputation damage, and community/consumers expectations). This process will be done in collaboration with the WEROC member agencies as no project or program can be successful without their buy-in and commitment to the project. The end result is to establish a way to potentially combine planning efforts to address multiple programs which have overlap such as AWIA and Hazard Mitigation Planning. This will save both staff time and money.

4.1.3 Operational Procedures

1. Develop a plan maintenance schedule program that incorporates updating of all hazard procedures, and incorporates changes and process into the WEROC overall training program.
    - This program will look at requirements, for instance AWIA and Hazard Mitigation, so the timing for revision and training can be done at the same time as a result of many similar, overlapping requirements of each program.

- This schedule will identify planning gaps and needs for plan development, for example Cyber Terrorism Planning.
- This recommendation will fix the out-of-date information in safety center not being updated.

4.1.4 Training and Exercise Plan

1. Increase training on basic emergency management and stay up-to-date with best practices. There is a want and expectation from member agencies obtained from the WEROC coordination calls, training survey and assessment surveys conducted over the past 6 months for more training on the basics of emergency management and periodic updates on changing practices in the emergency management field.
2. Develop a Training and Exercise Plan that corresponds with the maintenance and updating of plans and standard operating procedures.
3. Establish a minimum training requirement for new and existing staff. Includes ongoing training and requirements for refresher training.

4.2 Six (6) to Twelve (12) Months

4.2.1 Program Management and Administration Recommendations

1. Update and amend the MWDOC Administrative Code with expanded language to align with the California Government Code and Federal statutes to ensure the delegation of authorities are clearly outlined. Sections within the Administrative Code include:
   - 1307-General Manager;
   - 2000-General Policy;
   - 2009- WEROC Reserves;
   - 8003-Requisition and Purchase Orders.

   Adding additional language establishes the following:

   - Clarity in the relationship and Delegation of Authority between the WEROC Director, MWDOC General Manager, and the Board of Directors
   - Transparency
   - Operational capability
   - Clear line of succession

- Ensure compliance with federal regulations 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(f) (2), and 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317–200.326 by outlining the differences between both exigency and emergency situations that demand immediate aid or action as defined by FEMA.
- Ability to access contracts such as California Multiple Awards Services (CMAS) contracts.

4.2.2 Operational Procedures

1. Develop hazard specific standard operating procedures that explain where to find and obtain resources needed for the specific hazard. Many of the checklists are written more as guidance. The missing link here is the process on "how to" actions. These process documents will be built into hands-on training, not just a lecture series prior to exercises.

2. Develop a "Just in Time" training guide for the front of the position guides explaining the contents and how to use the binder, and process documents.

3. Eliminate the 45 USB drives. Maintain 6 USB drives for EOC Director, EOC Manager, Operations Section Chief, Planning and Intelligence Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and the Finance & Administration Section Chief. This will assist with staff time requirement to maintain the 200+ documents on these drives on a consistent timetable due to the staff time required to maintain these documents. ** If the new information sharing platform is implemented, staff will have access to the most updated information if required.

4.2.3 Continuous Improvement/Project Completion

1. WEROC will develop a current project and program work plan listing all the program/planning areas.

2. WEROC will present an annual report and business plan outlining its milestones for the year and grading the programs contained within for transparency.

4.3 Twelve (12) to Twenty-Four (24) Months

4.3.1 Mutual Aid and WEROC Agreement

1. Rewrite the Voluntary Emergency Preparedness Organization/WEROC Indemnification Agreement between 35 water and wastewater utilities. The Agreement was designed to accommodate the admission of new participants without requiring original or existing participants to amend or ratify the Indemnification Agreement with each new admission. In order to accurately

describe the rights and obligations of the new signatories to the Indemnification Agreement, new participants have signed the same agreement as the original signatories, titled "Volunteer Emergency Preparedness Agreement Indemnification Agreement." As documentation of the change in name to the program, they were additionally provided Municipal Water District of Orange County Resolution No. 1623 "Name Change of Volunteer Emergency Response Organization to Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County." The outdated document does not highlight the overall changes to mutual assistance, mutual aid, and emergency management systems seen globally including the importance of disaster recovery and resiliency. The current state of the document does not include intra-agency, non-emergency sharing of equipment.

4.3.2 Incident Management, Information Sharing, and Situational Awareness Tools

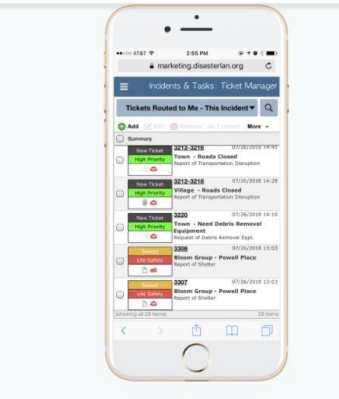
1. Develop, obtain, and implement a new WEROC-specific platform to meet specific needs of the member agencies to securely store, maintain, and disseminate files and information. This will establish one location in which all information can be securely maintained for the WEROC organizations only instead of using 9 different applications. This application can be used for day to day operations and emergency events. Justification for this recommendation is as follows:

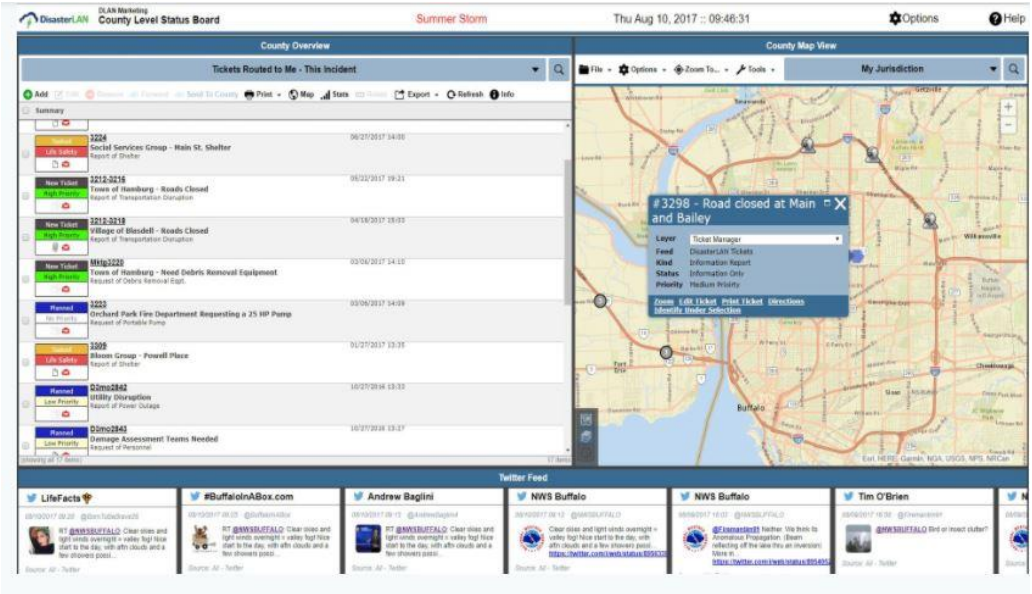
    - Safety Center, the solution put into place 10 years ago, does not allow personnel the ability to download documents but only to view or read on their computer or mobile device. This platform is older technology and not user friendly on the backend to upload documents or implement a data management strategy. Not to mention the cost of this platform increased 20% from 2019 which is not justifiable based on what the return is for the user. This is not a viable solution for real time events.
    - WebEOC, an internet based incident management program is maintained and operated by the County of Orange and provided to members of the Operational Area. The information obtained by the County is very important in order to create an overall, impact operating picture of the entire county in order to know how bad it is. The down side to WebEOC is water and wastewater agencies are unable to create boards or track specific information about their organization. It is important to understand the county provide this system to everyone signatory to the Operational Area Agreement, which currently stands at 115 signatory members and others with a pertinent reason to access the system. New processes and needs are prioritized based on the regional view, so timelines to get new items only for one discipline or sector is limited by County priorities and

funding. Part of the scope of work for a system will be to complement and be able to pull information the County is still requesting from water and wastewater agencies so we can meet the needs of everyone who desires certain information.

- None of the current operating platforms in use, including WebEOC, contain a GEO Spatial Information (Mapping) system or simplified GIS Dashboard with layers for all member agencies to use. This tool would be very useful to the member agencies. With the inter-dependencies of the water connections, having a interfacing map and GIS layer capability of the infrastructure and other open source critical information such as flow rates, high fire zone, current weather information, liquidfaation zone, flood plain maps, dam inundation layers, etc., would allow for tracking and decision making purposes, not only during an emergency, but planned, larger, longer outages as well. Part of the GIS component would also include a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site to store and disseminate GIS files to MAs agencies.

