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
November 2, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Teleconference Sites:
17025 Brooklyn Avenue, Yorba Linda, CA 92886
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. ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY TOUR RECAP

ACTION ITEMS

2. LEAD AND COPPER RULE COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE SHARED SERVICES PROGRAM PHASE 2

3. AMENDMENT TO THE CYCLIC STORAGE PROGRAM AGREEMENT AMONG METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY, AND ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. 2027 WATER POLICY FORUMS UPDATE

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS HIGHLIGHTS

6. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORTS
   a. Engineering & Planning
   b. WEROC
   c. Water Use Efficiency
   d. Water Loss Control
   e. Public and Government Affairs

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Item No. 1

PRESENTATION ITEM
November 2, 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: **ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY TOUR RECAP**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Planning & Operations Committee receive the presentation.

REPORT

Purpose

This item provides the Planning & Operations Committee with a recap of the Orange County Grand Jury Tour held on Friday, October 16, 2026.

Discussion

On Friday, October 16, the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) hosted the Orange County Grand Jury for a one-day local water infrastructure tour. Approximately 30 people participated in the day's programming, including 14 Grand Jury members.

MWDOC hosted the event in coordination with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan). The tour gave Grand Jury members an opportunity to learn about the valuable services MWDOC provides to the county and how those services have evolved over the District's 75 years.

Tour Timeline and Activities

8:30 a.m. The program began at MWDOC with a light breakfast and an introductory presentation provided by General Manager Harvey De La Torre. The presentation covered MWDOC's purpose and an overview of the relationship between MWDOC, its Member Agencies, and Metropolitan.

9:20 a.m. Following the presentation, the group departed for the Diemer Water Treatment Plant in Yorba Linda, where Metropolitan staff provided a guided tour of the treatment processes and facility operations. During the bus ride to the treatment plant, MWDOC-MET Director Seckel led a discussion on the water sources that serve the region, the challenges they face, and Metropolitan projects aimed at addressing those challenges. On the bus ride back to our headquarters, MWDOC Director Nederhood provided a presentation highlighting the collaborative efforts between the District and its Member Agencies.

1:00 p.m. Ricky the Rambunctious Raindrop greeted the Grand Jury members upon their return to MWDOC, and they enthusiastically took a group photo with him before settling down for lunch and a presentation by Assistant General Manager Melissa Baum-Haley. The presentation offered a deeper look at the evolution of MWDOC's services and set the stage for two interactive demonstrations.

1:35 p.m. Water Loss Control Programs Manager Rachel Davis and Water Loss Control Technician III Hugo Escamilla presented the first demonstration showcasing MWDOC's Water Loss Control and Leak Detection program. Together, they highlighted tools and strategies to support water loss prevention and the importance of working collaboratively with MWDOC's Member Agencies to make the program successful.

2:05 p.m. The second demonstration was scheduled to open with a short presentation from Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management/Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County (WEROC). Due to an active fires that started while the group was on the bus ride back to MWDOC, Ms. Osborn departed to report to the Emergency Operations Center, which gave the Grand Jury members a live look at WEROC in action.

In her place, Director Seckel provided an overview of WEROC before turning it over to WEROC Coordinator Thevin Rajapaksha. Mr. Rajapaksha demonstrated the mobile command vehicle, showcasing its regional emergency response capabilities and emphasizing resiliency planning as a key component of WEROC.

2:25 p.m. The program concluded. Feedback from the Grand Jury was overall positive, with several members expressing gratitude for the demonstrations and hospitality provided by staff. The group remained engaged throughout the day despite hot, windy weather and asked questions that prompted further discussion.

Staff sent a post-event survey to attendees, and staff will share the results with the Committee.

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:
N/A

Item No. 2

ACTION ITEM
November 18, 2026

TO: **Board of Directors**

FROM: **Planning & Operations Committee**

Harvey De La Torre, General Manager

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

SUBJECT: **LEAD AND COPPER RULE COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE SHARED SERVICES PROGRAM PHASE 2**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors approve the Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Assistance Shared Services Program Phase 2 to provide Lead and Copper Rule Improvements compliance support to participating Orange County retail water agencies and authorize staff to work with Hazen and Sawyer to develop a Scope of Work for Phase 2.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

(To be determined at Committee Meeting)

REPORT

Purpose

This item requests the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) Board of Directors (Board or Director) approve the **second phase** of the Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Assistance Shared Services Program (Phase 2) to provide Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) compliance support to participating Orange County retail water agencies (Participating Agencies) and authorize staff to work with Hazen and Sawyer (Hazen) to develop a Scope of Work for Phase 2.

Background

In September 2023, the Board approved MWDOC's Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Assistance Shared Services Program (Phase 1) to assist Orange County water agencies with compliance under the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). Through that effort, 13 Participating Agencies successfully completed their Initial Service Line Inventories by the October 16, 2024, deadline and achieved Non-Lead System designation. They also benefited from economies of scale, regional coordination, and technical expertise provided through MWDOC's shared services approach.

The federal LCRI became effective December 30, 2024, and significantly expanded inventory, validation, and reporting requirements beyond those established under the LCRR, including a Baseline Service Line and Connector Inventory. The Member Agencies requested MWDOC assistance in preparing for the November 1, 2027 LCRI compliance deadline.

In May 2026, MWDOC surveyed Member Agencies on specific areas of assistance and interest levels for LCRI compliance activities. Responses indicated strong interest in support related to Baseline Inventory development, field data collection tools, and non-lead validation support. Staff have continued coordinating with interested agencies throughout 2026.

Discussion

The November 1, 2027 compliance deadline presents a significant challenge for Orange County agencies. Without a practical compliance approach, agencies could face costly field investigations to verify connector materials that may prove unnecessary.

MWDOC and Hazen engaged with the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) Lead and Copper Unit regarding implementation of the LCRI and regional compliance considerations unique to Southern California. MWDOC prepared a formal coordination letter requesting DDW acceptance of a regional compliance approach for connector identification methodologies and non-lead service line validation approaches. The goal is to obtain regulatory feedback and improve certainty regarding compliance expectations before Participating Agencies commit resources to implementation activities.

Hazen successfully supported Phase 1 and has extensive experience with DDW, Southern California water agencies, and Lead and Copper Rule compliance programs. Staff proposes to assist Participating Agencies with the inventory requirements of the LCRI and recommends utilizing Hazen through MWDOC's On-Call Technical Services Program.

