

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY  
Jointly with the  
**PLANNING & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
18700 Ward Street, Conf. Room 101, Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
June 3, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

**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 fees may apply  
(877) 853 5247 Toll-free  
**Webinar ID:** 882 866 5300#

**P&O Committee:**

Director Seckel, Chair  
Director Yoo Schneider  
Director Dick

Staff: H. De La Torre, C. Harris,  
H. Chumpitazi, M. Baum-Haley,  
T. Dubuque, M. Goldsby

Ex Officio Member: President McVicker

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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 there is a need to take immediate action on item(s) and that the need for action came to the attention of the District 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 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 seventy-two (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 Web site, accessible at <http://www.mwdoc.com>.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. CONTINUATION OF THE RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
2. ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**INFORMATION ITEMS** (The following items are for informational purposes only – background information is included in the packet. Discussion is not necessary unless requested by a Director.)

3. UPDATE REGARDING WEROC'S MOBILE EOC
4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS HIGHLIGHTS
5. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORTS
  - a. Ongoing MWDOC Reliability and Engineering/Planning Projects
  - b. WEROC
  - c. Water Use Efficiency Projects
  - d. Public and Government Affairs
6. 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 Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary, at (714) 963-3058, or writing to Municipal Water District of Orange County at P.O. Box 20895, Fountain Valley, CA 92728. 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.



**ACTION ITEM**

June 19, 2024

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** **Planning & Operations Committee**  
(Directors Seckel, Yoo Schneider, Dick)

**Harvey De La Torre, General Manager**

Staff Contact: J. Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency  
Rachel Waite, Water Use Efficiency Program Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** **Continuation of the Residential Landscape Design Assistance Program**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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It is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize staff to implement a Residential Landscape Design Assistance Rebate Program in support of the Turf Replacement Rebate Program using a combination of grant funds from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, and member agencies.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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Committee recommends (To be determined at Committee Meeting)

**SUMMARY**

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Landscape water use accounts for approximately 50 percent of total water use in Orange County. There is a relatively untapped opportunity for water savings in the landscape as our focus historically has been on indoor residential plumbing fixtures. During this time, landscape water saving efforts have focused on education and landscape design standards,

<b>Budgeted:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Budgeted amount: \$	Core: <input type="checkbox"/>	Choice: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Action item amount:</b> \$		Movement between funds: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<p><b>Notes:</b> Staff will use a combination of grant funds from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, and member agencies for the design rebates. Should these sources of funds be exhausted, the program would temporarily be paused until additional funds are secured.</p>			

such as landscape ordinances administered by city planning departments. A comprehensive and prolonged approach is needed to achieve and maintain landscape water savings.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County began offering a variety of landscape rebates starting in 2004 with Smart Irrigation Timers to promote irrigation scheduling efficiency. This water savings opportunity was pioneered in Orange County and has resulted in quantifiable and reliable savings over time. Since then, we have expanded the opportunities to include low-volume sprinkler nozzles (2007), turf grass removal (2010), spray-to-drip conversions (2014), education, and regulations such as landscape ordinances. These efforts focus on both residential and commercial landscapes. Ultimately, we are seeking to establish a transformation of urban landscapes to better match the water needs of our landscapes to our local climate and available water resources. That said, we are NOT advocating for the complete removal of turf grass; rather, we are advocating for functional turf areas that provide for recreation and other beneficial uses to remain.

Landscape design is one of the biggest barriers for homeowners to overcome when participating in the Turf Replacement Rebate Program. Our intention is to break down participant barriers and help ensure that installed landscapes are aesthetically appealing landscapes that may be emulated by others. The Landscape Design Rebate Program provides the site with customized tools to achieve maximum water savings by considering all four factors that influence landscape water use - landscape management, plant selection, irrigation equipment, and maintenance - and promotion of all landscape efficiency incentive programs.

Since its original authorization in March 2017, the Residential Landscape Design Assistance Program has completed more than 760 residential landscape designs.

Staff is proposing to continue our Landscape Design Assistance using a “Rebate Program” format as proposed in the Detailed Report below.

## **DETAILED REPORT**

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The Landscape Design Assistance Program (Program) provides one-on-one landscape design assistance to residential property owners. The one-on-one design assistance includes a consultation between the homeowner and the designer, a planting plan and plant list, an irrigation design plan and materials list, and a sustainability feature design and materials list. Using Metropolitan and grant funds, MWDOC hired designers and pays them for the designs they produce. The Design Assistance Program breaks down barriers to participation, helps boost participation in the Turf Replacement Rebate Program, and results in landscape conversions with greater aesthetic appeal. A variety of example landscape designs, yard configurations, and landscape themes can be viewed here: <https://www.mwdoc.com/oc-friendly-landscapes/>.

Working with a landscape designer, participants in the Programs select plants they would like to incorporate in their design that are well adapted to Orange County’s climate. MWDOC’s OC Water Smart Gardens website ([www.ocwatersmartgardens.com](http://www.ocwatersmartgardens.com)) can help guide participants during this plant selection process. Plant selection is a critical component

of the Program and is designed to create ownership in developing and maintaining the participant's landscape. Landscape design packages are also developed, where appropriate, to meet the architectural requirements of Homeowner Associations (HOAs) to streamline the HOA approval process.

After five years, the current Board authorization for implementation of the Residential Landscape Design Assistance Program is due to sunset on June 30, 2024. To continue this program, staff released a Request for Proposal Process (RFP) on March 8, 2024 to acquire new landscape designers that meet our Program design criteria, including but not limited to costs. The RFP was distributed to 24 design vendors and posted on the MWDOC website. A total of six proposals were received by the March 29, 2024 response deadline and all were considered to be responsive to the RFP. Respondents included: California Wild Gardens, EcoTech Services, The Plant Nerd, TerraWorks Studio, Twin Pines Landscape Consulting, and Water Efficient Gardens.

Staff convened a proposal Review Committee comprised of four MWDOC staff and staff from the City of Fountain Valley Water Department, Moulton Niguel Water District, and Santa Margarita Water District. Review Committee members reviewed and scored each proposal individually and assigned scores for five criteria including Scope of Work and Methodology, Team Experience and Capabilities, Quality of Work, Schedule, and Proposed Costs. Staff then compiled scores from all Review Committee members and applied a weighting to each criteria to arrive at a final group-score for each respondent to the RFP. These scores ranged from a low of 45.8 to a high of 62 with the median being 54.5. The Review Committee concluded that four RFP respondents had the best combination of experience, quality of work, and schedule: The Plant Nerd, TerraWorks Studio, Twin Pines Landscape Consulting, and Water Efficient Gardens. However, the proposed costs from all six companies increased by approximately 35 percent over what the current Program is paying; the current pricing is \$1,325 per design and the proposed pricing would be \$1,789 per design. Staff and Review Committee members concluded that the new pricing was not sustainable over the long run.

The Review Committee then brainstormed ideas for alternative Program implementation formats that would allow us to continue to offer a design assistance program but also provided cost containment. A "Design Rebate" was broadly supported by Review Committee members. This concept was then presented to MWDOC's Landscape Program Advisory Committee, made up of staff from six member agencies, and the broader MWDOC Conservation Coordinator Workgroup representing all 27 member agencies and the 3-Cities.

The proposed Design Rebate would be processed at no additional cost using the same Droplet Rebate Processing Software as the Turf Replacement Rebate Program. The Design Rebate would only be paid if a design rebate application was accepted by MWDOC, and a qualifying design and purchase receipt was submitted to and approved by MWDOC upon completion of the Turf Replacement project. Staff is proposing to initiate the design rebate not to exceed \$1,000 per design using a combination of grant funds from the Metropolitan, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, and member agencies. Should these sources of funds be exhausted, the Program would be temporarily paused until additional funds are secured. Additionally, should available funds allow, staff anticipates periodic adjustments to the rebate amount over time. Staff will provide monthly

participation reporting to the Planning & Operations Committee in the Water Use Efficiency Department Activities log.

It is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize staff to implement a Residential Landscape Design Assistance Rebate Program in support of the Turf Replacement Rebate Program using a combination of grant funds from the Metropolitan Water District, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, and member agencies.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.             | <input type="checkbox"/> Work with member agencies to develop water supply and demand objectives. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and Orange County values and interests. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solicit input and feedback from member agencies.              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthen communications and coordination of messaging.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in workforce development and succession planning.                 |

Additional Comments: The proposed Program modifications and staff recommendation was developed with considerable input and support from many member agencies.