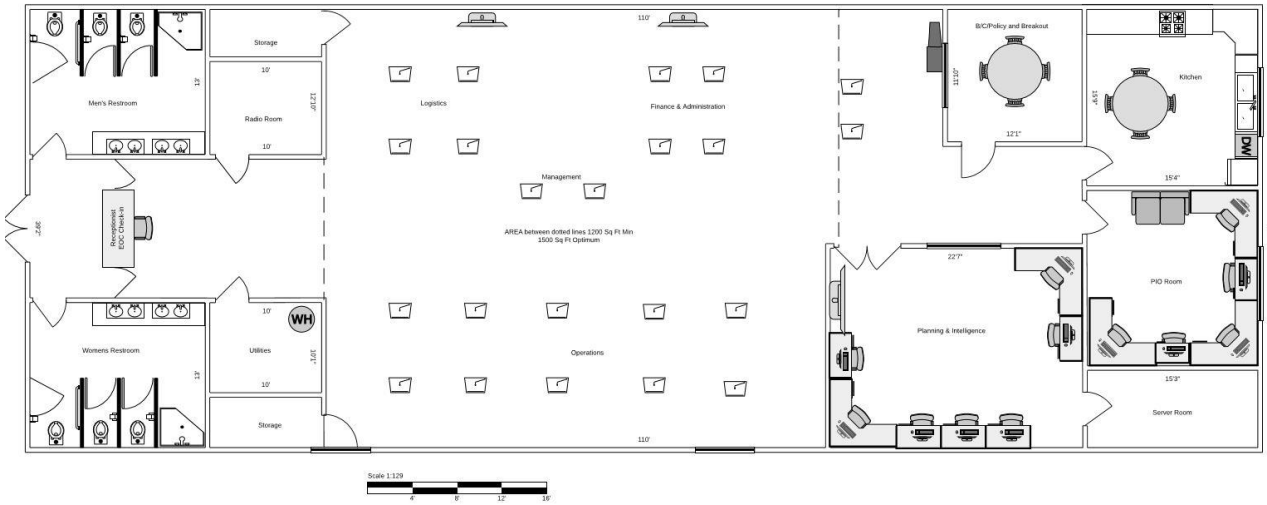
- Email is a great tool to share information, but there are setbacks and challenges such as having the appropriate people receiving the information; people forwarding the information outside of the water community with a right to know – need to know; referencing information days or weeks later and remembering when it was sent, etc.





4.3.3 Emergency Operations Center

1. Renew the South Land Use Agreement with the El Toro Water District where the South EOC is Located.
2. Partner with El Toro Water District on the construction of the new South EOC building as part of El Toro Water District existing Filter Plant and Clearwell Project instead of the 2017 Seismic Project renovation of the current building.
    - Presentation and project outline will be offered to the Board during a future Planning and Operations Committee Meeting.



3. Discontinue the services at the North EOC, but maintain the location as a logistics Point of Distribution/Staging Site and maintain the agreement with MET for its use.

4.3.4 Training and Exercise Plan

1. Incorporate a training database and training calendar into the new information sharing platform to track when training has been completed and when training is expired.

4.3.5 Resources Management/Logistics

1. Develop a Logistics Plan. The Logistics Plan will incorporate how personnel, supplies, and equipment are requested, procured, tracked, and supported within the WEROC Organization. While the EOP has a logistics section included containing the process, policies and procedures, the section does not contain specific detail. Member agencies responded to the Logistics question that they have an expectation for WEROC to provide coordination, information, assistance, resources (including vendor lists or supplies), and guidance throughout the event. One section of the plan will focus on the development of a Vendor Specialist EOC

position under the Procurement Unit Leader in Logistics with developed procedures and checklists for identifying vendors for scarce resource such as fuel.

2. Prepare a compiled list of verified vendors for use by the water and wastewater agencies. WEROC did not have a master vendor list, or established contracts prior to the COVID-19 event. Agencies looked to WEROC to fill the void of finding a vetted vendor for scarce items.
3. Incorporate a Resource Tracking System within the new Information Sharing Platform.
    - Easy Inventory tracking
    - Mutual Aid Resources Tracking
    - Resource Request Process built in
    - Maintained Vendor Lists accessible by all water and waste water agencies as developed jointly with member agencies.

4.4 Long-Term 24+ Months or More Discussion Required

4.4.1 Program Management and Administration Recommendations

1. Expand the number of emergency management staff positions from 3.0 Full time Employees (FTE) to 5.0 FTE.

    Current Program:

    - Emergency management staff: 1.0 Director, 1.0 WEROC Specialist - Full Time Equivalent (FTE), and 1.0 Administration Support FTE – 36 hour employee shared with the MWDOC Administration Department.
    - One Extra Help (E/H) – Limited Term – 20 hours maximum per week AWIA specific contracted employee. Project contract employee paid for by the contract.
    - Limited support from the Engineering and Planning Group

    Recommendation: Augment emergency management:

    - Emergency management staff: 5.0 FTE including 1.0 Director, 2.0 WEROC Specialists (experienced), 2.0 WEROC Coordinators (entry level).
    - Current Administrative Support Positions: 1.0 Full Time Equivalent reclassified as WEROC Coordinator Position for additional projects and duties specific in the emergency management field.
    - Instead of extra help – Convert Limited Term position and commit to a fulltime position to develop, design and implement large, comprehensive programs including on-going maintenance, training and planning (WEROC Specialist) as emergency management programs are not a one-time implementation but an ongoing cycle.

- WEROC Coordinator is an entry level position and will have assignments to augment professional growth while achieving assigned tasks appropriate for the employee's knowledge base for the benefit of the organization.
- Expand succession planning by having more opportunities for different program management.
- Additional staff can focus on the training, exercise, and planning mission of WEROC and its member agencies. This will eliminate the conflicting priority issue, or lack of staff in order to maintain a project.
- Additional staff can assist with the upkeep and training of the volunteer program established to respond to the EOC.

4.4.2 Planning Recommendations

1. WEROC commits to finishing and implementing the Regional Water and Wastewater Fuel Project which has been highlighted by many in terms of importance. This includes but is not limited to:
    - Assessment of all agencies fuels needs (facilities and equipment) and types (unleaded, diesel, red diesel, CNG, propane, etc.)
    - Inventory current fuel locations and capabilities
    - Obtain fuel burn rates and conduct a Business Impact Analysis (BIA) for emergency times vs day to day operations to develop a sustained "fueling" program to operate generators within the County for durations of several weeks or more.
    - Research Grant opportunities for partnerships with the private sector
    - Enter into agreements with fuel vendors, wholesale-local retailers, local distribution centers and local fuel stations within each of our MAs
    - Develop an operational procedure on obtaining the resource include the mechanisms for which it is activated
    - Enter into an agreement with member agencies on use of these agreements and financial obligations as required
    - Develop a training plan for member agencies and the organization in which agreements are made

4.4.3 Recovery Plan

1. Develop a Recovery Plan, which includes cost recovery and complements the Business Continuity Plan agencies have in place. The Recovery Program and Plan will address:
    - The priorities of restoration

- Multi-agency coordination of recovery activities
- Create key debris management policies until a specific template for debris management for each agency can be developed.
- Identify potential long-term recovery authorities and policies such as expedited processes and finance vehicles.
- Cost recovery and the process and procedures required in accordance with state and federal regulations and guidelines.
- On-going training for both field and administrative staff.
- Recovery Exercise program built into the Training and Exercise Plan.

5 SUMMARY OF THE FUTURE

This assessment looked at all aspects of the current WEROC program. While there were opportunities identified to make positive changes for the future of WEROC, it should be acknowledged that WEROC is an organization not found in many areas of the nation. This can be attributed to where the program has been from its inception, its innovation, collaboration and foundation of supporting the member agencies is what this program is about. The past efforts should be applauded for their hard work and dedication putting a program in place to improve the resiliency of water and wastewater agencies. The mission and values may change from the original plan, but maintaining the stewardship and trust of continuing the traditions of WEROC's core fundamentals is essential. At the same time, we must continue to evolve with the changing times and expectations of today. With that being said, WEROC is being developed looking ahead for the next 10-20 years. The goal will remain to encompass resiliency, continuity, and succession planning for this program to continue with the mindset that WEROC is a system and an organization.

Respectfully Written and Submitted by:
Vicki Osborn
Director of Emergency Management
Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County

Item No. 2

ACTION ITEM
August 19, 2026

TO: **Board of Directors**

FROM: **Planning & Operations Committee**

Harvey De La Torre, General Manager

Staff Contact: Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs

SUBJECT: **INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICTS OF ORANGE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – CALL FOR CANDIDATES**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors discuss and determine if a member of the MWDOC Board would like to be nominated as a candidate for the Independent Special Districts of Orange County Executive Committee; endorse a Director's candidacy through a resolution of the Board if nominated; and direct staff as appropriate.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

(To be determined at Committee Meeting)

REPORT

Purpose

The Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC) is conducting an election of its Executive Committee for a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2027, and ending on December 31, 2028. The Board of Directors (Board of Director) will discuss and determine whether any member of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) Board would like to be nominated as a candidate for one of the open positions.

Discussion

On July 23, 2026, ISDOC issued a notice calling for candidates for the positions of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Secretary,

and Treasurer on the Executive Committee. A formal announcement was distributed to all member districts via email (Attachment 1).

Any Board Member of a regular ISDOC member agency is eligible for nomination to any of the open positions. Individuals who wish to be considered for a position are required to submit a letter of interest for that position, together with a resolution from their Board authorizing their candidacy. A brief description of the Executive Committee positions and duties is outlined in the attached notice.

Per ISDOC Bylaws, Director McVicker, as the current President, will assume the position of Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President serves as a voting, ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. No formal action of the MWDOC Board is required for Director McVicker to secure his position on the ISDOC Executive Committee for the 2027-2028 term.

Next Steps

Staff recommends the Board of Directors discuss and determine if a member of the MWDOC Board would like to be nominated as a candidate for the ISDOC Executive Committee; endorse a Director's candidacy through a resolution of the Board if nominated; and direct staff as appropriate.