Phase 2 would include two segments of work related to Baseline Inventory development to meet the LCRI November 1, 2027 deadline:

- **LCRI Segment 1 – Compliance Assessment and Implementation Planning** focuses on preparing the Baseline Service Line and Connector

Inventory, evaluating connector materials, assessing Non-Lead Service Line Validation requirements, and identifying future implementation needs; and

- **LCRI Segment 2 – Compliance Implementation Support** provides optional services to assist agencies with field investigation, Geographic Information System application configuration, field data quality assurance and quality control, and non-lead service line validation implementation.

Note: Phase 2 would not include water quality sampling, public notification, or other compliance activities.

Next Steps

Staff recommends the Board of Directors select Option #1 to approve this Phase 2 of the Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Assistance Shared Services Program to provide LCRI compliance support to Participating Agencies and authorize staff to work with Hazen to develop a Scope of Work for Phase 2.

Upon Board approval, staff would work with Hazen to develop a detailed Scope of Work for Phase 2 and distribute the program information to Member Agencies. After completing the Scope of Work, staff would return to the Board to request authorization for the General Manager to execute the Shared Services agreements. Interested agencies would then enter into Phase 2 agreements and initiate work in early 2027.

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: Approve the Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Assistance Shared Services Program Phase 2 to provide Lead and Copper Rule Improvements compliance support to participating Orange County retail water agencies and authorize staff to work with Hazen and Sawyer to develop a Scope of Work for Phase 2.

Fiscal Impact: There is no direct fiscal impact to MWDOC. Phase 2 is a Choice-Funded Shared Services Program.

Option #2: Do not approve the Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Assistance Shared Services Program Phase 2 to provide Lead and Copper Rule Improvements compliance support to participating Orange County retail water agencies and do not authorize staff to work with Hazen and Sawyer to develop a Scope of Work for Phase 2.

Fiscal Impact: Without a Shared Services Program, Member Agencies will not be able to leverage economies of scale, which would increase spending by at least 30% per agency. Member Agencies will also have to procure consultants themselves, which would add time to an already tight schedule.

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

Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Assistance Shared Services Program Phase 2 Handout

Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Assistance
Shared Services Program – Phase 2

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 Lead and Copper Rule Shared Services Program to assist participating agencies with LCRR compliance.
- Consultant Hazen & Sawyer was selected through a competitive process to provide technical assistance.
- **October 2024:** All 13 participating agencies **achieved non-lead designation** within the compliance deadline.
- Participating agencies **saved ~$21-36K each** through economy of scale.
- **December 2024:** Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) became effective.
- **Fall/Winter 2025:** MWDOC Member Agencies began requesting LCRI compliance assistance.
- **Spring 2026:** Survey of Member Agencies showed strong interest in support related to Baseline Inventory development, field data collection tools, and non-lead validation study.
- **Summer/Fall 2026:** MWDOC and Hazen engaged with DDW Lead and Copper Unit on LCRI implementation. DDW held LCRI webinars and released some guidance documents.

Regulatory Shifts & Moving Goalposts

Regulatory requirements governing service line inventories have expanded significantly over the last decade:

- **California Senate Bills 1398 and 427 (2018)** required water systems to identify only utility-owned service lines. Connectors were not included. Operator knowledge was accepted as basis of material classification.
- **Federal LCRR (2024)** required the entire service line (both public and private side) to be identified. Physical field verification of service line material was required but not connector material identification.
- **Federal LCRI (2027)** requires connector categorization on both public and private sides. The LCRI defines a connector as a short segment of piping not exceeding three feet that can be bent and is used for connections between service piping, typically connecting the service line to the main.

Figure 1 illustrates potential locations of connectors on the public and private sides of a service line.

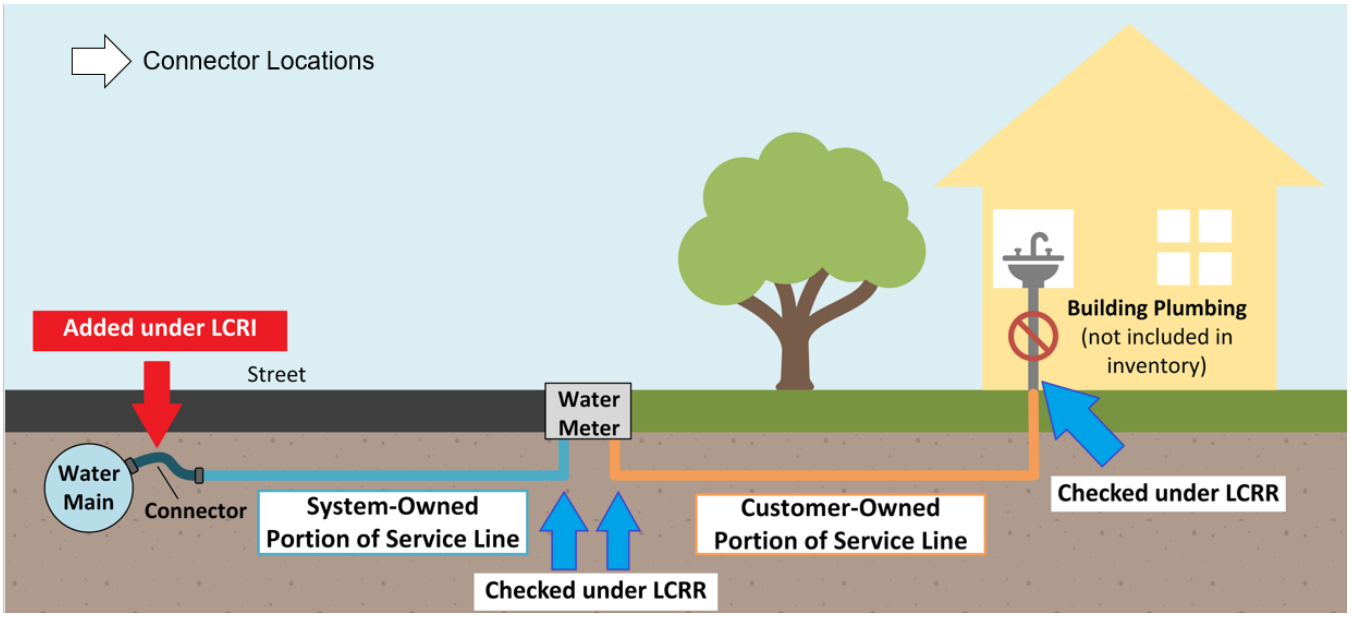
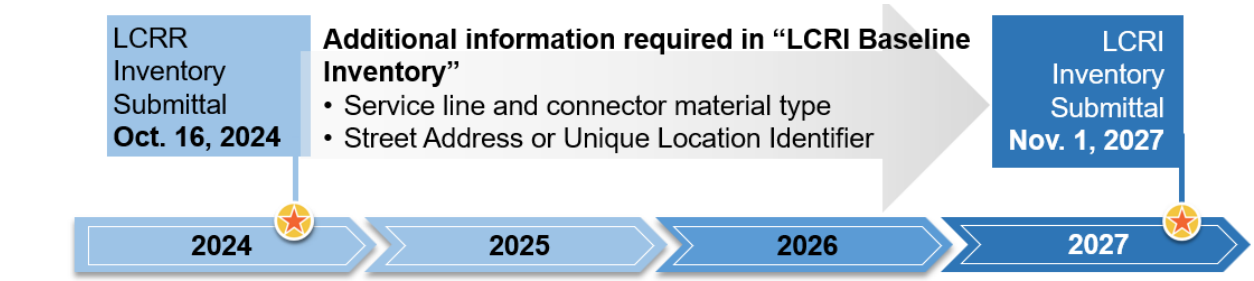