## **BOARD OPTIONS**

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**Option #1:** It is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize staff to implement a Residential Landscape Design Assistance Rebate Program in support of the Turf Replacement Rebate Program using a combination of grant funds from the Metropolitan Water District, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, and member agencies.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no direct cost impact to MWDOC as this is a Metropolitan and grant funded, Choice-based program.

**Option #2:** Retain the current Residential Landscape Design Assistance Program format covering 100% of design costs including a 35% cost increase.

**Fiscal Impact:** The fiscal impact would include a 35% cost increase expending valuable grant resources more rapidly.

**Option #3:** Discontinue implementation of the Residential Landscape Design Assistance Program.

**Fiscal Impact:** There would be no fiscal impact to MWDOC; however, discontinuing implementation of the Residential Landscape Design Assistance Program would result in the loss of an important program that breaks down barriers to completing high-quality and aesthetically appealing Turf Replacement projects.

**List of Attachments/Links:**

**Attachment 1:** *None*

**Link 1:** Example landscape designs, yard configurations, and landscape themes can be viewed here: <https://www.mwdoc.com/oc-friendly-landscapes/>

**Link 2:** OC Water Smart Gardens website: [www.ocwatersmartgardens.com](http://www.ocwatersmartgardens.com)



**ACTION ITEM**

June 19, 2024

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** **Planning & Operations Committee**  
(Directors Seckel, Yoo Schneider, Dick)

**Harvey De La Torre, General Manager**

Staff Contact: Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency  
Rachel Waite, Water Use Efficiency Program Supervisor  
Rachel Davis, Water Loss Control Program Supervisor

**SUBJECT: Advanced Metering Infrastructure Technical Assistance Program**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to enter into a two-year professional services agreement with E-Source in an amount not to exceed \$41,640 for facilitation of up to six AMI Workgroup meetings.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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Committee recommends (To be determined at Committee Meeting)

**SUMMARY**

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In February 2024, staff informed the Board of the start of a process to explore the potential for a new Choice Service to assist member agencies with evaluating the feasibility and installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). At this meeting, staff provided a detailed report that included a description of what AMI is, the benefits of AMI, a concept for a choice-based framework, a schedule for considering the AMI Choice Service, and initial input from member agencies regarding their support for exploring the new AMI Choice Service.

<b>Budgeted:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Budgeted amount: \$41,640	Core: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choice: <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Action item amount: \$41,640</b>		Movement between funds: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Note:</b> Staff proposes a total expenditure of \$41,640 using \$6,640 of repurposed, unspent budgeted professional services funds from FY 2023-24 and \$35,000 in budgeted funds from FY 2024-25.			



Staff has now completed a member agency survey and will present the results and recommended next steps to the Planning & Operations Committee on June 3, 2024.

## **DETAILED REPORT**

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To gauge member agency interest and gather more detailed information about the status of AMI in Orange County, staff developed and distributed a survey on February 13, 2024 to be completed by member agencies. The survey remained open until March 30, 2024. The survey was structured to gather the available information from agencies who do not have AMI and the greatest amount of information and insight from agencies who already have AMI. This was accomplished by developing five customized survey question sets for:

- 1) Agencies who have not considered AMI/AMR;
- 2) Agencies considering a Feasibility Study;
- 3) Agencies who have completed a Feasibility Study;
- 4) Agencies who are conducting Pilot Installation of AMI; and
- 5) Agencies who have already installed AMI.

A total of 19 agencies, or 70 percent, responded to the survey. Staff will provide the attached presentation (Attachment 1) summarizing the results of the survey to the Planning & Operations Committee at the June 3, 2024 meeting, along with recommendations to move AMI forward based on the results of the member agency survey.

On May 16, 2024, staff presented the results of the AMI survey along with recommendations for MWDOC assistance at the Member Agency Managers Meeting. The presentation and recommendations were well received with no concerns voiced and one affirmative comment from IRWD in support of MWDOC moving forward as proposed.

Based on the results of the Member Agency AMI Survey, staff have the following recommendations.

### **Recommendation 1 – One-on-One Technical Support**

Only one agency expressed limited interest, by responding “maybe,” in conducting an AMI feasibility study. This very limited interest does not justify MWDOC making a consultant available. During the survey process, staff met with both Arcadis and E-Source to inquire about the AMI services they provide. Staff learned that these two consultants are already being used by several Orange County agencies. Staff also compiled a library of Request for Proposals (RFPs) from six agencies from across the country. In lieu of MWDOC hiring a consultant, staff recommends directing agencies in need of consultant support to these consultants and sharing the RFPs collected during the survey process.

### **Recommendation 2 – Grant Funding**

Few agencies expressed interest in MWDOC funding support for installation of AMI. Staff’s original concept was that MWDOC may acquire and manage grant funding to be distributed among interested agencies. Staff looked at several recent USBR grant awards and found that these awards provided between 18% and 40% of the total project cost. Due to the high cost of AMI, which ranges roughly from \$300 to \$900 per meter, sharing a grant among multiple agencies would essentially dilute the amount of grant funding for each agency as

USBR grant awards are capped at \$5 million. Soto Resources, Inc. has been very successful at obtaining grant awards for water utilities in and around Orange County. To maximize the amount of grant funding for each agency, staff recommends each agency pursue grants on their own.

### **Recommendation 3 - AMI Workgroup**

There was broad support for a Member Agency AMI Workgroup to provide a forum for information sharing among agencies at all stages of AMI implementation. AMI implementation is extremely complex with numerous retailer-specific nuances. Because there is a benefit from extensive technical experience of AMI, we propose hiring a consultant specializing in AMI to provide technical assistance and facilitation of the AMI Workgroup meetings beginning in the summer of 2024 and concluding within 18 months.

Staff developed a simple request for quotes for AMI Workgroup support. The RFQ was distributed on May 13, 2024 to eight consultants. A total of three responses were received by May 22, 2023. Respondents included Arcadis, E-Source, and GHD. The RFQ requested pricing for both “in-person-” and “remote-” based meetings and sample agendas for the first four meetings. We requested the agendas be structured to include a mix of both learning modules and information sharing among the Orange County agencies at each meeting. Sample agendas allowed staff to analyze each respondent’s proposed progression of learning. Upon review of the bids and sample agendas, staff found all three respondents to be responsive to the RFQ and well qualified to provide the requested services.

The three bids ranged from a low of \$41,640 from E-Source to a high of \$117,672 from GHD for six Workgroup Meetings and estimated travel costs for the consultant team for each meeting. Considering the strength of their proposal, MWDOC’s positive experience for Water Loss Control technical assistance, and member agency experience with AMI services from E-Source, staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to enter into a two-year professional services agreement with E-Source in an amount not to exceed \$41,640 for facilitation of up to six AMI Workgroup meetings. Staff proposes using \$6,640 of repurposed, unspent budgeted professional services funds from FY 2023-24 and \$35,000 in budgeted funds from FY 2024-25.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clarifying MWDOC’s mission and role; defining functions and actions.             | <input type="checkbox"/> Work with member agencies to develop water supply and demand objectives. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balance support for Metropolitan’s regional mission and Orange County values and interests. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solicit input and feedback from member agencies.              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthen communications and coordination of messaging.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in workforce development and succession planning.                 |

Additional Comments: None

**BOARD OPTIONS**

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**Option #1:** Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to enter into a two-year professional services agreement with E-Source in an amount not to exceed \$41,640 for facilitation of up to six AMI Workgroup meetings.

**Fiscal Impact:** None, staff proposes using budgeted funds.

**Option #2:** Do not hire a consultant to facilitate AMI Workgroup Meetings and rely on the knowledge base of member agencies to share information.