Nominations for the ISDOC Executive Committee close on Friday, September 4, 2026, and all Board resolutions must be received at that time. Following the nomination period, ballots will be mailed to all regular ISDOC members in good standing on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, and will be due by Friday, October 23, 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.*

BOARD OPTIONS

Option #1: Determine if a member of the MWDOC Board would like to be nominated as a candidate for the ISDOC Executive Committee; endorse a Director's candidacy through a resolution of the Board if nominated; and direct staff as appropriate.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Option #2: Take no action.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Budgeted: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A		Budgeted amount:
Core: ☐	Choice: ☐	Movement between Cost Centers: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Action item amount:		

Attachments
Attachment 1: ISDOC Call for Candidates, Executive Committee Correspondence

ISDOC
Independent Special Districts of Orange County

Mailing Address

18700 Ward St., Unit B
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Meeting Location

MWDOC/OCWD
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

(714) 963-3058
(714) 964-5930 *fax*

https://www.isdoc.net

Executive Committee

President
Hon. Bob McVicker
Municipal Water District of Orange County

1st Vice President
Vacant

2nd Vice President
Hon. Marilyn Thoms
East Orange County Water District

3rd Vice President
Hon. Al Nederhood
Municipal Water District of Orange County

Secretary
Vacant

Treasurer
Hon. Saundra Jacobs
Santa Margarita Water District

Immediate Past President
Hon. Greg Mills
Serrano Water District

Staff Administration

Heather Baez
Municipal Water District of Orange County

Katie Vincent
Municipal Water District of Orange County

July 23, 2026

PLEASE DISSEMINATE TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS

The **Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC)** is conducting an election of its **Executive Committee**. The elected Executive Committee members will serve a **two-year term beginning on January 1, 2027, and ending on December 31, 2028**. Meetings of the Executive Committee typically occur on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. virtually via Zoom.

This email shall serve as official notice and call for candidates for the positions of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer on the Executive Committee of the Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC).

The election will be conducted via email and mail ballot.

Nominations will close on Friday, September 4, 2026. Any Board Member/Trustee of a regular ISDOC member agency is eligible for nomination to any of the open positions. Individuals who wish to be considered for a position should submit a letter of interest for that position, together with a resolution from their Board authorizing their candidacy. A brief description of the Executive Committee positions and duties is on page two of this notice.

Ballots will be mailed to all regular ISDOC members in good standing on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026, and are due by Friday, October 23, 2026.**

New officers will be announced and introduced at the **Quarterly Meeting on October 29, 2026.**

If you are seeking nomination to a position on the Executive Committee, please send your letter/email of interest and a copy of your Board's authorizing resolution to Heather Baez at hbaez@mwdoc.com. All nomination requests must be received by **Friday, September 4, 2026.**

Please note – your district must be a current member and up to date on your annual membership dues for 2026 to run for the Executive Committee and vote in the election. If you have any questions about your district's membership status, or if you have any questions about any of the positions or the election process, please contact either Heather Baez at hbaez@mwdoc.com or Katie Vincent at kvincent@mwdoc.com.

Mailing Address

18700 Ward St., Unit B
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Meeting Location

MWDOC/OCWD
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

(714) 963-3058
(714) 964-5930 *fax*

https://www.isdoc.net

Executive Committee

President
Hon. Bob McVicker
Municipal Water District of Orange County

1st Vice President
Vacant

2nd Vice President
Hon. Marilyn Thoms
East Orange County Water District

3rd Vice President
Hon. Al Nederhood
Municipal Water District of Orange County

Secretary
Vacant

Treasurer
Hon. Saundra Jacobs
Santa Margarita Water District

Immediate Past President
Hon. Greg Mills
Serrano Water District

Staff Administration

Heather Baez
Municipal Water District of Orange County

Katie Vincent
Municipal Water District of Orange County

Responsibilities of the positions are as follows:

PRESIDENT: The President is the chief executive officer of ISDOC. He or she presides over all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, appoints all committees, and serves as ISDOC's official spokesperson.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: The First Vice President chairs the Program Committee. Duties include planning the Quarterly Luncheon program, inviting and coordinating with the invited speaker, and, in the absence of the President, shall perform all duties of the President.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: The Second Vice President chairs the Membership Committee. Duties include maintaining a list of current regular and associate members, following up with any outstanding membership dues as needed, and, in the absence of the President and First Vice President, shall perform all duties of the President.

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT: The Third Vice President chairs the Legislative Committee. Duties include providing a legislative update, making legislative position recommendations to the Executive Committee, and, in the absence of the President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President, shall perform all duties of the President.

SECRETARY: The Secretary is responsible for all correspondence and the dissemination of information to members. Duties include preparing and distributing agendas and minutes for the Executive Committee meeting, as well as any other formal correspondence as directed by the Executive Committee. All official correspondence to the members will be approved in advance by the President or the President's designee.

Note: The ISDOC bylaws were updated and approved by the membership on February 27, 2026, making an addition to Section III (B) of Article III to allow for a *staff member or* elected/appointed official of a Regular Member District to serve as Secretary.

TREASURER: The Treasurer maintains the complete financial records and bank accounts in the name of the Organization, and pays all bills duly approved by the Executive Committee, with a report to be presented to the membership at the Organization's next membership meeting.

Item No. 3

INFORMATION ITEM
August 3, 2026

TO: **Planning & Operations Committee**

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

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

SUBJECT: **LEAD AND COPPER RULE IMPROVEMENTS SHARED SERVICES PROGRAM – PHASE 1**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

REPORT

Purpose

This item provides the Planning & Operations Committee with information on Lead and Copper Rule requirements and the development of Phase 1 of a Lead and Copper Rule Improvements Shared Services Program.

Background

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) Member Agencies initially sought Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) compliance support beginning in early 2023, leading the Board of Directors (Board or Director) to approve the LCRR Shared Services Program in September 2023.

After supporting participating agencies in achieving non-lead system status and meeting the October 16, 2024, LCRR inventory deadline, agencies began requesting Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) assistance in late 2025 as the new rule expanded requirements established under the LCRR, including:

- Identification of service line and connector material in the service line inventory;
- Annual inventory updates;
- Public accessibility requirements;

- Non-lead validation studies; and
- Potential to submit a non-lead validation waiver.

Under the LCRI, which took effect December 30, 2024, water systems will be required to develop and submit a baseline service line inventory, due by November 1, 2027.

The required baseline inventory introduces several additions and stricter reporting requirements compared to the initial October 2024 service line inventory. Under the new rule, water systems must identify all service line connectors (pigtails, goosenecks) and categorize them as non-lead, lead, unknown, or no connector present. Water systems must also implement state-approved methods to validate the classification of service lines previously designated as “non-lead” that are not based solely on physical visual inspection. An annual inventory update will also be required after 2027.

The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), is in the process of adopting the federal LCRI into the California Code of Regulations, thereby reaffirming DDW as the state’s primacy agency. DDW released the proposed California LCRI Rules in May 2026 and indicated in June 2026 that it intends to provide guidance for California water agencies in late 2026, subsequent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) anticipated summer guidance release.

Discussion

A survey of the Member Agencies conducted in late May 2026 indicated a desire from at least 10 agencies for MWDOC to assist them with certain aspects of the LCRI through a Shared Services Program, similar to the technical assistance provided under the LCRR Shared Services Program completed in October 2024.

Based on interest, MWDOC staff is now developing Phase 1 of the Shared Services Program to help agencies meet LCRI compliance, specifically the November 1, 2027 baseline inventory submittal and evaluation of eligibility for a non-lead validation study waiver.

Given the apparent similarity of this compressed timeline for the LCRI inventory, as experienced with the LCRR initial inventory guidance release and the LCRR submission deadline, staff will work to organize and communicate the components of a shared services program to potential participating agencies, with Phase I focusing on LCRI inventory submittal and evaluation of eligibility for a non-lead validation study waiver.

The EPA is anticipated to issue LCRI guidance and training in late summer 2026, while the State (as the primacy agency) is anticipated to release its guidance on interpretation and enforcement of the LCRI in late 2026 through early 2027.

Next Steps

MWDOC staff will continue monitoring EPA and DDW guidance as it is released and develop Phase 1 of the Shared Services Program, which will lay the groundwork needed

to determine each agency's LCRI compliance status and whether pursuing a non-lead validation waiver is advantageous. Staff will then bring an action item to the Board for approval, with a defined Scope of Work for the LCRI Shared Services Program that aligns with the needs of our Member Agencies.

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.*

Budgeted: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A		Budgeted amount:
Core: ☐	Choice: ☒	Movement between Cost Centers: ☐ Yes ☒ No
Action item amount:		

Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: LCRI Shared Services Program Phase I Handout

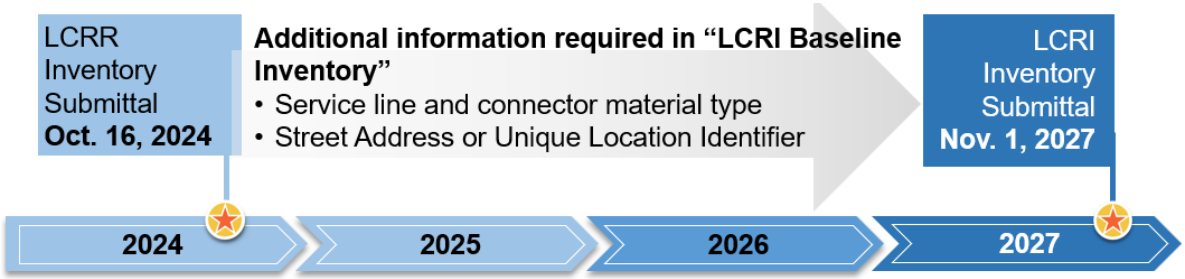
Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI)
Shared Services Program – Phase 1

Background

- Early 2023: MWDOC received requests from Member Agencies for Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) compliance assistance.
- September 2023: The MWDOC Board approved the **LCRR Shared Services Program**, with the goal of assisting Orange County agencies in developing Service Line Inventories for submission to the Division of Drinking Water (DDW).
- All 13 participating agencies **achieved non-lead status** and met the October 16, 2024 compliance deadline.
- Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) became effective December 30, 2024, augmenting LCRR requirements.
- Late 2025: MWDOC Member Agencies began requesting LCRI compliance assistance.