Figure 1: Potential Connector Locations on a Service Line

How LCRI Expands 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

Implications for OC Water Systems

- Agencies with “unknown” connector material in their Baseline Inventory on November 2, 2027 will
  - Lose the ability to use a general non-lead statement on their website and must make inventory publicly available.
  - Must make public the details of their Baseline Inventory by address
- Agencies may need to pothole to identify connectors at the mainline-service line connection if documentation (e.g., construction standards) and operator knowledge are not conclusive.
- DDW, as the primacy agency for California, and DDW’s interpretation of the LCRI requirements are key to compliance

Member Agency Survey 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
- 70-80% of agencies who responded indicated interest in shared services assistance on all key LCRI requirements surveyed.

Securing DDW Approval for Compliance Strategy

- Key strategy is to secure early DDW acceptance of our compliance approach.
- MWDOC & Hazen have been in coordination with DDW for several months
  - August 2026: Met with DDW LCR Unit Lead to discuss interpretation of LCRI.
  - October 2026: Met with DDW LCR Unit Lead to discuss implementation issues unique to Southern California, historical record limitations, and others.
- MWDOC submitted a regional compliance strategy letter to DDW addressing:
  - Connector material identification
  - Non-lead service line validation
- DDW concurrence would
  - Give agencies assurance of an approved and efficient path to compliance
  - Reduce unnecessary excavations for connector material verification
  - Promote regional coordination and ensure consistent DDW interpretation across OC.

Lead & Copper Rule Compliance Assistance Shared Service Program – Phase 2

- Goal: To assist agencies with LCRI compliance due November 1, 2027.
- Consultant qualifications were solicited through MWDOC's On-Call Technical Services RFQ that the Board approved in July 2026.
- Hazen possesses direct experience in MWDOC's successful Phase 1 program for LCRR, extensive LCRI expertise, and substantial experience working with Southern California water agencies and DDW.
- Potential LCRI Shared Services Program Scope

LCRI Segment 1 – Compliance Assessment and Implementation Planning	• Prepare Baseline Service Line and Connector Inventory, • Evaluate connector materials, • Assess Non-Lead Service Line Validation requirements, • Identify future implementation needs
LCRI Segment 2 – Compliance Implementation Support	• Provide field investigation, • Configure field investigation app • Field data QA/QC • Non-Lead Service Line Validation implementation.

Next Steps

- Fall/Winter 2026: Finalize Scope of Work for Phase 2 Lead & Copper Rule Compliance Assistance with focus on LCRI November 1, 2027 compliance.
- Late 2026: Provide LCRI Compliance Assistance Scope of Work to MWDOC Member Agencies and the three cities
- Early 2027: Execute Shared Services Program agreements. Begin Shared Services Program work.

Additional Materials

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]*

Item No. 3

ACTION ITEM
November 18, 2026

TO: **Board of Directors**

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

Staff Contact: Kevin Hostert, Senior Water Resources Analyst
Beth Fahl, Senior Water Resources Analyst
Jared Dawson, Water Resources Analyst

SUBJECT: **AMENDMENT TO THE CYCLIC STORAGE PROGRAM AGREEMENT AMONG METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY, AND ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to the Cyclic Storage Program Agreement among Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Municipal Water District of Orange County, and Orange County Water District to extend the term by 10 years to July 31, 2037.

REPORT

Purpose

This item requests the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) Board of Directors (Board or Directors) authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to the Cyclic Storage Program Agreement (Agreement) among Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), MWDOC, and Orange County Water District (OCWD) to extend the term for an additional 10 years to July 31, 2037.

Background

In 2017, Metropolitan, MWDOC, and OCWD entered into the Agreement, which established a framework for storing imported water in the Orange County Groundwater Basin (Basin) through either direct deliveries or in-lieu deliveries. In-lieu deliveries provide treated imported Metropolitan supply to Basin producers in place of groundwater

pumping, thereby leaving groundwater in the Basin. The Agreement provides Metropolitan with cyclic storage space up to 100,000 acre-feet (AF) in the Basin.

OCWD accepted deliveries under the Agreement in the following fiscal years:

Fiscal Year (FY)	Acre-Feet (AF) Delivered
FY 2017-18	1,556 AF
FY 2018-19	57,751 AF
FY 2019-20	17,115 AF
FY 2020-21	27,333 AF

Discussion

The 2017 Agreement is set to expire on August 10, 2027. Extending the term by 10 years would preserve the ability to store surplus imported water in the Basin when it is available and to coordinate recovery and payment for that supply. The extension would help Metropolitan manage wet-year supplies that would otherwise not be brought into the region, as well as support OCWD's management of the Basin.

While OCWD has declined deliveries under the Agreement since FY 2020-21 because the Basin is at its target overdraft level and currently has adequate storage, the extension preserves the ability to store surplus water in a future wet year.

Next Steps

Barring any substantive changes to the draft amendment (attached), staff recommend the Board of Directors select Option #1 to authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to the Agreement among Metropolitan, MWDOC, and OCWD to extend the term by 10 years to July 31, 2037.

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: Authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to the Cyclic Storage Program Agreement among Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Municipal Water District of Orange County, and Orange County Water District to extend the term by 10 years to July 31, 2037.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Option #2: Do not authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to the Cyclic Storage Program Agreement to extend the term.

Fiscal Impact: None. The Agreement would expire on August 10, 2027.