**Fiscal Impact:** Savings of \$41,640 of budgeted funds.

List of Attachments/Links:
<p><b>Attachment 1:</b> AMI Retailer Survey Results</p> <p><b>Link 1:</b> None</p>



# Exploring Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) as a Shared Service



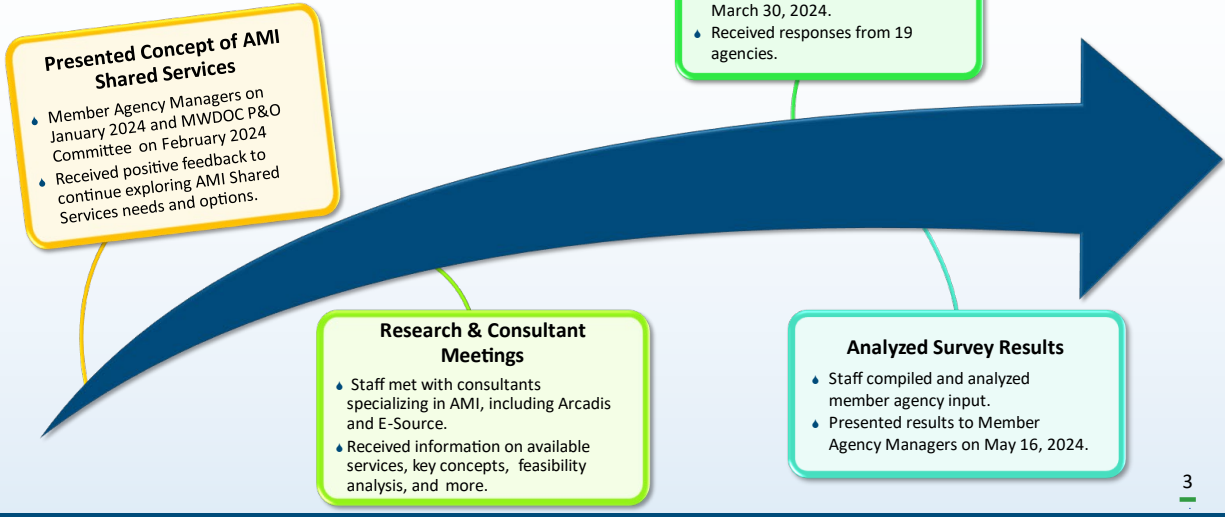
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency  
Planning & Operations Committee

June 3, 2024

## What is AMI?



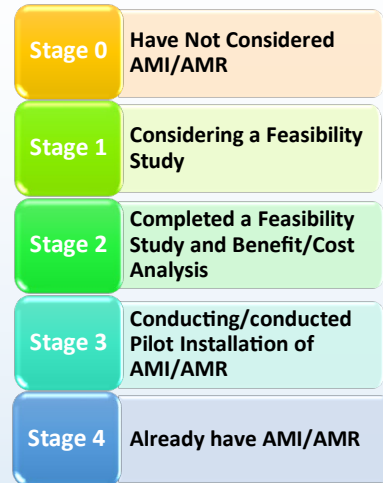
# Accomplishments



# Shared Services AMI Interest Survey



- Retailers were surveyed to better understand AMI status/consideration, needs, and how MWDOC can best offer support.
- Participants were directed to questions relevant to their indicated AMI Stage.
- Survey was distributed on February 13; responses received through March 30.
  - Received responses from 19 agencies
    - 16 complete responses
    - 3 partial responses

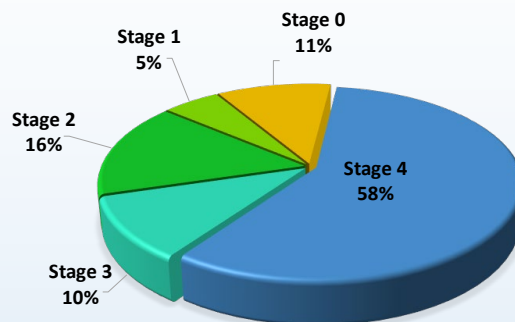


# Survey Respondent Makeup



What stage of AMI and AMR implementation does your agency fit in?

<b>Stage 0</b>	<b>Have Not Considered AMI/AMR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>San Clemente</li> <li>Tustin</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>Considering a Feasibility Study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East Orange County WD</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 2</b>	<b>Completed a Feasibility Study and Benefit/Cost Analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>El Toro WD</li> <li>Irvine Ranch WD</li> <li>Seal Beach</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>Conducting/conducted Pilot Installation of AMI/AMR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orange</li> <li>South Coast WD</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 4</b>	<b>Already have AMI/AMR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buena Park</li> <li>Fountain Valley</li> <li>Garden Grove</li> <li>Huntington Beach</li> <li>La Habra</li> <li>La Palma</li> <li>Laguna Beach CWD</li> <li>Newport Beach</li> <li>Moulton Niguel WD</li> <li>Trabuco Canyon WD</li> <li>Yorba Linda WD</li> </ul>

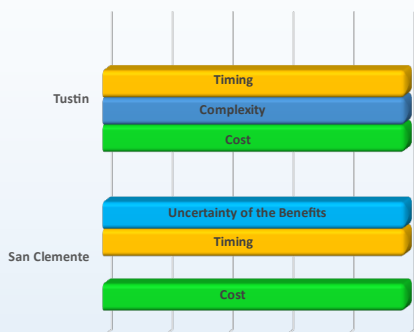


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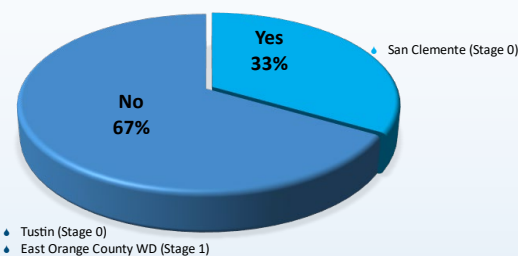
## Stage 0 – Have not considered AMI/AMR & Stage 1 – Considering a Feasibility study



What are the key constraints to considering AMI/AMR? (select all that apply)



Would your agency be interested in a feasibility analysis to assist with the development of a business case for AMI or AMR with support from MWDOC using the Choice Framework?

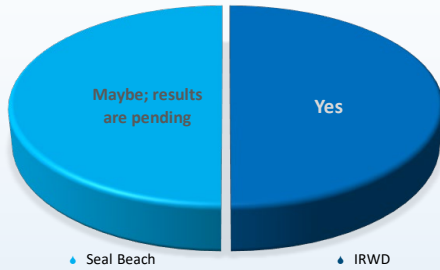


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Stage 2 – We have Completed a Feasibility Study and a Benefit/Cost Analysis of AMI/AMR



Would you be willing to share your feasibility study with MWDOC and peer agencies?



**What are key findings of the study:**

- ◆ Consultant recommended implementing an AMI system and MDMS.

**What are your next steps?**

- ◆ Secure funding.
- ◆ Depending on the results of the feasibility study we would seek Board support to enter the procurement planning phase.

Stage 3 - We are Conducting/Conducted Pilot Installation of AMI/AMR



What are your key findings of the Pilot?



**Increased Water Use Efficiency**

- ◆ Reduced system losses
- ◆ Availability of data
- ◆ More rapid identification and correction of leaks
- ◆ More accurate readings
- ◆ Customer education



**Improved Operations**

- ◆ Reductions in meter reading and verifications
- ◆ More accurate readings
- ◆ Reduced system losses



**Improved Data**

- ◆ Consumption data analysis
- ◆ Automatically collected/stored
- ◆ Improved water management

**What are your next steps?**

- ◆ Full implementation of AMI;
- ◆ Replace remaining AMR meters to AMI meters.

◆ Orange      ◆ South Coast WD



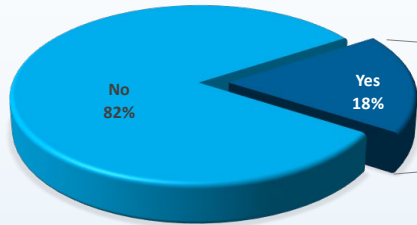
**Positive Impact of Customer Portal**

- ◆ Enhanced customer service
- ◆ Users have real time hourly data
- ◆ Customer self-monitoring

# Stage 4 - We Already have AMI/AMR



Did you conduct a Feasibility Study?



- ◆ Fountain Valley
- ◆ Huntington Beach
- ◆ La Habra
- ◆ La Palma
- ◆ Laguna Beach CWD
- ◆ Newport Beach
- ◆ Moulton Niguel WD
- ◆ Trabuco Canyon WD
- ◆ Yorba Linda WD

Would you be willing to share your feasibility study with MWDOC and peer agencies?