How LCRI Augments LCRR Requirements

The LCRI builds on the LCRR inventory timeline, adding new data requirements, annual reporting obligations, and validation steps between the original LCRR submittal and the new LCRI baseline inventory deadline:



- **Inventory updates**: required annually
  - **Publicly accessible**
  - **Available online** (serving > 50,000 persons)
- **Defined deadlines** for responses to several types of customer inquiries
- **Non-lead validation study**

Additional annual public information:

- Number of service lines classified as:
  - Lead Service Lines (LSLs)
  - Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR)
  - Unknown material
- Number of known and replaced lead connectors
- Number of LSLs and GRRs replaced each year

LCRI 10-Year Compliance Timeline

November 1, 2027

- -Baseline inventory w/ connectors due
- -LSL Replacement Plan due
- -Lead testing offer to all LSL, GRRs, & UNKs
- -Required School & Childcare sampling starts
- -Numerous Public Interaction Requirements
- -Updated Health Effects Language - CCRs
- -Non-Lead Validation Study Waivers due

Jan 1, 2028

- -Lead Action Level reduced to 10 ppb
- -Tap sampling protocols change
- -Standard monitoring starts

Jan 30, 2029

- 1st official LCRI reporting date (Nov 2027 to Dec 2028)

Jan 30, 2031

- 1st cumulative replacement rate reporting

Dec 31, 2034

- Non-Lead Validation Study due

Dec 31, 2037

- Deadline to replace all LSLs/GRRs
- All UNKs identified

Abbreviations
LSL = Lead Service Line
GRR = Galvanized Requiring Replacement service line
UNK = Unknown material
CCR = Consumer Confidence Reports

AWWA v. EPA

- In December 2024, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) filed a petition for judicial review of the LCRI.
- Intervenors: Newburgh Clean Water Project, NRDC, and Sierra Club.
- The AWWA challenges two primary components of the rule:
  - The 10-year timeline to replace all lead service lines is infeasible (estimated cost: $100 billion or more).
  - The rule's definition of “control” – the LCRI presumes that if a water system has “access” to a privately owned service line, it has “control” over it.
- Oral arguments are scheduled for October 30, 2026.

EPA Determination: “Access” = “Control”

> *"Where a water system has access to conduct full service line replacement, the service line is under its control, even if it is located on private property, and the water system must replace the service line."* *Federal Register, October 30, 2024 – National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper Improvements (LCRI) Final Rule [Preamble – Section V.C.2, page 86027]*

Lead Service Line Replacement Plan

> *"A service line replacement plan is required for any water system with at least one Lead, GRR, or unknown service line."* *USEPA LCRI Technical Fact Sheet: Service Line Inventory & Replacement Requirements, October 2024*

Implications for OC Water Systems

- A system that does not identify connector and/or service line material will have “unknowns” remaining in its inventory.
- “Unknowns” are treated the same as Lead and GRR service lines – the system will be subject to creating a replacement plan, sending out public notifications, and other associated requirements.

Non-Lead” Validation Study Definitions & Key Terms

- **Purpose:** The LCRI requires water systems to conduct a study to “validate the accuracy of the non-lead service line category in the inventory.”
- **Validation:** Visual confirmation of the material of a service line pipe exterior.
- **Exclusions:** Service lines that have been visually inspected at a minimum of two points can be excluded from the validation pool.
- The validation study deadline is December 31, 2034.
- **Validation Study Waiver:** Water systems without any known lead, GRR, or unknown service lines can work with their State to seek a validation study waiver before November 1, 2027. **Approval is at the State’s discretion.**
- **Waivers** apply only when the system has conducted an inventory validation at least as stringent as the LCRI validation requirements.

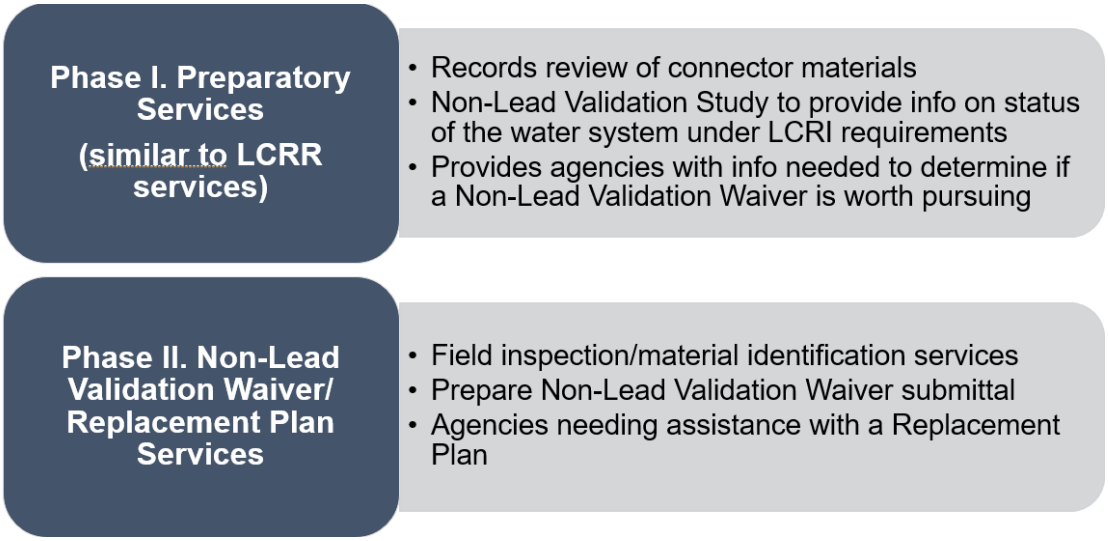
Implications for OC Water Systems

- Some OC systems visually inspected all service lines during LCRR initial inventory development. They will still need to categorize connector material type or prove “no connector present.”
- Many OC systems used visual inspection combined with statistical analysis to achieve “non-lead system” status for LCRR. Service lines identified as non-lead using statistical analysis will need to be validated and have their material identified under LCRI.
- Requests for a validation study waiver require the supporting work and the waiver request itself to be completed and submitted prior to the compliance date of November 1, 2027.

Anticipated LCRI Timeline

Activity	Timeline
EPA guidance & training	Late summer 2026
Court ruling on AWWA petition	November / December 2026
State guidance on interpretation / enforcement of LCRI	Late December 2026 / January 2027
LCRI compliance and non-lead validation study waiver submission deadline	November 1, 2027

Potential LCRI Shared Services Scope



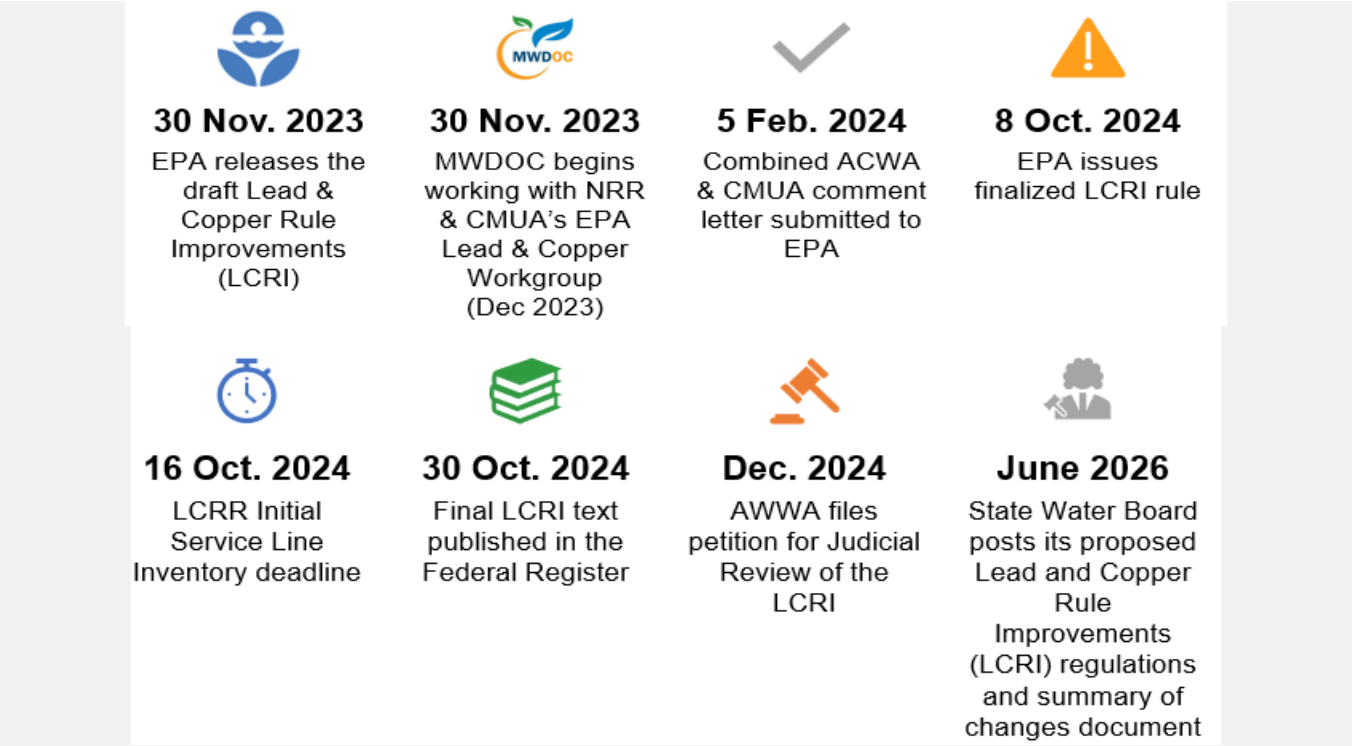
Next Steps

MWDOC staff will:

- Continue to monitor guidance and requirements from EPA and DDW.
- Work with the on-call consultant to develop a Shared Services Program Scope of Work that meets the range of Member Agencies’ needs.