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

Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: Draft Amendment to the Cyclic Storage Program Agreement

FIRST AMENDMENT TO CYCLIC AGREEMENT NO. A0-5213 ~~BETWEEN~~ AMONG THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY, AND ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

This FIRST AMENDMENT ("Amendment"), is effective as of December 1, 2026 to the Cyclic Storage Agreement ("Agreement"), by and among the METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ("Metropolitan"), a public agency of the State of California, the MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY ("MWDOC"), a public agency of the State of California, and ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT ("OCWD"), which was created by a special act of the California Legislature (Ch. 924, Stats. 1933, as amended, the "OCWD Act") for the purpose of protecting and managing the Orange County groundwater basin. Metropolitan, MWDOC, and OCWD may collectively be referred to as the "Parties."

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RECITALS

A. The Parties entered into the Agreement on July 1, 2017, for the purpose of giving Metropolitan the right to store up to 100,000 acre-feet of Metropolitan water in the Orange County Groundwater Basin, a groundwater basin located in Orange County.

B. The Parties seek to amend Section 6 of the Agreement to state that purchases must be made according to the purchase schedule in accordance with Sections 2 and 4 of the Agreement.

C. The Parties seek to amend Section 9 of the Agreement to extend the termination date to 10 years after the effective date of the Agreement.

D. The Parties seek to amend Section 12 of the Agreement to state that MWDOC would be obligated to purchase all water remaining in the Cyclic Account within 90 days of the end of the purchase schedule or the Agreement termination date, whichever comes later.

E. The Parties intend to amend the Agreement to state that purchases must be made no later than the purchase schedule or the Agreement termination date, whichever comes later.

COVENANTS

1. Obligation for Purchase and Payment

Section 6 of the Agreement is amended to state that purchases must be made according to the purchase schedule in accordance with Sections 2 and 4 of the Agreement. The first sentence of Section 6 is amended to read:

"MWDOC agrees to purchase water from Metropolitan's Cyclic Account in accordance with Sections 2 and 4 of this Agreement, but no later than the schedule by which MWDOC shall purchase the delivered water."

2. Term

Section 9 of the Agreement is amended to state that the term of Agreement will be extended to 10 years after the ~~effective date~~current expiration of the ~~Second Amendment~~Agreement. ~~The first sentence of~~ Section 9 is amended to ~~read~~add:

"The term of this Agreement~~Amendment~~ shall ~~commence on December 1, 2026 and shall terminate 10 years thereafter~~expire on July 31, 2037.

3. Purchase of Water After Termination

Section 12 of the Agreement is amended to state that MWDOC would be obligated to purchase all water remaining in the Cyclic Account within 90 days of the end of the purchase schedule or the Agreement termination date, whichever comes later. The first sentence of Section 12 is amended, and a new second sentence is added, to read:

"Upon ~~notice of~~expiration or termination of the Agreement or of the schedule agreed by the parties pursuant to Section 2, whichever comes later, MWDOC is obligated to

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purchase all water remaining in the Cyclic Account within 90 days. Any schedule in effect upon expiration or termination of the Agreement shall remain in effect according to the Agreement terms."

4. Notices

Any notice required hereunder may be given by mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

To: Municipal Water District of Orange County
P.O. Box 20895
Fountain Valley, CA 92728
Attention: General Manager

To: Metropolitan Water District
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attention: Water Resource Management Group Manager

5. Scope of Amendment

Except as amended herein, all provisions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect.

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[Signatures on Following Page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Amendment to be duly executed by its authorized officers.

Approved as to Form:

By: _____
Joseph P. Byrne, Esq.
General Counsel

Date: _____

Municipal Water District of Orange County

By: _____
Harvey De La Torre
General Manager

Date: _____

Approved as to Form:

By: _____
NAME_____
General Counsel

Date: _____

_____Orange County Water District

By: _____
NAME
General Manager

Date: _____

DRAFT

Approved as to Form:

Marcia L. Scully
General Counsel

By: _____
Patricia Quilizapa
Senior Deputy General Counsel

Date: _____

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Shivaji Deshmukh
General Manager

By: _____
Brandon J. Goshi
Group Manager
Water Resource Management

Date: _____

Item No. 4

INFORMATION ITEM
November 2, 2026

TO: **Planning & Operations Committee**

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

Staff Contact: Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs

SUBJECT: **2027 WATER POLICY FORUMS 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 2027 Water Policy Forums, including the confirmed keynote speakers.

Background

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) hosts the Water Policy Forums, which feature water industry experts, political and regulatory officials, and other key figures to discuss critical water issues. The program advances MWDOC's mission by informing stakeholders, fostering dialogue, and strengthening relationships across agencies and jurisdictions.

Discussion

The 2027 Water Policy Forums will be held at the Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa. The first Water Policy Forum is scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2027, and the second will take place in June 2027, with the exact date to be determined.

For the January 14, 2027, Water Policy Forum, the keynote speaker is Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) Board Chair Martin "Marty" Miller. Chair Miller will share his priorities for Metropolitan and regional partnership as Board Chair.

For the June 2027 Water Policy Forum, the keynote speaker is Karla Nemeth, Executive Director of the Association of California Water Agencies. Ms. Nemeth will provide a statewide perspective on California water policy.

Next Steps

Staff will release the Save the Date for the January 14 Water Policy Forum in the coming weeks and continue to finalize event details. Staff will confirm the June Water Policy Forum date and update the Committee at a future meeting.

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

Public Affairs Department: Activity Highlights



Ricky attended Yorba Linda Water District's Open House



October eCurrents
6,364 opens
Open rate of 50%



Provided resources and giveaways for the MWDOC booth at H2O for HOAs



Panelist: RGS Public Sector Talent Pipeline Solutions



Coordinated Orange County Grand Jury Inspection Trip



Hosted and Facilitated WEEA Leadership Roundtable #24



Career Activity: OCWD & New Vista School



Hosted a MWDOC booth at the OC Farm Supply Harvest Festival



11.2% Social Media Engagement Rate

September 29-October 26, 2026. View this PDF online at: go.mwdoc.com/PAActivities

Engineering & Planning

Geographic Information System (GIS) Implementation

At its May 20 meeting, the Board awarded Hazen and Sawyer (Hazen) 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.

Staff is working with Hazen to develop a draft GIS governance structure to align GIS activities with organizational goals, define roles and responsibilities, and establish policies and standards. Hazen is also preparing the Scope of Work for creation of the Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County (WEROC) Common Operating Picture (Information-Sharing Platform).

This month, staff continued working with Hazen to refine the GIS governance framework, with a focus on aligning GIS governance with the District's broader technology governance strategy. Staff also evaluated opportunities to improve Water Loss Control GIS workflows, such as leak detection data management and reporting. In addition, Staff met with Hazen to assess Water Use Efficiency's GIS datasets and workflows, and opportunities to strengthen data governance.