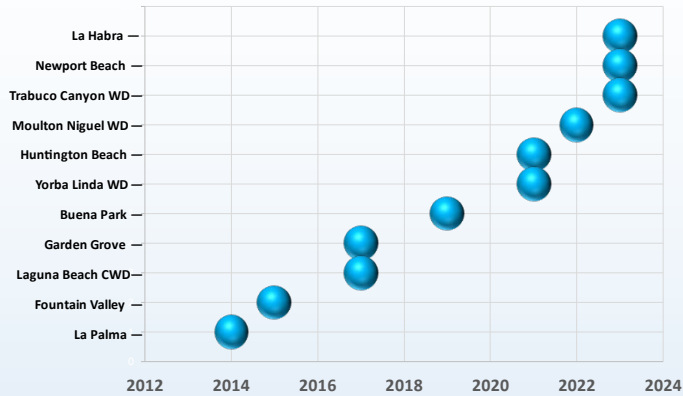


- ◆ Buena Park
- ◆ Garden Grove

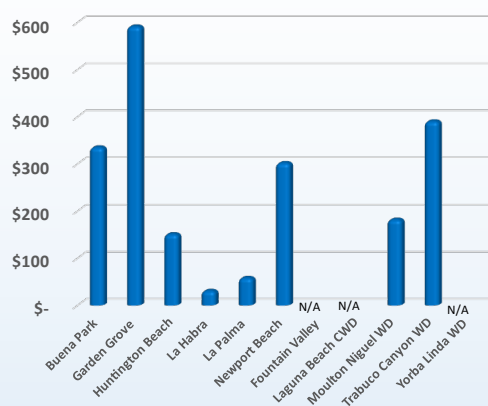
# Stage 4 - We Already have AMI/AMR



When was your AMI/AMR installed (approximately)?



Cost \$/meter

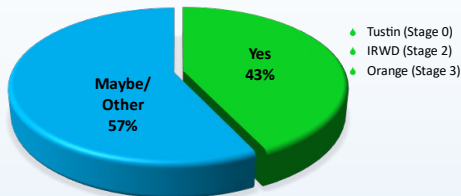




# All Stages

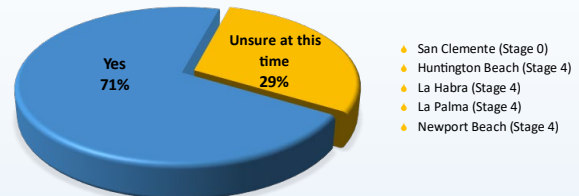


**If MWDOC could access funding to install a full or partial AMI or AMR system, would your agency consider moving forward with support from MWDOC using the Choice Framework?**



- ◆ San Clemente (Stage 0): Grant Funding would have to be significant
- ◆ East Orange County WD (Stage 1): Depends on the funding and timing.
- ◆ Seal Beach (Stage 2)
- ◆ SCWD (Stage 3): Timing is our main concern.

**Would your agency participate in periodic workgroup meetings hosted by MWDOC, to share information about your AMI/AMR experience or learn about the experiences of other agencies?**



- ◆ Tustin (Stage 0)
- ◆ East Orange CWD (Stage 1)
- ◆ Seal Beach (Stage 2)
- ◆ Orange (Stage 3)
- ◆ South Coast WD (Stage 3)
- ◆ Buena Park (Stage 4)
- ◆ Garden Grove (Stage 4)
- ◆ Laguna Beach CWD (Stage 4)
- ◆ Irvine Ranch WD (Stage 4)
- ◆ Moulton Nigel WD (Stage 4)
- ◆ Trabuco WD (Stage 4)
- ◆ Yorba Linda WD (Stage 4)
- ◆ San Clemente (Stage 0)
- ◆ Huntington Beach (Stage 4)
- ◆ La Habra (Stage 4)
- ◆ La Palma (Stage 4)
- ◆ Newport Beach (Stage 4)

# Key Takeaways and Recommendations



## Survey Takeaways:

- ◆ Most responding agencies already have AMI/AMR.
- ◆ Few agencies are interested in grant funding or feasibility study through MWDOC.
- ◆ There is a high interest in a working group.



## Recommendations:

### One-on-One Technical Assistance

- ◆ MWDOC conduct RFQ process to identify consultant pool.
- ◆ Streamline retailer process and access to consultant (one-on-one).
- ◆ Maximize retailer choice in consultant.

### Grant Funding

- ◆ Agencies to submit for own funding; direct agencies to Soto Resources for assistance.
- ◆ Maximizes funding per retailer.
- ◆ USBR WaterSmart Opportunity due October 2024.

### AMI Workgroup

- ◆ Create an AMI Workgroup.
- ◆ Utilize existing Water Loss Control Workgroup structure.
- ◆ Hire E-Source to facilitate up to six AMI Workgroup Meetings using budgeted funds in the amount of \$41,640.



# Next Steps

### Surveyed Member Agencies

- Online survey released on February 13, 2024 and closed on March 30, 2024.
- Received responses from 19 agencies.

### Analyzed Survey Results

- Staff compiled and analyzed member agency input.
- Presented results to Member Agency Managers on May 16, 2024.

### P&O Committee Meeting June 3, 2024

- Request Board Authorization to Contract for AMI Technical Assistance Support for AMI Workgroup Meetings using budgeted Core funds in the amount of \$41,640.

### Begin AMI Workgroup Meetings

- Start workgroups in July/August 2024.
- Utilize Water Loss Control Workgroup.
- Consultant to provide Workgroup Technical Assistance.

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

## Joe Berg

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(714) 963-3058





**INFORMATION ITEM**

June 3, 2024

**TO: Planning & Operations Committee**  
(Directors Seckel, Yoo Schneider, Dick)

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

Staff Contact: Vicki Osborn

**SUBJECT: Update Regarding WEROC's Mobile EOC**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Information is for receive and file as it is provided for update purposes only.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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Committee recommends (To be determined at Committee Meeting)

**SUMMARY**

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Since the Board approved the WEROC Mobile EOC Project on September 20, 2023, we have encountered some challenges in the vehicle's production due to supply chain issues. These challenges necessitated changes in the overall design. In December 2023, the WEROC Director of Emergency Management collaborated with the company to address these issues and implement the necessary equipment adjustments. Consequently, the floor and elevation plan designs were modified to accommodate the new equipment, resulting in an enhanced overall design that is versatile for use both in the field and at stationary brick-and-mortar facilities.

Additionally, at the beginning of May, the graphic designer provided three potential renderings for the exterior design wrap. WEROC sought input from MWD OC staff to select the best representation for the Mobile EOC's exterior design.

With the project now back on track, WEROC is optimistic about having the vehicle delivered in August, assuming no further delays occur.

<b>Budgeted:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	Budgeted amount:	Core: <input type="checkbox"/>	Choice: <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Action item amount:</b>	Movement between funds: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

**ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

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- Clarifying MWDOC’s mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
- Balance support for Metropolitan’s regional mission and Orange County values and interests.*
- Strengthen communications 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.*

<b>List of Attachments/Links:</b>
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- |   |
|---|
| (1) Floor Plan Updated 4/3/2024<br>(2) WEROC Sprinter Proof Draft 5/22/2024 |
|---|

approved by:	3/8" = 1'-0"
Version:	Autocad 2020
filename:	FLOORPLAN-1
Revised:	
Date:	04/03/2024
drafter:	MATT YEZEK

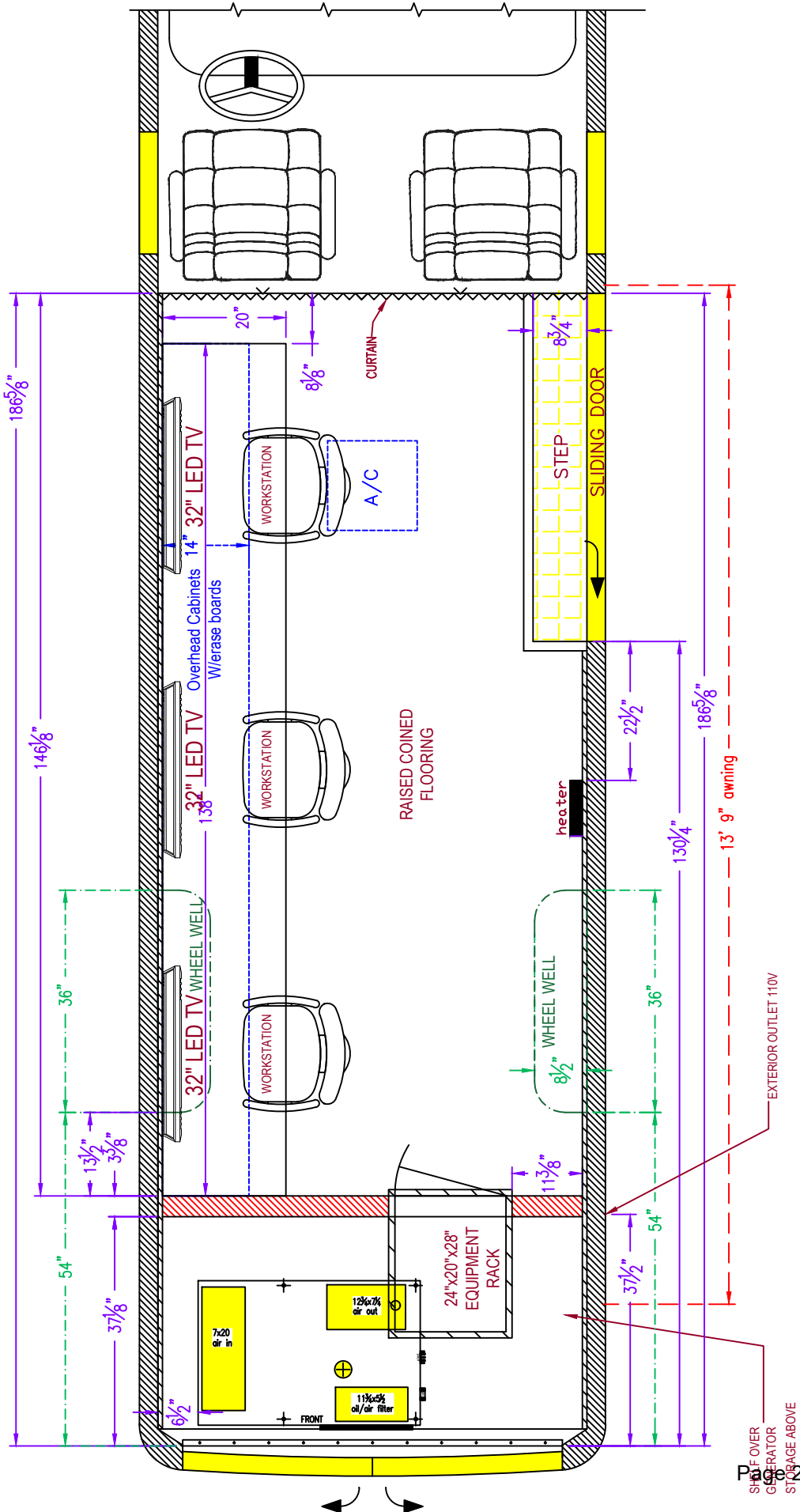
Model: 170" Wheel Base  
 Extended Sprinter  
 FLOORPLAN-1