Additional Materials

Background Timeline



Agency Polling for Shared Services

- May 2026: MWDOC staff launched a survey of Member Agencies to assess interest in an LCRI Shared Services Program.
- 18 agencies responded.
- The 10-question survey gathered Member Agencies' interest in various LCRI elements, including:
  - LCRI Baseline Inventory development
  - Review of connector records for the Baseline Inventory
  - A field app to collect data for the inventory
  - Non-Lead Validation Study assistance

Agency Polling Results Snapshot

Category	Yes	Maybe	No
LCRI Inventory	44%	39%	17%
Connector Records Review	28%	44%	28%
Field App	50%	22%	28%
Validation Study	67%	11%	17%

Item No. 4

INFORMATION ITEM
August 3, 2026

TO: **Planning & Operations Committee**

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

Staff Contact: Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs

SUBJECT: **WATER POLICY FORUM – FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

REPORT

Purpose

This item provides the Planning & Operations Committee with financial accounting and combined financial position for the January and June 2026 Water Policy Forum events.

Discussion

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) held Water Policy Forum events on January 26 and June 15, 2026.

- The January event generated $50,213.15 in revenue and incurred $48,112.32 in expenses ($46,128.04 for Westin South Coast Plaza charges and $1,984.28 in other miscellaneous expenses), resulting in a net profit of $2,100.83.

- The June event generated $31,027.59 in revenue and incurred $32,934.65 in expenses ($32,438.05 for Westin South Coast Plaza charges and $496.60 for supplies and decorations), resulting in a net loss of $1,907.06. Revenue includes all invoiced registrants and Stripe and Square collections; one $1,450 invoice for a table sponsorship remains outstanding.

With the first event of the year producing a small profit, the two events combined resulted in a net positive balance of $193.77.

As event costs continue to rise, staff has worked to offset them through modest ticket price increases, more economical decor and centerpiece options, and strong attendance. These efforts have brought the 2026 Water Policy Forums as close to break-even as reasonably practicable.

Next Steps

Staff will follow up on the outstanding table sponsorship invoice and retain the $193.77 balance for future Water Policy Forum events.

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.*

Budgeted: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		Budgeted amount: $5,000
Core: ☒	Choice: ☐	Movement between Cost Centers: ☐ Yes ☒ No
Action item amount: N/A		

Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: 2026 Water Policy Forum Revenues and Expenses

Municipal Water District of Orange County
Recap of Revenues and Expenses for Water Policy Forum & Dinner
Event Date: January 26, 2026

Reconciliation as of: 03/30/26

Revenues

13	Paid via check & cash at $1,350 each (Table)		$	17,550.00
4	Paid via check & cash at $160 each			640.00
0	Paid via check & cash at $170 each-Late Registration			-
11	Paid via Stripe at $1,250 each (Table)	$ 14,850.00		
	Less: Stripe fees	(810.70)		
				14,039.30
95	Paid via Stripe at $160 each	15,200.00		
-1	Plus: Stripe partial fees returned from refunds initiated	(155.50)		
	Less: Stripe fees	(896.80)		
				14,147.70
23	Paid via Stripe at $170 each	3,910.00		
	Plus: Stripe partial fees returned from refunds initiated	-		
	Less: Stripe fees	(229.54)		
				3,680.46
1	Paid via Square at $160 each	$160.00		
	Less: Square fees	(4.31)		155.69
Total Revenues			**$**	**50,213.15**

Expenses

Westin South Coast Plaza Charges (Catering, Labor fee, AV Charges, & Parking)	$	(46,128.04)
Supplies and decorations	$	(1,612.02)
Speaker gifts		(300.11)
Employee mileage		(72.15)
Total Expenses	**$**	**(48,112.32)**
Profit (Loss) to the District	**$**	**2,100.83**

Municipal Water District of Orange County
Recap of Revenues and Expenses for Water Policy Forum & Dinner
Event Date: June 15, 2026

Reconciliation as of: 07/22/26

Revenues

4	Paid via check & cash at $1,450 each (Table)		$ 5,800.00
0	Paid via check & cash at $170 each		-
0	Paid via check & cash at $195 each-Late Registration		-
9	Paid via Stripe at $1,450 each (Table)	$ 13,050.00	
	Less: Stripe fees	(711.90)	
			12,338.10
55	Paid via Stripe at $170 each	9,350.00	
	Less: Stripe fees from registrations	(548.90)	
-3	Less: Stripe partial fees returned from refunds initiated	(491.00)	
			8,310.10
23	Paid via Stripe at $195 each	4,485.00	
	Less: Stripe fees	(260.82)	
			4,224.18
1	Paid via Square at $170 each	$170.00	
	Less: Square fees	(4.57)	165.43
1	Paid via Square at $195 each	$195.00	
	Less: Square fees	(5.22)	189.78
Total Revenues			**$ 31,027.59**

Expenses

Westin South Coast Plaza Charges (Catering, Labor fee, AV Charges, & Parking)	$	(32,438.05)
Supplies and decorations	$	(496.60)
Speaker gifts	$	-
Total Expenses	**$**	**(32,934.65)**

Profit (Loss) to the District	**$**	**(1,907.06)**

Item No. 5

INFORMATION ITEM
August 3, 2026

TO: **Planning & Operations Committee**

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

Staff Contact: Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs

SUBJECT: **ORANGE COUNTY WATER SUMMIT UPDATE**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

REPORT

Purpose

This item provides the Planning & Operations Committee with an update on planning for the 18th Annual Orange County Water Summit (Summit), which will be held on Friday, September 25, 2026, at The Westin South Coast Plaza.

Background

The Orange County Water Summit is Southern California's premier water policy forum, bringing together elected officials, water industry leaders, business executives, policymakers, educators, and community stakeholders to discuss California water issues.

The Summit is a joint initiative between the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) and the Orange County Water District (OCWD), with leadership of the event alternating each year. As the lead agency for the 2026 Summit, MWDOC is coordinating program development, sponsorships, speaker outreach, registration, and event logistics.

Discussion

Planning for the 2026 Summit remains on track, with sessions addressing the Colorado River, workforce development, water infrastructure, local supply reliability, and California's long-term water future.

Program Features

- *Recalibrating the River: The Colorado River at a Crossroads* will examine post-2026 negotiations, Basin State collaboration, and the role of conservation, innovation, water reuse, and regional partnerships in strengthening the Colorado River system.
    - Dr. Maxwell "Max" Wilson, Water Resources Management Advisor for the City of Phoenix, will join a panel moderated by Charley Wilson.
- *The Workforce Crisis No One Budgeted For: Why Talent Determines Water Reliability* will examine how workforce shortages affect reliability, project delivery, compliance, and public trust. The discussion will focus on workforce development as an infrastructure investment, including operational resilience, cost control, AI's impact, and future talent needs.
    - Marwan Khalifa, Interim Executive Director of the Association of California Water Agencies, is the proposed moderator. Proposed panelists are Amber Boone, General Manager of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority; Dr. Stefan Bean of the Orange County Department of Education; and water workforce pioneer Don Jones.
- Fritz Coleman will return as emcee. Steve Hilton is unable to attend in person but will provide a prerecorded video address. Author Edward Ring will also participate. Staff is awaiting responses from Xavier Becerra and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Additional program details will be announced as the agenda is finalized.

Registration and Sponsorships

Nearly 200 participants have registered, and sponsorship commitments remain strong. Staff will continue outreach to prospective sponsors and strategic partners. Remaining sponsorship opportunities are available at www.ocwatersummit.com/sponsors.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to finalize the program, confirm remaining speakers and sponsors, coordinate production of the Steve Hilton video address, and complete event logistics.

Registration and sponsorship opportunities will continue to be promoted through MWDOC and OCWD communication channels, partner organizations, social media, and direct outreach. Additional updates will be provided to the Board as planning progresses.

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.*

Budgeted: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		Budgeted amount: $20,000
Core: ☒	Choice: ☐	Movement between Cost Centers: ☐ Yes ☒ No
Action item amount: N/A		

Attachments/Links:
N/A

Item No. 6

INFORMATION ITEM
August 3, 2026

TO: **Planning & Operations Committee**

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

Staff Contact: Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Melissa Buendia, Public Affairs Specialist

SUBJECT: **METROPOLITAN DIRECTORS' INSPECTION TRIP PRESEASON PLANNING**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

REPORT

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to inform the Planning & Operations Committee of the preseason planning for Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan or MET) Directors' inspection trips.