Lead and Copper Rule Improvements Shared Services Program

See November 2, 2026, Planning & Operations (P&O) Committee Agenda for Action Item No. 2; staff will recommend approval of the Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Assistance Shared Services Program Phase 2 to provide Lead and Copper Rule Improvements compliance support to participating Orange County retail water agencies and authorize staff to work with Hazen to develop a Scope of Work for Phase 2.

Upcoming Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) Shutdowns

Metropolitan staff are actively planning for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 shutdown season. MWDOC staff continue to coordinate with Metropolitan and affected agencies for the following shutdown events:

- **Lake Mathews and Santiago Lateral:** A 10-day shutdown of Santiago Lateral to accommodate a shutdown of Lake Mathews and portions of the Lower Feeder is planned for early 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. A partial shutdown of service connection OC-88 on the AMP to complete electrical work is planned for this same period.

- **Orange County Feeder:** A 6-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 10-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.

Staff will continue to collaborate with Metropolitan and our Member Agencies on shutdowns and other operational issues as they arise.

Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County

Incidents/Events – September

(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.)

Norte Fire
Winter Storm
Tropical Storm Rachel
Coastal High Tides

***WEROC can elaborate on any incident as requested by the Board of Directors (Board)*

WEROC Member Agency Planning, Coordination, and Program Efforts

America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Compliance
In October, Herndon Solutions Group (HSG) held three meetings focused on the revision of the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) with three Tier 3 agencies. The WEROC team participated in these meetings, offering technical support and coordination to the participating member agencies.

The WEROC team will continue to offer assistance and coordination throughout the planning process to ensure the successful completion of the project.

Cybersecurity
In the month of October, WEROC officially launched the SharePoint/Teams platform. Thevin provided access to all participants of the Cybersecurity Working Group. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlining the guidance and policies for using the shared platform was distributed to all members with SharePoint access. Additionally, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provided no-cost training resources, which have been added to the Cybersecurity SharePoint site for Member Agencies' awareness and use.

October El Niño 2026 Coordination
During October, WEROC continued supporting Orange County's water and wastewater agencies through emergency response coordination, resource management, situational awareness, and interagency collaboration.

In response to the October storm events and associated coastal impacts, WEROC maintained communication with Member Agencies and the Orange County Operational Area to monitor conditions, identify potential infrastructure impacts, and coordinate response activities.

Key activities included:

Resource Requests: Coordinated three emergency resource requests to support incident response needs, facilitating communication and resource coordination among participating agencies and response partners.

Situation Status Tracking: Conducted ongoing situational awareness and status tracking of water and wastewater agencies, documenting reported impacts, operational concerns, and potential resource needs. Provided incident-related information and updates to Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley's office regarding reported impacts and ongoing coordination efforts.

Damage Assessment Coordination: Worked closely with the County of Orange to gather and consolidate agency damage assessments, operational impacts, and associated costs to support countywide reporting and potential disaster recovery documentation.

Regional Mutual Aid Readiness: Maintained communication with WEROC Member Agencies, including those not directly affected, to support regional readiness and identify potential mutual aid resources if conditions escalated.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Readiness
The Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) continues to undergo regular servicing to ensure all interoperability functions remain current. Routine testing confirms the MCV’s readiness for rapid deployment as a mutual aid resource.

At the Peters Canyon logistics facility, scheduled maintenance inspections are ongoing, and the site remains pest-free. The cleaned and disinfected containers are properly stored and available for emergency use.

Regional Fuel Planning Project
In the month of October, WEROC has developed the scope of work for the Merrimac agreement, which is currently under review. The fuel plan has been developed and distributed to Member Agencies for their feedback. WEROC continues to engage with member agencies on operational protocols and Fuel Points of Distribution (FPODs) to support regional fuel readiness and continuity of operations.

WEROC Duty Officer Program
During October, WEROC initiated implementation of a structured Duty Officer Program designed to strengthen operational readiness, provide consistent daily incident monitoring, and support the professional development of newly hired emergency management staff. A rotating weekly duty schedule was established to provide designated staff coverage during normal business hours, with the WEROC Director maintaining responsibility for after-hours and weekend coordination.

The program incorporates a phased training and mentoring approach, including direct instruction, hands-on experience, and ongoing guidance from the WEROC Director. Staff are being trained in incident monitoring, information verification, notification protocols, resource request coordination, situational awareness reporting, and determining when incidents require escalation or additional coordination with the Orange County Operational Area.

Through scheduled duty assignments, staff progressively develop the knowledge, judgment, and confidence necessary to independently assess emerging incidents and support regional response activities. The program also establishes greater operational continuity, strengthens staff

accountability, and builds organizational depth by developing additional personnel capable of supporting WEROC's emergency coordination responsibilities.

Presentations, Training, and Exercises
Trainings/Exercises:
October 8: EOC Section Overview - G611 Management (Vicki)
October 13: Monthly Operational Area Tests (Radio, WebEOC, AlertOC)
October 14: Monthly WEROC Radio Test
October 15: The Great ShakeOut Drill
October 12: AlertOC Training for member agencies (Miriam in partnership with the County)
October 19: WebEOC Training for member agencies (Miriam in partnership with the County)
October 20: EOC Section Overview - G611 Operations (Vicki)

WEROC Grand Jury Presentation
On October 16 Thevin conducted a successful presentation of the MCV for a Orange County Grand Jury tour. The demonstration showcased the vehicle's capabilities, redundant communications systems, and critical role as a force multiplier within the WEROC mutual aid agreement, helping strengthen the regional emergency response capabilities and enhance the ability to respond efficiently to emergencies throughout the region.

City of Redlands Disaster Council Presentation – Gaden Grove Hazardous Materials Incident Presentation
On October 26 Vicki served as a guest presenter at the City of Redlands Disaster Council meeting, providing an overview of the May 2026 Garden Grove hazardous materials incident and lessons learned from the multiagency response. The presentation highlighted WEROC's coordination with seven water and wastewater agencies, Orange County Public Works, the County Health Officer, and other response partners to address potential impacts to critical infrastructure, coordinate resources, and maintain situational awareness throughout the incident.

Key discussion points included the challenges of managing a complex hazardous materials emergency, interagency coordination, resource demands, and the importance of integrating water and wastewater utilities into broader emergency response operations. The presentation provided an opportunity to share lessons learned with emergency management professionals outside Orange County, strengthen regional partnerships, and demonstrate WEROC's role in supporting coordinated emergency response and protecting essential water and wastewater services.