480 Bessemer Rd.  
 Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666  
 phone (724) 542-7640  
 fax (724) 542-7648

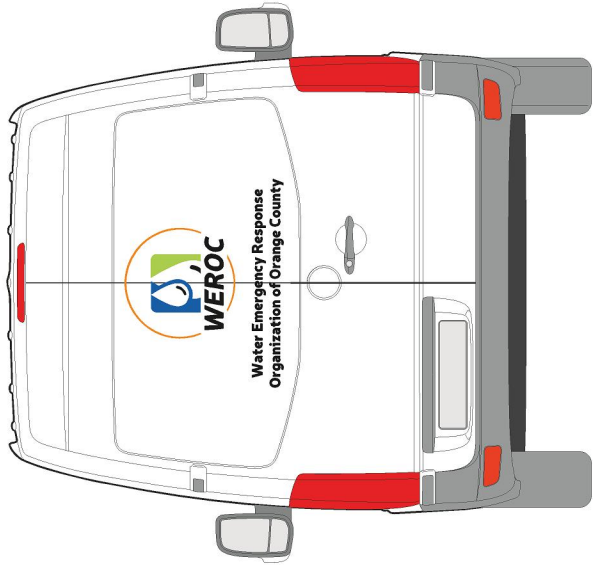
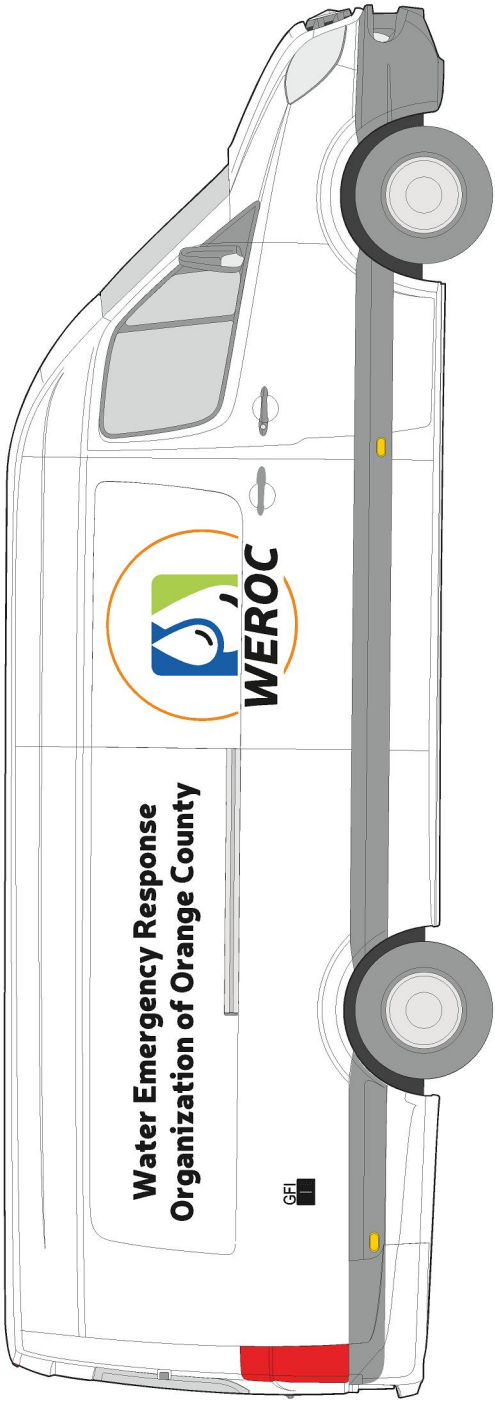
Mobile Concepts  
 Specialty Vehicles  
 Since 1956



# Fountain Valley, CA



121 of 37  
 SURF OVER  
 GENERATOR  
 STORAGE ABOVE



505 New Alexandria Road Greensburg, PA 15601 724-216-0206



5/22/2024

DATE

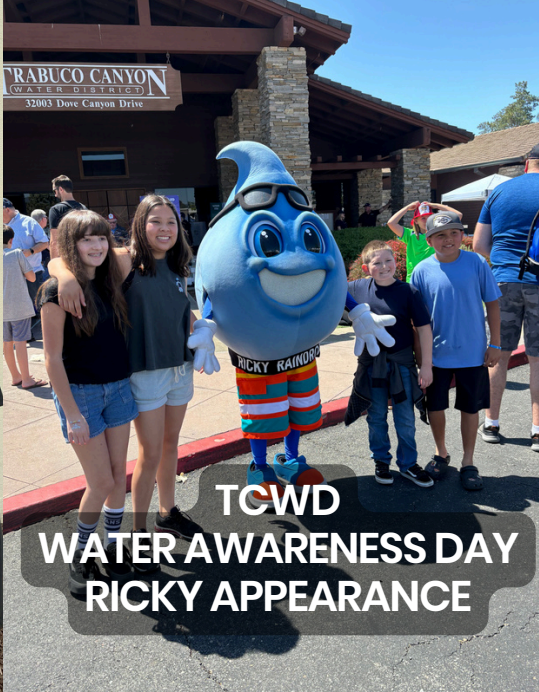
SIGNATURE OF APPROVAL

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**POSTER CONTEST  
CLASSROOM WINNER  
CONCORDIA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



**TCWD  
WATER AWARENESS DAY  
RICKY APPEARANCE**



**CONFERENCE  
ATTENDANCE:  
ACWA & CAPIO**



**CAPIO COMMUNICATIONS  
AWARD  
"DOLLAR STRETCHER"  
CORONET PARK**

**MEMBER AGENCY  
SPOTLIGHT  
VIDEO CAMPAIGN**

**COORDINATED TWO  
MEMBER AGENCY  
SPOTLIGHT MEETINGS  
INCLUDING VIDEO BRIEFS  
WITH:**

**TRABUCO CANYON WD  
&  
SOUTH COAST WD**

**2.61% SOCIAL MEDIA  
ENGAGEMENT RATE  
A Good Rate is 1-5%**

WaterSense Meets EPA Criteria

MWD OC.com

**YOUR SUMMER SAVINGS!**

**Spray-to-Drip Program**

**Rebates up to \$1 per sq. ft.**

Deliver water directly to your plants by converting spray heads to drip irrigation!

**MEMBER AGENCY  
SUMMER BILL INSERTS**

**Smart Timers**

**Rebates up to \$180 per timer**

A typical home saves up to 13,500 gallons of water per year!