Discussion

Metropolitan will once again host inspection trips for Metropolitan Directors and their invited guests. Each inspection trip aims to inform and educate attendees on water issues and Metropolitan operations, programs, and objectives. Additionally, it builds water-smart communities by sparking informed conversations about water as a vital resource. The goal is to provide participants with firsthand insights into California's water infrastructure, fostering informed discussions about the state's water future.

This season, each Metropolitan Director can take up to one two-day trip and one one-day trip. Directors are encouraged to share a trip with another Metropolitan Director. The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) currently has four inspection trips scheduled for the 2026-2027 season to be hosted by our MWDOC-MET Delegation.

Scheduled Inspection Trips for the 2026-2027 Season:

Date: September 18-19, 2026
Location: State Water Project
Directors: Ackerman (MWDOC), Seckel (MWDOC)
Metropolitan Host: Russ Patras

Date: October 16, 2026
Location: Diemer Water Treatment Plant
Directors: Crane (MWDOC), Seckel (MWDOC)
Metropolitan Host: Brian Tubbs

Date: April 28-30, 2027
Location: State Water Project-Central Valley Agriculture
Directors: Crane (MWDOC), Dennstedt (Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County)
Metropolitan Host: Eduardo Garcia

Date: June 4-5, 2027
Location: State Water Project-Sacramento Valley Agriculture
Directors: Erdman (MWDOC), Jung (City of Fullerton)
Metropolitan Host: Russ Patras

Next Steps

As each trip date approaches, staff will work closely with each Metropolitan Director to conduct outreach to potential attendees, coordinate trip logistics, and finalize the itinerary.

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.*

Budgeted: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		Budgeted amount: $2,000
Core: ☒	Choice: ☐	Movement between Cost Centers: ☐ Yes ☒ No
Action item amount: N/A		

Attachments/Links:
N/A

Public Affairs Department: Activity Highlights



Wyland Foundation Partner Appreciation Event



New Storage Shed on OCWD campus



WEEA Annual Sponsor's Meeting at Metropolitan HQ



Panelist: 2026 CEEF Teacher Institute

75th Anniversary Video Series: FACES Campaign

Megan Yoo Schneider

Karl Seckel

Melissa Baum-Haley

Sarina Sriboonlue



OC Water Summit Registration Is Open!



Emergency Preparedness Go Bag Video



Water Loss Control Tour of the CLA-VAL Facility in Costa Mesa



4.9% Social Media Engagement Rate

Engineering & Planning

Geographic Information System (GIS) Implementation

At its May 20 Regular Meeting, the Board awarded Hazen and Sawyer a 1-year contract to provide Geographic Information System (GIS) implementation assistance and authorized the General Manager to execute the contract, with the option for an additional 1-year renewal. The project kicked off in mid-June 2026.

Lead and Copper Rule Improvements Shared Services Program

A survey of MWDOC member agencies conducted in late May indicated a desire from at least 10 agencies for MWDOC to assist them with certain aspects of the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) through a Shared Services Program, similar to the technical assistance provided under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) Shared Services Program completed in October 2024.

Under the LCRI, water systems will be required to develop and submit a baseline service line inventory, due by November 1, 2027. The baseline inventory introduces several additions and stricter reporting requirements compared to the initial October 2024 service line inventory. Water systems must identify all service line connectors (pigtails, goosenecks) and categorize them as non-lead, lead, unknown, or no connector present. Water systems must also implement state-approved methods to validate the classification of service lines previously designated as “non-lead” that are not based solely on physical visual inspection. An annual inventory update is also required after 2027.

The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), is in the process of adopting the federal LCRI into the CA Code of Regulations, thereby reaffirming DDW as the state’s primacy agency. DDW released the proposed CA LCRI Rules in May 2026 and indicated in June 2026 that it intends to provide guidance for California water agencies in late 2026, subsequent to USEPA’s anticipated summer guidance release.

Given the apparent similarity of this compressed timeline for the LCRI inventory, as we experienced with the LCRR initial inventory guidance release and the LCRR submission deadline, MWDOC staff will work to organize and communicate the components of a shared services program to potential participating agencies, with Phase I focusing on LCRI inventory submittal and evaluation of eligibility for a non-lead validation study waiver. Staff will then bring an action item to the MWDOC Board for approval, with a defined Scope of Work for the LCRI Shared Services Program that aligns with the needs of our member agencies.

MWDOC staff will also continue monitoring USEPA and DDW guidance as it is released. More information related to the LCRI Shared Services Phase I development is provided under Information Item #3 of the Planning & Operations Committee packet.

Upcoming Metropolitan Shutdowns

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) staff are actively planning for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 shutdown season. Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) staff are currently coordinating with Metropolitan and affected agencies for the following shutdown events:

- **OC-88:** A shutdown of service connection OC-88 on the Allen McColloch Pipeline (AMP) is planned for November 2026 to complete electrical work.
- **Santiago Lateral:** A 7 to 10-day shutdown of Santiago Lateral to accommodate a potential shutdown of Lake Mathews and portions of the Lower Feeder is planned for December 2026.
- **Allen McColloch Pipeline (AMP):** A 7 to 10-day shutdown of the AMP for Metropolitan to inspect the remaining seven miles of unlined Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipeline (PCCP) to assess its condition, to assist with planning of future PCCP rehabilitation of the remaining unlined reaches of the AMP is planned for late January 2027 through early February 2027.
- **Orange County Feeder:** A 5 to 7-day shutdown of the OC Feeder to conduct valve replacement at service connection A-02 is planned for late February through early March 2027.
- **Second Lower Feeder:** A 5-day shutdown of a portion of the Second Lower Feeder for PCCP inspection to assess its condition is planned for late February through early March 2027.

Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County

Incidents/Events - June

(Incident/events listed below only include Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County (WEROC) involvement. Events and incidents happen every day, but may not require reporting or coordination with WEROC.)

Heat Warning & Advisory
Member Agency Resource Request

WEROC Member Agency Planning, Coordination, and Program Efforts

Airport Fire and Continuing Mitigation Efforts
On July 13, the WEROC team participated in a strategic planning meeting with Orange County Public Works and Trabuco Canyon Water District impacted by the Airport Fire debris. The group reaffirmed its commitment to continued collaboration throughout the mitigation process.

America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Compliance
In July, Herndon Solutions Group (HSG) began the final phase of the AWIA compliance project by conducting the Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) kickoff meetings and workshops with the Tier 3 member agencies. This phase is focused on supporting agencies in the timely development and update of their preparedness plans to meet regulatory requirements. The WEROC team will continue to provide technical guidance and coordination throughout the planning process, as needed, to support successful completion of the project.

Cybersecurity Working Group
To continue supporting the working group, WEROC has met with Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Information Technology (IT) to develop a dedicated Microsoft 365 environment, leveraging SharePoint as a centralized resource hub and Microsoft Teams as the primary communication and collaboration platform. The Teams and SharePoint environment was soft-launched in late July. Ongoing discussions have focused on identifying meaningful use cases for Member Agencies' IT, Operational Technology (OT), and cybersecurity teams, allowing them to test the platform and help tailor it, improve its value, and strengthen communication to the working group.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2026 National Cyber Drill
On July 8, the WEROC team participated in the EPA 2026 National Cyber Drill, held virtually. The exercise served as a valuable learning opportunity, allowing participants to explore best practices,

recognize gaps, and identify areas where water organizations can strengthen their capabilities. Through real-world scenario discussions, the exercise supported efforts across water sector.

operations to assess and improve readiness. It also emphasized the importance of maintaining and/or developing comprehensive plans to ensure essential services remain available, even when operations are limited due to a cyber incident.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Readiness
The Mobile Command Vehicle is maintained through regular testing protocols to ensure sustained operational readiness. WEROC has extended the Mobile Command Vehicle's limited warranty for another three years.

The partnership between Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) and WEROC to establish an alternate EOC continues to make steady progress. MNWD is currently obtaining quotes for furniture and will provide WEROC with ongoing updates as the project advances.

Peter's Canyon's location is in a continuous state of readiness.

Integrated Preparedness Plan
WEROC completed the five-year update to its Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP), which establishes the organization's preparedness priorities and outlines its multi-year planning, training, and exercise program. In addition, WEROC contributed to the Orange County Operational Area Integrated Preparedness Plan, supporting the development of regional preparedness priorities and coordinated capability-building efforts among Operational Area partners.

Regional Fuel Planning Project
In July, the Regional Fuel Plan Request for Proposals (RFP) was released through pre-identified online portals and the MWDOC website. In support of this initiative, staff continues to engage in open conversations with Member Agencies to identify operational gaps and strengthen regional fuel planning efforts. This coordination remains critical to ensuring the Regional Fuel Plan's operational effectiveness during emergency response. Recent stakeholder discussions have focused on fuel types, operational protocols, and the identification and establishment of Fuel Points of Distribution (FPODs) to support emergency continuity of operations, as recommended by WEROC Member Agency Operations staff.

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

The WEROC team continues 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, 3- and 5-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 is still in progress, and no decisions or agreements have been finalized at this time outside the Niagara agreement. Information gathered, such as key contacts and an understanding of each provider's capabilities and capacities, will shape future considerations for a "menu of options" for emergency water distribution, including possible approaches for contracts, activation,

and coordination. A handful of companies have shared their interest in supporting WEROC during an emergency. A more detailed update will be provided to the Board in the coming months.