Operational Area, State, Federal, and Other Partner Meetings/Projects

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

October 2: National Water Agency Response Network (WARN) Meeting
October 5: El Niño Coordination Meeting
October 5: Association of California Water Agencies Emergency Management Working Group
October 6: USC Great ShakeOut Panel Presentation with Lucy Jones
October 6: Southwestern California El Niño Briefing
October 6: Winter Weather Kickoff Meeting
October 7: Cybersecurity Awareness Month – CISA Best Practices Meeting
October 8: Riverside County Emergency Managers Association – Garden Grove Chemical Spill Presentation (Vicki)
October 13: Southwestern California El Niño Briefing
October 14: MWDOC Managers Meeting

October 14: National Weather Service Heat and Strong Wind Webinar
October 16: Grand Jury Visit
October 20: Southwestern California El Niño Briefing
October 20: American Water Works Association (AWWA) Security and Emergency Management Committee Meeting
October 22: Intercanyon League Community Meeting
October 23: CESA State Board Meeting
October 26: City of Redlands Disaster Council
October 27: Southwestern California El Niño Briefing
October 28: Los Angeles County Water Plan Small Water Systems Taskforce Quarterly Meeting
October 28: Standardized Emergency Management System (SB 1153) Webinar
October 29: Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committee (MARAC) Meeting
October 29: California-Nevada Section American Water Works Association Meeting

Southern California Earthquake Center – ShakeOut Scenario 2.0 Workshop
On October 7 Vicki participated as an invited panelist at the Southern California Earthquake Center's ShakeOut Scenario 2.0 Workshop, representing the water and wastewater sector. The discussion focused on the potential consequences of a catastrophic Southern California earthquake, including damage to critical water and wastewater infrastructure, prolonged power and communication outages, fuel and supply chain disruptions, staffing limitations, and competing demands for mutual aid resources. Vicki emphasized the importance of regional coordination, infrastructure interdependencies, and strengthening partnerships between utilities, emergency management organizations, and response agencies.

Participation provided an opportunity to highlight the unique challenges facing the water and wastewater sector and reinforce its critical role in regional emergency response, community resilience, and long-term disaster recovery.

Operational Area Plans Reviewed This Month:
- City of Orange Emergency Operations Plan

Water Use Efficiency

Monthly Rebate Activity

Turf Replacement: This month, 2,206,107 square feet of turfgrass were converted to Orange County-friendly landscapes across 38 projects. To date, approximately 32.6 million square feet of turfgrass have been replaced.

New Trees: This month, 66 trees were planted as part of Turf Replacement projects. Since March 2024, the program has incentivized the planting of 1,847 trees, averaging 2 trees planted per day.

Spray-to-Drip: This month, 1,573,010 square feet of irrigated area were converted to drip irrigation across 29 projects. To date, approximately 8.1 million square feet of landscaped area have been converted from traditional spray to drip irrigation.

Landscape Design: This month, 4 professionally created landscape designs were rebated. To date, 1,224 landscape design and/or landscape maintenance packages have been incentivized to support turf replacement projects.

Due to Metropolitan system updates, no new devices were processed as complete this month.

Smart Timer Rebate: This month, 0 smart irrigation timers were installed. To date, 36,769 smart timers have been installed through this program.

High-Efficiency Sprinkler Nozzles: This month, 0 high-efficiency rotating nozzles were installed to replace traditional spray nozzles. To date, 587,714 nozzles have been installed through this program.

Rain Barrels: This month, 0 rain barrels were installed in Orange County. To date, 9,115 rain barrels have been installed through this program.

High-Efficiency Clothes Washers: This month, 0 high-efficiency clothes washers were installed instead of lower-efficiency models. To date, 132,017 high-efficiency clothes washers have been incentivized.

High-Efficiency Toilets: This month, 0 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, 0 residential flow-monitoring devices were installed. To date, 1,166 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, 0 commercial devices were installed. To date, 119,834 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, no properties completed a customized water-savings upgrade through the program. 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.

California Assembly Bill (AB) 1572 Nonfunctional Turf

The following activity occurred related to AB 1572, the potable irrigation ban of nonfunctional turfgrass at commercial, industrial, and institutional properties.

- Environmental Incentives (EI), a technical assistance consultant, provided AB 1572 Core Communications plans to the following agencies through MWDOC's shared services.
    - City of Brea
    - City of La Habra
    - City of La Palma
    - City of Fullerton
    - City of Santa Ana
- Staff provided information and answered various questions from member agencies and the public regarding the regulation.

Making Conservation a California Way of Life Framework

The following activity, overseen by Sam, occurred related to the Making Conservation a California Way of Life Framework (Way of Life Framework), which requires urban water suppliers to 1) meet a supplier-level volumetric water budget based on state standards; 2) adhere to non-volumetric objectives; and 3) complete annual reporting:

- Staff and NV5, a shared services technical assistance program consultant, met with the following agencies to begin work to measure landscape areas irrigated by dedicated irrigation meters (DIMs) and/or mixed-use meters (MUMs).
    - City of Buena Park
    - City of Santa Ana
    - City of Westminster
- Staff and EI met with the following agencies regarding technical assistance.
    - City of Anaheim to discuss their CII Classifications.
    - City of Buena Park to discuss their Compliance Plan.
    - City of Santa Ana to discuss their Compliance Plan.
    - City of Santa Ana to discuss their Compliance Plan.
    - Yorba Linda Water District to discuss their compliance status and support needs.

Member Agency Engagement

OC Water Use Efficiency Coordinator Work Group Meeting

On October 1, Rachel W-H., Sam, Tina, and Ellie, in coordination with Environmental Incentives, hosted the Orange County Water Use Efficiency Coordinator Work Group at MWDOC. This

monthly meeting serves as a learning network for the Way of Life Framework and other topical regulations, and as a core collaborative session for Orange County water suppliers to learn from each other, MWDOC, and consultants; coordinate regional messaging; and approach complex requirements with support. Topics discussed included:

- Clarifying AB1572 and Urban Water Use Objective (UWUO) Requirements
- Preparing for Upcoming UWUO Requirements
- Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) Best Management Practices Reporting

Approximately 40 representatives from MWDOC Member Agencies and the Cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana attended the meeting. The next Water Use Efficiency Coordinator Work Group meeting is scheduled to be held in person on November 5.

RainSmart Collaboration with Orange County Public Works (OCPW)

On September 24, Rachel W-H and Cristal met with representatives from OCPW to discuss the next phase of integrating OCPW's RainSmart Rebate Program, which incentivizes the installation of stormwater capture techniques in the landscape, and MWDOC's Turf Replacement Rebate Program. Topics included combining the timelines for both programs, improving customer satisfaction and ease, and action steps.