**SMWD WATER FESTIVAL  
RICKY APPEARANCE**



**ENGINEERING & PLANNING**

<p><b>Lead and Copper Rule Revisions – Lead Service Line Inventory Choice Program</b></p>	<p>In mid-March 2023, multiple agencies requested MWDOC’s assistance in complying with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) - Service Line Inventories which all water systems are required to complete and submit to the primacy agency (for California it is the State Water Resources Control Board - SWRCB) by October 16, 2024.</p> <p>On September 20, 2023, the MWDOC Board approved a contract award to Hazen and Sawyer (Hazen) to provide technical assistance for a Service Line Inventory shared services program. The shared services program has 13 participating agencies, each with a customized scope of work.</p> <p>On November 30, 2023, the U.S. EPA announced draft rule changes to the LCRR which are known as the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). The LCRI proposes significant changes to the LCRR both in terms of changed requirements and timelines.</p> <p>In April 2024, U.S. EPA formally declared its intent to take final action on the LCRI by October 2024. This declaration provides some clarity on the documentation agencies must submit by October 16, 2024, but leaves additional ambiguity until the final proposed rules are actually published.</p> <p><b>The project remains on schedule.</b></p> <p>As of late May 2024, baseline inventories for the participating agencies have been completed and agencies have moved to the field verification phase. Completion of the field verification phase is anticipated by the end of July 2024. Inventories will then be prepared for review by participants in time for submission to DDW in early October 2024.</p>
<p><b>Shutdowns</b></p>	<p><b>Allen McColloch Pipeline (AMP) Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Inspection and Rehabilitation</b></p> <p>In response to the November 2023 AMP PCCP inspection findings, MET initiated Special Operating Conditions (SOC) for the AMP to reduce pressure on the pipeline.</p> <p>In April 2024, MET shut down the lower reaches of the AMP down gradient of OC-70 and installed steel liners to segments of PCCP between OC-70 and OC-88. A bulkhead was also installed down gradient of OC-88. This work has been completed and the upper reaches of the AMP have returned to normal operations.</p> <p>The reaches below OC-88 (down gradient of the bulkhead) remain dry to allow for permanent repairs to the most critical PCCP segments in the lower reaches of the AMP. MET’s Board awarded a construction contract for the downstream reach work to JF Shay Construction on May 14, 2024. Construction will begin in June 2024 and go through January 2025.</p> <p>Affected retail agencies have coordinated extensively with neighboring agencies, MET, and MWDOC to accommodate the extended AMP shutdown through January 2025. Planned use of the AMP through OC-88 into the South County Pipeline, the Baker Water Treatment Plant, EOCF#2, ATM, OC Feeder, El Toro Reservoir, Upper Chiquita Reservoir as well as local resources are all being used extensively to support this shutdown.</p>



# General Managers Report

## WEROC Status Report

### MAY 2024

#### MAY EVENTS

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

- Nothing significant to report.

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#### COORDINATION/PARTICIPATION WITH MEMBER AGENCIES AND OUTSIDE AGENCIES MEETINGS

- On 4/30/24, Vicki attended the Statewide Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committee (MARAC) virtual meeting which covered the following topics and initiatives; Earthquakes clearinghouse; Fire Integrated Real-time Intelligence System (FIRIS) operated by CalFire which provides real-time information and modeling. Vicki has access to this system not just for Orange County but statewide because of her involvement with CalWarn and the Integrated Preparedness Plan.
- On 5/2, Janine attended the Orange County Emergency Management Organization (OCEMO) monthly coordination meeting. The presentations were the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) providing an overview regarding a cyber incident and their process and the City of Aliso Viejo provided a Cyber Incident Tabletop Exercise Overview. The regular subcommittee reports were made and the minutes from these meetings can be shared with the board if desired. (\*reminder OCEMO is the Operational Area Working Group created under the Operational Area Executive Board which Vicki is the OA Mutual Aid Coordinator for Water and Wastewater.
- On 5/3/24, Vicki attended the SEMS Advisory Council as the MARAC Region 1 Representative (Vicki is the alternate and our primary representative from San Luis Obispo was unable to attend). This meeting was in Sacramento at CalOES Headquarters. The State Alert & Warning Plan was approved with the recommended changes received on the working document.
- On 5/6 – 5/10, Vicki and Janine attended the California Emergency Services Association (CESA) Conference
- On 5/16, Vicki participated in the CalWarn Executive Council meeting covering the June 5<sup>th</sup> statewide exercise planning, website development, governance documents and the CalWARN Operations Plan.
- On 5/16, Vicki participated in the SDGE PSPS Exercise.

- On 5/20, Vicki had a meeting with CalWARN representatives on the Operations Plan and final changes needed before member agencies are trained on its contents during the June exercise.
- On 5/21, Janine accompanied OCEMO emergency managers who signed up to take a tour of the GWRS and was able to answer any coordination WEROC questions they had.
- On 5/22, Janine attended the Water Threats, Securing the Future of our Water Supply webinar sponsored by InfraGard LA.
- On 5/28, Vicki participated in last planning meeting for the statewide CalWarn exercise.
- On 5/29, Vicki talked with the Orange County Vector Control Special District and aided them with questions regarding establishing training requirements for their emergency management program.

## **WEROC AGENCY PLANNING, COORDINATION AND PROGRAM EFFORTS**

### **AlertOC Program**

Janine conducted virtual training on the AlertOC system, as there is new users of the system at WEROC member agencies. Janine will continue to reach out and ensure agencies are complying with training requirements, also as part of the AlertOC working group facilitated by the County Emergency Management Division, WEROC will be looking closely at the changes and updates to the Standard Operating Procedures sections 6-12 and provide an updated to the agencies at the upcoming coordination meeting on how this effect the use of the system.

### **AWIA & Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Multi Plan Project**

Vicki is currently negotiating the terms of the contract for the multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan and the AWIA Project contract. There are still some questions regarding contract language. Once this is resolved, we will be sending out to all the agencies the choice program contract signature block between MWDOC and the Agency as used for other choice contract agreements. A kickoff meeting will be scheduled first with the Hazard Mitigation participating agencies, and then with the AWIA Tier 1 agencies, and so on. As this project moves forward, information and updates will be provided monthly in this report. As a reminder, 30 out of 36 WEROC agencies will be participating in one or more areas of this contract.

### **Cyber Security and OCIAC Partnership**

Janine attended the Water Threats, Securing the Future of our Water Supply webinar sponsored by InfraGard LA. She is typing up a summary of the information presented and will be presenting this to the agencies during the WEROC Coordination Meeting. WEROC also sent out information from EPA's Office of Water who hosted a free webinar that highlighted and discussed the latest cybersecurity-based guidance products under development by Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division to enhance cyber resiliency within the Water and Wastewater Systems Sector. These products include the Cybersecurity Insurance Factsheet, Incident Action Checklist, and EPA Cybersecurity Risk

Assessment Guidance for Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems. Once we receive these products they will be forwarded to the WEROC agencies. Thank you to Dave Anderson if MWDOC IT for seeing and sharing this information with WEROC.

WEROC continues to send out important information to the Cyber Security Distribution Group as received from DHS or the OCIAC. WEROC has been providing information to the member agencies as required about highlighted threats to the water industry and other current world events as required.

### **Diesel Engine CARB Emissions Advocacy Project**

Different agencies have been reaching out to Vicki regarding the CARB requirements and changes and the challenges with finding vehicles to replace their aging fleet. At this time, law and fire have received exemptions to the engine rules for their fleet but public works and water/wastewater has not received these for their overall fleets. Vicki at the CESA conference mentioned this important issues and is currently scheduling a meeting with the CalOES Director Nancy Ward to discuss further pathways on this important topic. Vicki is also working with a member of LA County Public Works department as part of this effort and will provide a more in-depth update on this subject in her July report.

### **In Case of Crisis (Formerly Safety Center)**

Janine in the beginning of the year gave a presentation to the member agencies that safety center was converting back to In Case of Crisis (this was actually the original product WEROC obtained by the previous Director of Emergency Management). Janine ensured all the contents converted over and all agencies received information on how to covert over to the new application. Janine continues to modify and enhance this project daily to share information (both plans and contact information) with the WEROC member agencies.

### **Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committee (MARAC)/ SEMS Advisory Board**

Vicki attended the SEMS Advisory Board as the Region 1 Representative (Vicki is the alternate and our primary representative from San Luis Obispo was unable to attend). This meeting was in Sacramento at CalOES Headquarters. The State Alert & Warning Plan was approved with the recommended changes received on the working document.

The SEMS Advisory Board is the highest level of the SEMS maintenance system established to address the need for changes. The three-tiered system encompasses an Advisory Board, Technical Group, and Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committees (MARACs). Collectively, these multi-agency groups make changes to the system when necessary. They include representatives from all disciplines involved in emergency response. This system is part of the California Emergency Services Act which is part of the California Government Code.