Presentations, Training, and Exercises

Trainings/Drills:

July 8: Monthly WEROC Radio Test
July 14: Monthly Operational Area Tests (Radio, WebEOC, AlertOC)
July 29: G191 Incident Command System/ Emergency Operations Center Interface (Vicki)
July 28/30: CPR/First Aid/AED Training/WEROC Staff in Training (MWDOC Provided)

Operational Area, State, Federal, and other partner Meetings/Projects

(Specific details can be provided as requested by the Board of Directors, WEROC Radio)

July 9: Orange County Emergency Management Organization (OCEMO)
July 9: OCEMO Exercise Design Subcommittee
July 9: American Water Works Association (AWWA) Emergency Preparedness & Security Committee
July 10: National Water Agency Response Network (WARN) Meeting
July 26: California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES); Emergency Management Mutual Aid Working Group
July 22: Marine Oil Spill Annex Working Group Kickoff Meeting
July 23: Cal OES Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Guidelines Working Group
July 24: California Emergency Services Association (CESA) State Board Meeting
July 30: Cal OES Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
July 30: AWWA Technology Committee

Operational Area Plans reviewed this month:

Mass Evacuation Annex
Terrorism Annex

Water Use Efficiency and Water Loss Control

June 2026 Rebate Activity

Turf Replacement: This month, 330,814 square feet of turfgrass were converted to Orange County-friendly landscapes across 28 projects, receiving a total of $1,589,979.18 in incentives. To date, approximately 31.7 million square feet of turfgrass have been replaced.

New Trees: This month, 64 trees were planted as part of Turf Replacement projects. Since March 2024, the planting of 664 trees has been incentivized.

Spray-to-Drip: This month, 148,478 square feet of irrigated area were converted to drip irrigation across 11 projects, receiving a total of $148,478.00 in incentives. To date, approximately 6.9 million square feet of landscaped area have been converted from traditional spray to drip irrigation.

Landscape Design: This month, 2 professionally created landscape designs were rebated. To date, 1,207 landscape design and/or landscape maintenance packages have been incentivized to support turf replacement projects.

Smart Timer Rebate: This month, 107 smart irrigation timers were installed. To date, 36,627 smart timers have been installed through this program.

High-Efficiency Sprinkler Nozzles: This month, 32 high-efficiency rotating nozzles were installed in place of traditional spray nozzles. To date, 587,349 nozzles have been installed through this program.

Rain Barrels: This month, 4 rain barrels were installed in Orange County. To date, the installation of 9,113 rain barrels has been incentivized.

High-Efficiency Clothes Washers: This month, 47 high-efficiency clothes washers were installed instead of lower-efficiency models. To date, 131,921 high-efficiency clothes washers have been incentivized.

High-Efficiency Toilets: This month, 3 residential premium high-efficiency toilets were incentivized. To date, 62,037 high-efficiency toilets have been installed through this program.

Flow-Monitoring Devices: This month, 31 residential flow-monitoring devices were installed. To date, 1,162 flow-monitoring devices have been incentivized. More than 3,300 verified flow-monitoring devices have been installed in Orange County; however, not all were processed through the rebate program.

Commercial Devices: This month, no commercial devices were incentivized. To date, 119,833 high-efficiency devices (e.g., plumbing fixtures, ice machines, cooling tower conductivity controllers) have been installed at commercial properties through this program.

Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP): This month, a multi-unit complex in Santa Margarita Water District completed a customized water-savings upgrade by replacing standard toilet flappers with an advanced flapper system. This project will save 2.23 acre-feet per year (AFY). To date, 53 customized projects have been completed.

Recycled Water Retrofit Program: This month, no commercial/industrial water users completed customer-side recycled water retrofits through the program. To date, 196 sites irrigating a total of 1,815 acres of landscape have been converted from potable to recycled water.

Distribution System Leak Detection: This month, leak detection crews worked on surveys in Yorba Linda Water District, Mesa Water District, and City of Newport Beach.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1572 Nonfunctional Turf

The following activity occurred related to AB 1572, the potable irrigation ban of nonfunctional commercial turfgrass.

- On July 2, Rachel W-H. and Sam met with Environmental Incentives (EI) and City of Santa Ana staff to begin work on EI's AB 1572 compliance support services for the City. Following the meeting, AB 1572 Ordinance Adoption memos were drafted to the City.
- On July 6, Rachel W-H. and Sam met with EI and City of Newport Beach staff to begin work on EI's AB 1572 compliance support services for the City. Following the meeting, AB 1572 Ordinance Adoption memos were drafted to the City.
- EI drafted AB 1572 Ordinance Adoption for the City of Seal Beach.
- On July 17, Rachel W-H visited Seacliff on the Greens to speak with members of the Home Owners Association (HOA) board and community regarding AB1572. Rachel W-H provided resources, answered questions, and offered water efficiency suggestions.
- On July 23, Rachel W-H met with California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) staff to discuss potential crossover and collaboration across AB 1572 and AB 2251(2022), which mandates a statewide strategic plan to expand urban tree canopy by 10% by 2035. It is anticipated that large areas of nonfunctional turfgrass will be transformed, creating an opportunity to plant trees to help reach urban tree canopy goals. Discussion focused on strategies to leverage potential partnerships with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Urban and Community Forest Program, who is drafting the plan.

Making Conservation a California Way of Life Framework

Retailer Technical Assistance Support

Between June 30 and July 24, the following activity occurred for the Way of Life Framework Technical Assistance Program (Framework TAP):

- On July 2, Rachel W-H. and Sam met with EI to discuss the Urban Water Use Objective (UWUO) compliance plan dashboard being developed for participating Orange County (OC) agencies.
- On July 16, Rachel W-H. and Sam met with EI to discuss project status and timelines for the compliance plan and CII classifications best management plan deliverables to OC agencies.
- NV5 completed the City of Anaheim's reconciliation of Department of Water Resources (DWR)-provided residential landscape data and NV5-provided commercial dedicated irrigation meter data to ensure multi-family landscapes are grouped correctly.
- NV5 completed mixed-use meter large landscape identification for the City of Fountain Valley and City of Newport Beach. Identifying landscapes larger than ½ an acre that are irrigated by a mixed-use meter must be identified by June 30, 2027, per the regulation.

SB 1157 – DWR Benefits and Impacts Study

The following activity occurred related to SB 1157, which requires the DWR to quantify the benefits and impacts of the 2030 indoor residential water use standard on water, wastewater, and recycled water systems. Rachel W-H is a member of the Indoor Water Use Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), which coordinates with DWR and their consultant Flume on calculating statewide indoor gallons per person per day (GPCD) water use.

- On June 30, Rachel W-H attended the Residential End Uses of Water, Single-Family and Multi-Family Study Webinar.
- On July 8, Rachel W-H joined the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) and California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA)-organized preparatory call for the July 13 Working Group Meeting, which focused on reviewing materials and coordinating feedback.
- On July 13, Rachel W-H joined the SB 1157 Indoor Water Use Working Group Meeting, which includes the TAP and the public. Agenda topics included a recap of the Residential End Uses of Water Study and indoor water use project overview, update, and key findings to date.

California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) & Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE)

Research and Evaluation (R&E) Committee Meetings

On June 30, Rachel W-H co-hosted the CalWEP R&E meeting with CalWEP staff and the committee chair. Discussion focused on transitioning from research ideation to execution for the committee-sourced topics of: Mitigating unintentional consequences of turf removal, direct install participation, and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), data analytics, and water savings. Next steps include resource gathering, annotated bibliographies, and/or literature reviews.

On July 9, Rachel W-H, in collaboration with CalWEP staff, led the R&E Committee task force in planning research related to mitigating unintended consequences of turf removal.

AWE Water Efficiency Research Committee (WERC) Climate Change Task Force Meeting
On July 1, Rachel W-H joined the AWE WERC Climate Change Task Force, which is focused on creating water efficiency metrics for climate adaptation planning. The goal is to help AWE explore how climate change is affecting water conservation and water efficiency, and how utilities can better evaluate these strategies as part of broader climate adaptation planning. This project will collaborate with CalWEP and the work that the R&E committee is undertaking.

CalWEP Rainbird Products Partnership
On July 9, Water Use Efficiency (WUE) staff met with CalWEP staff to explore ways to tap into CalWEP and Rainbird partnership to offer discounts to Orange County end water users. Progress is being made and discounts on Rainbird drip kits will be available soon.

CalWEP Wholesale Task Force Meeting
On July 21, Sam and Rachel D. attended the CalWEP Wholesale Task Force meeting. Topics on the agenda included a Water Efficiency Assessment presentation, budget priorities, member resources needed, and CII Best Management Practices database overview. The next meeting is scheduled for September 15.

California Data Collaborative (CaDC)

California Water Data Summit Planning Committee Meeting
On June 30 and July 21, Cassidy Harding attended the CaDC California Water Data Summit Planning Committee meeting. The bi-weekly meeting is designed to plan the 2026 California Water Data Summit scheduled for August 19-20. Topics included finalizing the agenda and sponsor list and developing a recognition opportunity for members of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Water Management Professionals cohort. The next meeting is scheduled for July 29.

Data Pipelines, Automation, and Warehousing (PAW) Committee Meeting
On July 7, Cassidy attended the CaDC Data PAW Committee meeting. The bi-monthly meeting convenes data scientists and technical staff to advance shared approaches to data transformation, governance, and automation across participating water agencies. Discussion focused on the creation of an interactive data management assessment for water utilities, a value proposition framework for upskilling staff and investing in technical resources, and compiling committee documentation to provide as learning materials to CaDC members. The next meeting is scheduled for August 4.