H2O for Homeowner Associations (HOA)

On October 15, Tina, Cristal, and Ellie participated in the annual H2O for HOAs event at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center in Rancho Santa Margarita. Staff hosted a MWDOC table and assisted at registration. Tina moderated a panel titled "Turf Replacement and RainSmart Rebates Case Study," featuring a project at Forster Ranch Master Association in the City of San Clemente, which showed the collaboration among MWDOC, the County of Orange, and retail water providers. Attendees included HOA board members, property managers, landscape companies, and other community members in South Orange County.

Mesa Water District Interview Panel

On October 9, Rachel W-H. served as an interview panelist for the Mesa Water District Water Use Efficiency Analyst position.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan)

Program Advisory Committee (PAC)

On October 7, Rachel W-H. attended the quarterly Metropolitan PAC meeting, which is attended by Metropolitan Member Agencies with the intention of discussing new or improved Metropolitan programs. Topics discussed included strategies to streamline AB 1572 and Turf Replacement Program requirements, new customer-side leak detection technology, and MWDOC's pilot to offer trees as an option to comply with the Turf Replacement Program's sustainability feature requirement.

Water Use Efficiency Workgroup Meeting

On October 15, Water Use Efficiency and Water Loss Control staff joined the monthly Metropolitan Water Use Efficiency Workgroup meeting, attended by Metropolitan Member Agencies, to receive updates and discuss relevant topics. Agenda topics included Metropolitan Board recaps, conservation program updates, strategy to streamline AB 1572 and Turf Replacement Program requirements, and presentations on a meter testing program and a community nursery by Metropolitan Member Agencies.

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

Unintended Consequences of Turf Removal Task Force
On October 13, Rachel W-H. and Ellie led the Unintended Consequences of Turf Removal Task Force Meeting, which is a subgroup of the CalWEP Research and Evaluation Committee. The Task Force aims to identify unintended consequences of turf removal and effective mitigation strategies, and to produce informative products for public and private decision-makers. The Task Force is collaborating with AWE and researchers from the University of California (UC) Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) division, who are conducting landscape benefits and tradeoffs associated with turfgrass replacement

AWE Water Efficiency Research Committee (WERC) Climate Change Task Force
On October 15, Rachel W-H. joined the WERC Climate Change Task Force meeting, which is currently focused on progressing work to be completed by the CalWEP Unintended Consequences of Turf Removal Task Force, through a climate change lens. Plans include tools to evaluate landscape benefit trade-offs and other materials to help decision makers make informed decisions related to the topic.

Other

South Orange County Watershed Management Area (SOCWMA) Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) Management Committee
On October 20, Rachel W-H attended the SOCWMA IRWM Management Committee. Topics discussed included Prop 4 Climate Bond (2024), covering the stormwater grant program and watershed resilience program for conservation implementation and planning.

Qualified Water Efficiency Landscape Dual Certification Program (QWELDCP) Training
On September 22, 29, and October 6, MWDOC hosted a Spanish-language QWELDCP Training in partnership with Metropolitan, Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL), the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA), and the Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense Program. The training educates landscape professionals on landscape water-efficiency best management practices and combines two industry certifications into one course: the CLCA Water Management Certification and the QWEL Certification. Eighteen landscape professionals attended the three-day training.

American Water Works Association (AWWA) WaterSmart Innovations Conference
On October 21-23, Tina and Cristal attended the AWWA WaterSmart Innovations Conference held in Portland, Oregon. Staff attended professional sessions covering the following topics to advance knowledge of water efficiency program implementation:

- Identifying, Prioritizing, and Engaging CII Water Users
- Trends and Lessons Learned in Managing Urban Water Use
- Understanding CII Customer Demand to Strengthen Conservation Programs
- Scaling Conservation Programs for Continued Success
- Incentivizing Turf and Irrigation Replacements
- Methods for Analyzing and Shifting Irrigation Behavior
- Quantifying and Prioritizing Turf Replacement

Water Loss Control

California-Nevada American Water Works Association (CA-NV AWWA) Water Loss Control Committee

On September 24, Rachel D. organized and hosted the CA-NV AWWA Water Loss Control Committee, which Rachel chairs. A guest presentation from the City of Westminster's Water Distribution Supervisor and Management Analyst highlighted the City's approach to leak estimate training for the leak registry. Required by the State Water Resources Control Board, urban water retail suppliers must submit a registry of breaks, repairs, and estimated losses. Attendees of the presentation learned strategies to help their agencies collect quality data and achieve reporting compliance with the leak registry.

Leak Detection

Water Loss Control Technicians Hugo, Willie, and Trent are currently working on Distribution System Leak Detection Surveys for the City of Huntington Beach and the City of Buena Park. The technicians also completed a Suspected Leak Investigation in the City of Orange on October 19.

The Water Loss Control team also attended the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's award ceremony on October 13 to receive the One Water Award, which recognized MWDOC's leak detection program for its innovative, large-scale impact that delivers significant, measurable water savings.

On September 30, October 2, and October 9, Rachel Davis conducted interviews to hire a fourth Water Loss Control Technician.

Water Loss Audit Validations

On September 24, Rachel validated the Water Loss Audit for Santa Margarita Water District. On October 7, Rachel validated the Water Loss Audit for the City of Orange. On October 8, Rachel validated the Water Loss Audit for Trabuco Canyon Water District. Cassidy and Rachel D. are AWWA-certified Water Audit Validators and are responsible for validating 25 audits this year. They have been working with Member Agencies and the Cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana to validate their Water Audits, as required by Senate Bill 555 and the Making Conservation the California Way of Life Framework. Each validation includes a two-hour meeting with the retail agency to review their audit inputs, as well as the completion of the validation certificate.

Public & Government Affairs

Member Agency Support:

Public Affairs Staff:

- Hosted a booth and Ricky the Rambunctious Raindrop℠ appearance at the Yorba Linda Water District Open House.
- Designed outreach materials for various Member Agencies to educate respective customers on Assembly Bill (AB) 1572.
- Supported the Water Use Efficiency Department by providing resources and giveaways for Moulton Niguel Water District's H2O for Homeowners (HOA) event in Rancho Santa Margarita.
- Coordinated logistics for a presentation at the October 26 City of Seal Beach City Council meeting for Director Seckel.
- Designed and translated Water Use Efficiency's Winter Bill Inserts featuring MWDOC rebates for requesting member agencies.

Government Affairs Staff:

- Circulated the monthly Grants Tracking and Acquisition report to all participating Member Agencies.
- Circulated a Prop 4 funding alert from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Cooperative Fire Protection Safety Program.

