

THE METRO UPDATE

Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy



REDUCING ALGAE AT THE POMWTP

At the Point of the Mountain Water Treatment Plant, raw water is stored in a 44-million-gallon outdoor reservoir before it enters the treatment process. Because the reservoir is exposed to sunlight and seasonal temperature changes, algae growth becomes a recurring challenge, especially in late summer and early fall when warmer water and longer daylight hours create ideal conditions for algae to thrive.

This seasonal algae growth can interfere with the treatment process. In particular, it increases the number of particles in the filter effluent. To maintain water quality, staff often need to increase chemical treatment by as much as 30%, raising operational costs.

In April, staff installed a new solution in the reservoir: the Pulsar 4400. This device emits ultrasonic waves that help control algae growth without the use of chemicals. If successful, the system will reduce chemical usage, lower costs, and offer a more environmentally friendly approach to managing algae.



HUMAN RESOURCES

NEW EMPLOYEES:

Nick Reed – Inspector/Locator
AJ Chavez – Inspector/Locator

ANNIVERSARIES:

Eric Sorensen – 20 years
Water Resources Manager
Todd Tucker – 10 years
Senior Water System Operator
Chad Rose – 5 years
Inspector/Locator
Alyssa Allen – 5 years
Chemist I

FOOD DRIVE AT LITTLE COTTONWOOD WATER TREATMENT PLANT



UTAH
FOOD
BANK

Metro Water is hosting a food drive from May 7th – June 9th. Donations will be accepted at the Administration Building.



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

Metro Water's new Sustainability Committee hosted its first event on Earth Day, and even a bit of light rain couldn't dampen the enthusiasm. Employees gathered to plant a tree they decided on, with a certified arborist on-site to guide the planting and share expert insights on tree care and sustainability.

Attendees enjoyed light refreshments and took part in a fun scavenger-hunt-style bingo activity that encouraged everyone to explore the area in search of nature-themed clues. Prizes added an extra dose of friendly competition and excitement.

Thank you to all who joined us and helped make our first Earth Day celebration a meaningful success. More sustainability initiatives are on the horizon!



TOUR OF CENTRAL VALLEY WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

Metro Water staff recently toured the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility. Central Valley is nearing completion of a ten-year, \$540M capital improvement project that closely mirrors the scope and complexity of the upcoming Little Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant (LCWTP) Rebuild.

Staff from Central Valley generously shared their experience and lessons learned across project planning, financing, scheduling, and construction. The 75-mgd facility serves approximately 615,000 residents in the Salt Lake Valley, including the LCWTP service area, and remained fully operational throughout the extensive reconstruction effort.

The project's scale has been remarkable: more than 50,000 cubic yards of concrete placed, over 4,200 tons of rebar installed, and more than 1,700 individual contractors working on site since 2019.



SLA PIPELINE SHUTDOWN AND VALVE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Metro Water staff recently completed a planned shutdown of the SLA pipeline in Provo Canyon to replace several critical valves. The pipeline was fully drained to allow safe access, and most of the high-priority valves identified were successfully replaced. Throughout the process, staff worked together seamlessly, gaining valuable experience with work not typically performed during daily operations.

As the pipeline was refilled, staff continuously monitored the system, monitoring the water through the canyon to ensure all infrastructure was functioning correctly and leak-free. This required extended and overnight shifts to maintain round-the-clock oversight.

One of the most significant challenges occurred at a site where a deteriorated section of pipe encased in concrete required immediate attention. A custom insert was engineered and installed to reinforce the damaged pipe, preventing a potential major failure and saving Metro substantial costs compared to a full replacement.

