

The METRO UPDATE

JANUARY 2026 - ISSUE 163

LA CAILLE CONSTRUCTION AND WATERSHED PROTECTION

On January 6, 2025, Salt Lake City Watershed notified Metro Water of a construction project on the La Caille property. Metro Water staff met with Watershed representatives at the site bridge to review the replacement of the access road. The road crosses a pond that the contractor needed to drain for the project. However, during the draining process into Little Cottonwood Creek, it was discovered that the site is part of the Davenport and Flagstaff Smelters Superfund site.

This historic site, originally built around 1870 to process lead and silver ore from Alta mines, underwent remediation starting in 2010 and was removed from the National Priorities List in 2018. Due to the risk of elevated lead levels, Metro Water

immediately cut off the Little Cottonwood Creek source from the treatment process, bypassing the plant, and diverting the water to the Great Salt Lake.

Metal samples taken from the creek water with the highest turbidity showed elevated levels of aluminum, iron, lead, and manganese. Follow-up samples the next day still showed elevated metals, though manganese was absent. To reduce impacts on the creek during construction, the contractor plans to install a bypass pipe around the pond.

Metro Water has kept the creek source offline for over a week, but plans to restore it once the bypass is in place.



TERMINAL RESERVOIR CELL B REPAIRS COMPLETED

As part of the TRM Assessment Condition and Repair Plan for Terminal Reservoir, Metro Water drained Cell B for inspection with Bowen Collins & Associates. The inspection revealed the cell was in good condition, with only minor repairs needed, including:

- Preparing and repairing spalling in a few areas
- Applying epoxy to exposed flanges
- Routing and repairing cracks
- Replacing select carbon steel components with stainless steel

Additionally, four anodes were installed to enhance corrosion protection for the pipes.

Repairs were completed by ProBuild, beginning in December 2025 and finishing with a final inspection on January 6, 2026. The cell was disinfected the following day, refilled, and returned to service after water quality sampling confirmed compliance.

Next, Cell A is scheduled to undergo a similar process starting January 15, 2026, following reservoir drainage.



CLARIFIER BUILDING MAINTENANCE

During the annual inspection of the clarifier building at Little Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant, staff identified increased corrosion on the metal components of the sludge paddles.

To address the corrosion, the Maintenance and Operations teams collaborated on a comprehensive repair effort. Work included cleaning and grinding out corroded areas, rebuilding and welding new pieces, and applying a protective no-oxide coating to the repaired sections.

Regular inspections will continue to ensure early detection and timely maintenance, helping us maintain reliable operations and extend equipment life.

FIBER NETWORK MAPPING PROJECT COMPLETED AT LCWTP

Metro Water recently completed a critical project to locate and document all fiber conduits and cable runs at the Little Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant. This effort was necessary due to the lack of existing drawings and documentation of the plant's fiber network.

The project scope included:

- Identifying all fiber conduits connecting campus buildings.
- Determining and documenting the type of fiber in each conduit.
- Tracing and mapping fiber cable runs within each building, including conduits, duct banks, and cable trays.
- Developing detailed drawings to reflect the findings.

Since no tracer wire was present, specialized techniques such as electromagnetic locators, ground-penetrating radar, and OTDR testing were used to accurately map the conduits. The work began in July and was completed in December, successfully locating all fiber conduits without the need for potholing.

With the final documentation in hand, Metro Water now has a clear understanding of the fiber network at LCWTP. This information will be invaluable for current and future projects, helping prevent accidental damage to fiber during construction and ensuring reliable connectivity across the plant.

METRO WATER WELCOMES SAFETY & SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR

Metro Water is excited to announce the addition of Mark Sarvela as our new Safety & Security Administrator. This newly created role reflects our commitment to strengthening safety practices and operational efficiency across the organization.

The Safety & Security Administrator will focus on preventing incidents, fostering a strong safety culture, and ensuring compliance with regulatory guidelines. Mark will also lead employee training initiatives and coordinate with emergency services to streamline processes and remove operational bottlenecks.

By prioritizing safety and security, this role aims to reduce costs associated with insurance claims, minimize downtime, and maintain productivity. Most importantly, it reinforces that the well-being of our employees is a top priority.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Promotions

Mark Sarvela: Safety & Security Administrator

Alex Reidling: I&E Supervisor