Community and Special Events:

Public Affairs Staff:

- Hosted the 2026 Orange County (OC) Water Summit debrief meeting.
- Hosted a State Water Project Inspection Trip (Director Seckel).
- Hosted a Local Water Infrastructure Tour for the OC Grand Jury (Director Seckel).
    - Provided a Ricky the Rambunctious Raindrop℠ experience for the OC Grand Jurors during their Inspection Trip.
- Hosted an interactive booth with resources and giveaways at OC Farm Supply's Harvest Festival in Orange. Board President Lary Dick attended this event alongside MWDOC staff. OC Farm Supply staff gave a handwritten thank-you card for supporting the event.

Government Affairs Staff:

- Attended the Local Water Infrastructure Tour with the OC Grand Jury.

Education Initiatives

General Education

Public Affairs Staff:

- Attended The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (Metropolitan) Member Agency Water Education Coordinator's Meeting.
- Attended the Metropolitan Member Agency Workforce Development Working Group Quarterly Meeting.
- Coordinated giveaway distribution for the Girl Scouts of Orange County's Annual STEM Expo for over 300 Orange County Girl Scouts.
- Met with Orange County representatives from Tomorrow's Talent to support and collaborate on workforce initiatives in the City of Westminster and City of Santa Ana.
- Collaborated with the City of Westminster regarding the Tomorrow's Talent Career Connection initiative to bring City Staff to the school to showcase career pathways.
- Led a water career exploration activity with the Orange County Water District for students from New Vista School.
- Participated in Orange Unified School District's Water Technology Pathway Hiring & Industry Outreach Review meeting.
- Met with MeterHero, alongside Water Use Efficiency and MWDOC's Assistant General Manager, to clarify high school program implementation, requirements, and customization.

Choice the K-12 School Programs

Public Affairs Staff:

- Provided information to the City of Huntington Beach and Yorba Linda Water District regarding the MWDOC Choice K-12 School Programs.
- Provided background information on key water industry topics to the Orange County Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors teaching team.

Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA)

Public Affairs Staff:

- Hosted and facilitated WEEA Leadership Roundtable #24 highlighting the Water Leaders Academy, a collaborative two-week program put on by the Water Replenishment District, Tomorrow's Talent, and Compton Unified School District.
- Participated as an Orange County panelist for the Regional Government Services Authority's "Public Sector Talent Pipeline Solutions: Building Tomorrow's Workforce Today" event.
- Met with Sustain SoCal on potential partnership opportunities.
- Attended the Inland Empire Utilities Agency's annual Career Fair.
- Participated in a planning meeting for Metropolitan's Workforce Summit.
- Met with Good Green Work, Tomorrow's Talent, the Association of California Water Agencies Foundation, and Gavilan College to explore an Environmental Protection Agency grant opportunity.

Digital Communications, Publications, and Media Engagement

Public Affairs Staff:

- Developed and distributed social media content across all MWDOC social media channels.
- Developed and distributed the eCurrents Newsletter October Edition that garnered 6,435 opens (an email open rate of 50%).
- Created both internal and external campaigns for Water Professionals Appreciation Week to celebrate staff. The internal campaign, titled Water Heroes, portrayed participating staff

as superheroes related to their profession. The external campaign, titled Water Pros, featured participating staff and highlighted quotes about working in the water field.

Special Projects

Public Affairs Staff:

- Provided support for the Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC) Executive Committee Meeting.
- Provided support for the Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO) monthly meeting.
- Provided support for the WACO Planning Meeting.
- Sent the ISDOC quarterly luncheon invitation.
- The Public Affairs Communication section participated in a training session on Radical Candor with Anne Sandberg of Predict Success.
- Delivered additional Seed Center materials to the Fountain Valley Library, Huntington Beach Central Library, Mary Wilson Library in Seal Beach, and the Roosevelt-Walker Community Center in Santa Ana. The Huntington Beach Central Library staff provided treats as a thank-you to all MWDOC staff for the Seed Center at their location.
- Coordinated with City of San Juan Capistrano staff to provide the first delivery of Seed Center display items to the San Juan Capistrano Community Center.

Government Affairs Staff:

- Drafted and circulated the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting agenda and minutes.
- Staffed the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting.
- Coordinated with upcoming WACO speakers.
- Participated in the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Professional Development Committee meeting.
- Staffed the WACO meeting featuring speaker, Brandon Goshi, from Metropolitan.
- Drafted and circulated the WACO Planning Committee meeting agenda.
- Staffed the WACO Planning Committee meeting.

Outreach Metrics

Public Affairs Staff:

- Google Performance Analytics (Timeframe: September 29-October 26)
  - 164 business profile interactions
  - 1,883 people viewed the business profile
- mwdoc.com Website Analytics (September 29-October 26)
  - 13,493 page views
  - Top pages:
    - Home Page – 3,323
    - Residential Rebates – 596
    - Board Meeting – 592
    - Turf Replacement – 578
    - Leadership – 500
    - RFPs and RFQs – 461
    - El Niño Insight Article – 322
- ocwatersmartgardens.com Website Analytics (September 2026)
  - 982 Number of Sessions, 712 New Users

    - Top pages:
        - Home Page
        - Plant Common Name
        - Fire Resistant Plants
- ocwatersmartparks.com Website Analytics (October 1-26)
    - 13 Site Sessions
- Social Media Analytics (September 29-October 26)
    - 11.2% Engagement Rate (a good rate is between 1% and 5%)
    - 13,719 Post Impressions (number of times a post was viewed)
    - 468 Post Reactions & Likes

Legislative Affairs

Government Affairs Staff:

- Participated in the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) 2027 Draft Legislative Priorities Working Group meeting.
- Participated in the CMUA 2027 Draft Regulatory Priorities Working Group meeting.
- Met with staff from Santa Margarita Water District to discuss 2027 legislative priorities.
- Attended the CMUA Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Working Group meeting.
- Attended the CMUA Regulatory Committee meeting.
- Attended the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB) Water Chemistry & Waste Project meeting.
- Participated in the Metropolitan Member Agency Legislative Coordinators Annual Planning meeting.
- Hosted a meeting with fellow CCEEB water agency members to discuss priorities for 2027.
- Met with staff from CCEEB to review potential 2027 legislative priorities.
- Attended the CMUA Wildfire Liability Strike team meeting.
- Participated in the CSDA Annual Legislative Planning meeting.
- Reviewed the changes and updates to Metropolitan's Legislative Priorities and Policy Principles and worked with staff on suggested edits.