§ 2425. Establishment and Purpose. The Director, OES, shall establish the SEMS Advisory Board consisting of representatives from emergency response agencies to provide advice on all aspects of this Chapter.

Vicki represented counties, cities and also special districts as this guidance outlines the systems and processes for alert & warning. It should be noted, while agencies in Orange County primarily use AlertOC provided by the county, there are water agencies in region 6 that are using the state provided system and overall, regardless of the system used, we all need to have a systematic approach to providing alert and warning message to the community. The only way to do this is by a collaborative effort between all government and even private entities, at all levels.

### **Operational Area Plans**

Vicki is currently reviewing the following plans as the Operational Area Mutual Aid Coordinator for Water and Wastewater as the agencies advocate.

- Orange County Operational Area and County of Orange Alert & Warning Plan

### **Orange County Fire Authority Partnership and Confined Space/Trench Rescue Team Collaboration**

OCFA has been reaching out separately to many of the water agencies in Orange County trying to obtain what resources and opportunities there are to partner with agencies if mutual is needed. City of Anaheim pointed the new captain to WEROC to possibly assist with efforts, and we will be working on jointly establishing a process for obtaining mutual aid resource quickly and efficiently and training together with member agencies who want to participate. This will be presented and discussed further with the member agencies at the WEROC meeting in June.

### **Regional Fuel Project Planning**

Vicki spoke with two (2) different contracting agencies at the CESA Conference. She will be following up with the potential planning effort to establish a drive thru fueling spot in a couple of locations in Orange County. Vicki will also be following up with Cal Fire Points of Contact and Orange County Fire Authority Logistics on this matter. Additionally, based on the CARB requirements this fuel project may change based on the needs of the agencies and changes of the fleet and equipment if a waiver cannot be received.

### **Regional Mapping Project**

Janine continues to work on the update of the 2018 WEROC Water/Wastewater Atlas and Public Safety Power Shut Off (PSPS) map project and obtaining the final maps so we can work with the contractor. This project will go into FY 24/25.

### **Regional Water Distribution Plan**

Vicki has been on a couple of conference calls with a local water bottling company to begin working on a cooperative agreement. As of right now, we are waiting on the water company to have leadership look at the plan discussed, provide feedback and we will reconvene in the next few weeks to discuss further.

## Training, Exercises and National Qualification System Training Plan

- **Training:**

Vicki taught an ICS 300 State Sanctioned Course for OC Sans on May 13-15. 36 people attended the training which included an agency specific High Flow Scenario and OC Sans Procedures developed by Vicki.

In June/July, Vicki will be teaching 5 – G611 EOC Section Trainings (Management, Operations, Planning, Finance and Logistics) there is currently 28 people scheduled for each class as of the time of this report.

At the WEROC Coordination Meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>, WEROC member agencies will be looking at the training schedule for the rest of the 2024 calendar year. Classes will be scheduled based on the needs of the agencies.

On 5/6 – 5/10, Vicki and Janine attended the California Emergency Services Association (CESA) Conference. Vicki along with Dana Carey (CESA President) and Mona Freel from SDGE provided an 8-hour EM 101 training for those new to the emergency management profession. In addition, Vicki provided a breakout session with Jason Hicks from Turlock Irrigation District, on working with water agencies in the State of California. There were other very information sessions including business continuity, debris management, public information, and many more. One of the main benefits as usual is being able to network with other emergency managers from across the state.

- **Exercises:**

The following agencies have scheduled Workshop with Tabletop Exercises to be developed and facilitated by Vicki between July – October. Also, Regional Water Distribution Plan will be exercised in the fall with city emergency managers and water agencies

- City of Fullerton (Cyber)
- El Toro Water District (EQ)
- Orange County Water District (EQ)
- South Coast Water District (Palisades Dam)
- South Orange County Water and Wastewater Authority (ICS/Intruder)
- (5) Water Distribution Plan TTX (5 BOS Districts)

Vicki is working with EPA and CalWARN to develop the statewide functional exercise occurring on Wednesday June 4<sup>th</sup>. The morning will consist of a workshop training on the operations plan for CalWARN (that Vicki wrote) and other aspects of mutual assistance then a functional exercise with all the regions and the State Water Control Board, EPA and DWR. A functional exercise is when injects (problems) are provided and the execution of the solution occurs (not just talking but actual action such as phone calls, emails, radio transmissions).

- **National Qualification System**

At the federal level, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) National Qualification System (NQS) describes the components of a qualification and certification system for certifying the qualifications of incident personnel, describes how to stand up and implement a peer review process, and provides an introduction to the process of credentialing personnel. Many WEROC agencies have asked for assistance with identifying a system and highlighting what training needs to be taken for each level and position of the emergency management system developed in their agency. The NQS indicated that agencies identify the training needs and systematic approach for this process. Agencies have asked WEROC to develop the guidance document they would be able to adopt to meet the NIMS requirements for the NQS. WEROC over the next 6 months will be creating a document for both water and wastewater that will establish a Type 4 Incident Management Team which will encompass both a traditional ICS model with an Incident Command Post (ICP) and separate Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for larger agencies and a hybrid model ICP/EOC that can be adopted by smaller agencies.

### **WEROC Mobile EOC/Command Vehicle**

P&O Item 3 Information Item - is a write up providing drawings explanation of changes required to the WEROC vehicle due to supply chain issues. The write up also includes the exterior design of the vehicle and expected delivery of hopefully in August 2024.

### **WEROC Quarterly Coordination Meeting**

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting the WEROC Coordination Meeting. Below is the agenda:

- AlertOC SOP Changes
- AWIA/Hazard Mitigation Planning Schedule & Update on Contract/Scope of Work
- CalOSHA Workplace Violence Regulation Discussion
- CARB Diesel Engine Exemptions Update
- Exercises Calendar
- GIS Update
- InfraGard/EPA Webinars Review
- National Qualification System Water/Wastewater Positions
- OCFA Resource Mutual Aid and Trench Rescue Response Collaboration
- OCIAC Update Briefing (Water/Wastewater Threats)
- Operational Area Plan Review Update
- Regional Fuel Plan
- Training Calendar
- Water Distribution Plan
- WEROC Mobile Command Post/EOC Vehicle

### **WEROC Staffing**

First and second interview we conducted during the month of May. Job offers are currently being made. New staff will hopefully be joining the WEROC team in July.

Status of Water Use Efficiency Projects  
May 2024

Description	Lead Agency	Status % Complete	Scheduled Completion or Renewal Date	Comments
<b>SoCal WaterSmart Residential Indoor Rebate Program</b>	MWDSC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In April 2024, 125 high efficiency clothes washers and 2 premium high efficiency toilets were installed in Orange County.  To date, 129,636 high efficiency clothes washers and 61,693 high efficiency toilets have been installed through this program.
<b>SoCal WaterSmart Commercial Rebate Program</b>	MWDSC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In April 2024, 950 commercial premium high efficiency toilets were rebated on in Orange County.  To date, 117,272 commercial devices have been installed through this program.
<b>Flow-Monitoring Device Rebate Program</b>	MWDSC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In April 2024, 21 flow-monitoring device was installed in Orange County.  To date, 236 flow-monitoring devices have been installed through this program.
<b>Smart Timer Rebate Program</b>	MWDSC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In April 2024, 74 residential and 24 commercial smart timers were installed in Orange County.  To date, 33,923 smart timers have been installed through this program.
<b>Rotating Nozzles Rebate Program</b>	MWDSC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In April 2024, 18 rotating nozzles were installed in Orange County.  To date, 582,747 rotating nozzles have been installed through this program.

Description	Lead Agency	Status % Complete	Scheduled Completion or Renewal Date	Comments
<b>Rain Barrel Rebate Program</b>	MWDSC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In April 2024, 22 rain barrels were installed in Orange County.  To date, 8,989 rain barrels have been installed through this program.
<b>Turf Removal Program</b>	MWDOC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In April 2024, 13 rebates were paid, representing \$94,075.41 in rebates paid this month in Orange County.  To date, the Turf Removal Program has removed approximately 28 million square feet of turf.
<b>Spray to Drip Rebate Program</b>	MWDOC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In April 2024, 4 rebates were paid, representing \$5,825.00 in rebates paid this month in Orange County.  To date, the Spray to Drip Program has converted approximately 3.9 million square feet of standard spray irrigation to drip irrigation.
<b>Landscape Design and Landscape Maintenance Assistance Programs</b>	MWDOC	Ongoing	Ongoing	In April 2024, 5 landscape design packages were delivered to MWDOC Turf Removal Program customers.  To date, 775 landscape design packages and 349 landscape maintenance packages have been delivered to MWDOC Turf Removal Program customers.
<b>Industrial Process/ Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP)</b>	MWDSC	Ongoing	Ongoing	This program is designed to improve water efficiency for commercial customers through upgraded equipment or services that do not qualify for standard rebates. Incentives are based on the amount of water customers save and allow customers to implement custom water-saving projects.  Total water savings to date for the entire program is 1,301 AFY and 8,551 AF cumulatively.