Steering Committee Meeting
On July 22, Cassidy attended the CaDC Steering Committee Meeting. The quarterly meeting provides oversight and strategic direction for the CaDC through collaborative decision-making. The committee reviewed membership updates, the organization's growth strategy, future staffing needs, incorporation objectives and progress, and key ongoing and upcoming initiatives. Projects slated for this fiscal year include technical assistance for UWUO report compilation, enhancements to the Wavelet AMI analysis platform, and efforts to streamline state reporting requirements. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5.

Esri User Conference (UC)

July 13-17 Cassidy attended the world's largest gathering of geospatial practitioners and experts, where thought leaders, Esri experts, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) users explore how to enhance resilience, productivity, and efficiency with the latest geospatial tools in ArcGIS. The UC is comprised of user presentations, technical sessions, and interactive workshops covering a wide range of topics, including the role of AI in GIS, data governance, spatial analysis, and the synergies between Microsoft and ArcGIS.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan)

Water Use Efficiency Program Advisory Committee (PAC)
On July 8, Rachel W-H and Sam joined the Metropolitan PAC meeting, which is attended by a subset of Metropolitan member agency staff to discuss and provide feedback on Metropolitan programs. Feedback was provided on aligning the implementation of AB 1572 and Metropolitan Turf Replacement Program rules and refreshing Metropolitan's high efficiency nozzle rebate list based on data-driven metrics. The next meeting will be held next quarter.

Water Use Efficiency Workgroup Meeting
On July 16, Water Use Efficiency and Water Loss Control staff joined the monthly Metropolitan Water Use Efficiency Workgroup meeting, which is attended by Metropolitan member agencies to receive updates and discuss relevant topics with each other and Metropolitan staff. Topics on the agenda included board updates, conservation program updates, water supply updates, and external affairs updates.

Orange County Data Acquisition Partnership (OCDAP) Steering and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting

On July 7, Cassidy attended the OCDAP STAC meeting. The working group collaborates on a regional effort to cost-share the acquisition of high-resolution aerial imagery and related products, and to plan the OC GIS Users Meetings. Discussion centered around the status of 2026 Cycle #3 imagery capture, participation agreement and invoicing logistics, and scheduling user training sessions for Eagleview's imagery viewing platform. The next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2026.

Orange County Landscape PAC

On July 14, WUE staff hosted the OC Landscape PAC, which is made up of volunteers from MWDOC member agencies to collaborate and provide feedback on MWDOC-offered landscape programs. Topics discussed included the WaterSense draft sprinkler nozzle specification and Metropolitan's rebate list, Spray-to-Drip Program, feedback on MWDOC's new rebate processing portal, and status update on Metropolitan Turf Program grant funding. Follow-up meetings will be scheduled as needed.

OC Golf and Water Task Force Planning Meeting

On July 15, Rachel W-H. and Sam, along with Assistant General Manager Melissa Baum-Haley, hosted a meeting at the District to plan the first OC Golf and Water Task Force. The purpose of

the OC Golf and Water Task Force is to establish meaningful, productive relationships across the golf and water industries. Attendees of the planning meeting included golf organizations: Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Southern California Golf Association, and California Alliance for Golf, and MWDOC Member Agencies: Irvine Ranch Water District, Moulton Niguel Water District, and Santa Margarita Water District. Items on the agenda included golf and water task force overview, desired outcomes for golf organizations and water agencies, and next steps. The next OC Golf and Water Task Force meeting is being targeted for November.

OC Water Loss Control Work Group

On July 14, Rachel D. hosted the Water Loss Control Work Group Meeting at the Cla-Val valve manufacturing facility in Costa Mesa. Katie V., Ellie S., Melissa B., and 23 member agency staff participated in a factory tour, presentation on pressure management, and a water loss control case study from Cla-Val's work with the City of Walla Walla, Washington. The next Water Loss Control Work Group is scheduled for September 8, 2026.

Department of Water Resources Water Monthly Water Loss Webinar

On July 16, Rachel D. and Katie V. attended the monthly DWR webinar. Items on the agenda included:

- DWR Updates
- The New 6th Edition of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) M6 Manual – Water Meter Selection, Installation, Testing, and Maintenance.
- South Coast Water District: Water Conservation through Organizational and Operational Efficiency

The next webinar is scheduled for August 20.

Public & Government Affairs

Member Agency Support:

Public Affairs Staff:

- Drafted and redesigned Water Use Efficiency's fall bill inserts for requesting Member Agencies.
- Promoted the upcoming H2O for HOAs event to support Moulton Niguel Water District.
- Released a video featuring a Santa Margarita Water District staff, highlighting his experience with the Water Loss Control program.
- Participated in a tour of the CLA-VAL factory with the Water Loss Control Workgroup.
- Developed and distributed an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance progress survey to the Public Affairs Workgroup.

Government Affairs Staff:

- Circulated the monthly Grants Tracking and Acquisition report to all participating member agencies.
- Prepared support letters for Santa Margarita Water District and Trabuco Canyon Water District to submit with their grant applications.
- Made updates to the Grants Tracking project list.

Community and Special Events:

Public Affairs Staff:

- Coordinated the pick-up of prizes and posters for the Poster Contest winners who could not attend the awards ceremony.
- Hosted a planning meeting for the 2026 Orange County Water Summit (OC Summit) with the committee members.
- Hosted a meeting with the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and Orange County Water District (OCWD) staff to plan the 2026 OC Water Summit.

Education Initiatives

General Education and Workforce Development

Public Affairs Staff:

- Participated in the Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA) sponsors meeting, gathering practical ideas for integrating career readiness into MWDOC K–12 education initiatives, and sharing a roundtable update on this year's key milestones.
- Participated in the Department of Water Resources Water Education Committee meeting.
- Participated on a panel at the launch of this year's California Environmental Education Foundation's (CEEF) Teacher Training. Over 30 4-12th grade teachers joined a discussion

on water reliability, the distinction between conservation and water use efficiency, and available classroom resources.
- Began putting together a workforce panel for this year's OC Water Summit on September 25. Two speakers are confirmed, one is pending, and one is still to invite.
- Met with MeterHero to discuss a potential in-class pilot allowing students to collect real-time water use data and track their results related to behavior change.
- Attended a Wyland Foundation Partner Appreciation event.

Choice K-12 School Programs

Public Affairs Staff:
- Finalized commitments for the MWDOC Choice K-12 School Program for the 26-27 school year, with 22 agencies returning.

Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA)

Public Affairs Staff:
- Facilitated and hosted the annual WEEA Sponsors meeting at The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (Metropolitan) headquarters. The group was joined by CORO Fellows completing their two-week internship program with Metropolitan.
- Confirmed all returning sponsors and one new sponsor, Orange County Water District (OCWD).
- Launched WEEA's year-end satisfaction survey.
- Confirmed the October Leadership Roundtable speaker.
- Confirmed partners to recruit and prepare student attendees for participation at this year's OC Summit.
- Confirmed the first California State University student participant for the OC Summit through WEEA's Next Gen Workforce Sponsorship, which provides 20 students with pre-conference preparation, access to 300+ employers, career exploration, and professional networking opportunities.

Digital Communications, Publications, and Media Engagement

Public Affairs Staff:
- Developed and distributed social media content across all MWDOC social media channels.
- Collaborated with Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County (WEROC) to film a video on emergency kits to inform the public about emergency preparedness.

Special Projects

Public Affairs Staff:
- Removed all giveaway and event items from Public Storage and set up the new storage shed on OCWD's campus.
- Filmed interviews with Water Use Efficiency staff and Laguna Beach Fire Department for a forthcoming video featuring their new PumpPod.
- Prepared and sent out several invitations to the upcoming Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC) Quarterly Luncheon.
- Provided support for the ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting.

- Provided support for the Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO) monthly meeting.
- Provided support for the WACO Planning Meeting.
- Coordinated meetings for Public Affairs staff and Water Use Efficiency staff to meet with Western Municipal Water District and San Diego County Water Authority staff to learn about their regional landscape contests.

Government Affairs Staff:

- Drafted and circulated the WACO Planning Committee agenda.
- Invited and secured speakers for the September and October WACO meetings.
- Drafted and circulated the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting agenda.
- Invited and coordinated details with the ISDOC Quarterly Meeting speaker, California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Chief Executive Officer Neil McCormick.
- Drafted the notice for the ISDOC Call for Candidates for the upcoming Executive Committee election.

Outreach Metrics

Public Affairs Staff:

- Google Performance Analytics (Timeframe: July 1-July 27)
  - 117 business profile interactions
  - 1,634 people viewed the business profile
- mwdoc.com Website Analytics (July 1-July 27)
  - 11,192 page views
  - Top pages:
    - Home Page – 1,815
    - Water Use Efficiency – 1,017
    - Residential Rebates – 671
    - Turf Replacement – 656
    - Board Meetings – 453
    - RFPs/RFQs – 368
- ocwatersmartgardens.com Website Analytics (June 2026)
  - 729 Number of Sessions, 525 New Users
  - Top pages:
    - Home Page
    - Eligible Sustainability Feature Trees
    - Plant Common Name
- ocwatersmartparks.com Website Analytics (July 1-July 27)
  - 7 Site Sessions
- Social Media Analytics (July 1-July 28)
  - 4.86% Engagement Rate (a good rate is between 1% and 5%)
  - 9,439 Post Impressions (number of times a post was viewed)
  - 270 Post Reactions & Likes

Legislative Affairs

Government Affairs Staff:

- Attended the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB) Summer Issues Seminar featuring various panels and keynote speakers.
- Attended the Orange County Business Council (OCBC) Legislative Day.
- Attended the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Workshop on Draft Guidance on Designating Tribal Beneficial Uses.