**Item**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Status % Complete</b>	<b>Scheduled Completion or Renewal Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Recycled Water Retrofit Program</b>	MWDSC	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p>This program provides incentives to commercial sites for converting dedicated irrigation meters to recycled water.</p> <p>To date, 191 sites, irrigating a total of 1,749 acres of landscape, have been converted. The total potable water savings achieved by these projects is 3,889 AFY and 27,041 AF cumulatively.</p>

**Public & Governmental Affairs Activities Report  
April 26, 2024 – May 28, 2024**

<p><b>Member Agency Support</b></p>	<p>Public Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with Trabuco Canyon Water District to review the Member Agency Spotlight video brief and confirmed a date for filming</li> <li>• Provided input on a video brief and reviewed additions for a South Coast Water District Member Agency Spotlight video</li> <li>• Designed and coordinated the Orange County water providers quarterly bill insert</li> </ul> <p>Government Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulated the monthly Grants Tracking and Acquisition Report to member agencies and made updates to the distribution list</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community and Special Events</b></p>	<p>Public Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated framing of winning posters and voting for the grand prize winners for the 2024 Water Awareness Poster Contest</li> <li>• Mailed Prizes to 17 honorable mentions for the 2024 Water Awareness Poster Contest</li> <li>• Attended the Trabuco Canyon Water District’s Water Awareness Day event with a Ricky Raindrop appearance</li> <li>• Attended the Santa Margarita Water District’s Water Festival with a Ricky Raindrop appearance</li> </ul> <p>Government Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended the OCBC Government Affairs Committee meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>K-12 Water Education</b></p>	<p>Public Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated the classroom winner for the 2024 Water Awareness Poster Contest, Concordia Elementary School in San Clemente</li> <li>• Observed a storm water quality presentation at Mission Viejo High School with County of Orange and Poseidon Education</li> <li>• Provided information regarding the MWDOC Choice K-12 School Programs to the City of Fountain Valley and Moulton Niguel Water District</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workforce Initiative</b></p>	<p>Public Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with the Water Replenishment District to discuss creating a Career Technical Education subcommittee for the Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA)</li> <li>• Participated in a closed session workgroup with Water UCI to discuss challenges associated with workforce diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the water sector</li> <li>• Met with Generation:NOW! Chief Operating Officer and speaker at the Water UCI IDEAL workshop, to discuss her presentation outline and WEEA alignment</li> <li>• Distributed a Water <a href="#">UCI DEI survey</a> to Orange County WEEA participants</li> <li>• At the request of American Water Works Association (AWWA), distributed a FREE student water career education opportunity to Orange County WEEA participants and K-16 educators in conjunction with the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition in Anaheim (<a href="#">ACE24</a>)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided water career resource links to Orange County Department of Education’s Inside the Outdoors for an intern interested in exploring careers in water</li> <li>• Reviewed Santiago Canyon College’s grant application for an Orange County-centric grant for workforce development through the California Municipal Utilities Association</li> <li>• Received a link to an interview in March with the Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research (not received at the time of publishing) <a href="https://coeccc.net/innovative-water-wastewater-study-spurs-positive-workforce-outcomes/">https://coeccc.net/innovative-water-wastewater-study-spurs-positive-workforce-outcomes/</a></li> <li>• Provided panel and keynote recommendations upon request to the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 9 Board for their August special event</li> <li>• Sent an invitation to the quarterly June 18 WEEA Leadership Roundtable meeting with guest panelists the Los Angeles Department of Water &amp; Power</li> </ul>
<p><b>Digital Communications, Publications, and Media Engagement</b></p>	<p>Public Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submitted an article highlighting the Coronet WaterSmart Garden Earth Day Event to the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">MWDOC ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2024 WATER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Updated the MWDOC website for Water Use Efficiency and WACO</li> <li>• Created and Coordinated the development of Digital <a href="#">CALIFORNIA WATER ORANGE COUNTY Spread for the OC Register</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Special Projects</b></p>	<p>Public Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated and finalized guests for the June 7-8 Inspection Trip to the Colorado River Aqueduct/Hoover Dam for Director Ackerman</li> <li>• Attended the California Association of Public Information Officials annual conference. Presented a professional session on partnership skills, and accepted an award for exceptional communications promoting the Westminster Coronet Watersmart Conservation Garden in the “Dollar Stretcher” category.</li> <li>• Coordinated and participated in an OC Water Summit committee meeting with Directors Thomas, Nederhood, and Crane</li> <li>• Continue to work on planning, preparation and coordination of OC Water Summit</li> </ul> <p>Governmental Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborated on a CSDA County Chapter handout with Palmdale Water District</li> <li>• Filled out and submitted the nomination paperwork for the Water Loss Control “Leak Detection Program” for the ACC-OC Golden Hub Awards in the Environmental Sustainability &amp; Energy Efficiency category</li> <li>• Presented to special districts in the San Gabriel Valley on what it takes to form and sustain a successful CSDA County Chapter. They are in the very early stages of forming a new chapter</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffed the WACO meeting featuring speaker Eric Saperstein</li> <li>• Staffed the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting</li> <li>• For ISDOC: edited minutes, invited a program speaker for the July Quarterly Membership meeting, and drafted an election timeline for the upcoming ISDOC Executive Committee elections</li> </ul>
<b>Outreach Metrics</b>	<p>Public Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Google Performance Analytics (May 2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 158 business profile interactions</li> <li>○ 1,612 people viewed the business profile</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Website Analytics (GM report timeframe) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10.8k pageviews</li> <li>○ Top pages for this date range <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Home Page 1542</li> <li>▪ RFP/RFQ 1490</li> <li>▪ Residential Rebates 550</li> <li>▪ Agendas, Packets, Minutes 418</li> <li>▪ Careers 413</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• ocwatersmartgardens.com Analytics (May 2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 625 Sessions</li> <li>○ Top pages for this date range <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Landing Page</li> <li>▪ Eligible Sustainability Feature Trees</li> <li>▪ Helpful Plant List</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Social Media (April 26th– May 28th) <p><i>According to Hootsuite – the global leader in social media management – a good engagement rate is between 1% to 5%.</i></p> <p><i>For this period, MWDOC's engagement rate is at 2.61%</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 183,172 post reach (number of people) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4,785 Post engagement (actions taken – likes, shares, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Legislative Affairs</b>	<p>Governmental Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended the California Water Plan Update webinar</li> <li>• Attended a meeting on AB 2614 (Ramos) on tribal water rights</li> <li>• Met with staff from Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco’s office to discuss legislative priorities</li> <li>• Attended the CMUA Regulatory Committee meeting</li> <li>• Participated in the CMUA Legislative Committee meeting</li> <li>• Participated in the CSDA Legislative Committee meeting</li> <li>• Participated in the CMUA Strike Team working on the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance proposal (weekly meetings)</li> <li>• Attended the ACWA Conference in Sacramento and such forums as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are California’s Water Managers Ready for the Future?</li> <li>○ Using Consolidation to Achieve the Human Right to Water</li> <li>○ A Delta County Supervisor, a Water District Board Chair, and a Farmer – A Conversation about How Climate Change is Affecting the Bay-Delta Water Issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Met with Meggan Quarles from SDCWA to discuss governmental affairs program and legislative issues</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attended the CCEEB WCW Monthly Project meeting</li><li>• Participated in the ACWA Bond Working Group meeting</li><li>• Participated in the Metropolitan Member Agency LIRA Working Group</li><li>• Participated in the Metropolitan Member Agency Legislative Coordinators meeting</li><li>• Attended the ACWA State Legislative Committee meeting</li><li>• Met with staff from Irvine Ranch Water District to discuss pending legislation</li><li>• Attended the CSDA Legislative Days in Sacramento</li><li>• Met with staff from Assemblywoman Diane Dixon's office</li><li>• Met with staff from Senator Dave Min's office</li><li>• Met with staff from Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris's office</li></ul>
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