

The Metro Update



NEW LCWTP PILOT PLANT

As part of the Little Cottonwood Rebuild (LC Rebuild), Metro Water is considering filters that can operate at a higher flow rate, up to 10 gallons per minute per square foot. If testing shows that staff can safely operate filters at this rate while maintaining high water quality standards, there could be opportunity to lessen the number of filters needed in the new plant, helping reduce the overall cost of the project.

To make sure the higher flow rate can meet Metro Water's water quality goals, staff is putting it to the test. A pilot plant was procured to test higher flow rates without compromising the treatment process or the quality of the water produced.

A pilot plant is essentially a small-scale version of a water treatment plant. They come in different sizes and configurations depending on what needs to be tested. Because Metro Water is specifically evaluating filtration, the pilot plant is designed to test filters. A new water line was installed from the filter inlet channel of the existing treatment plant to supply water to the pilot plant.

The pilot plant has four filters, allowing the team to test different filter media sizes and depths. One filter uses the same media size and depth as the existing Little Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant filters, providing a baseline for comparison. The other three filters use different configurations, with sand ranging from 0.5 to 0.6 millimeters and anthracite ranging from 1.1 to 1.25 millimeters. The anthracite depths range from 24 to 60 inches.

Testing began October 1 and will continue through spring 2027. Running the pilot through the seasons will allow the team to see how changes in water quality throughout the year may affect filter performance.

The results will help guide the preliminary design of the LC Rebuild and ensure the new plant is designed to meet Metro Water's water quality goals for today, and well into the future.

RON PAYNE RETIREMENT

Ron Payne recently retired after more than 23 years as a Water System Operator and later a Senior Water System Operator.

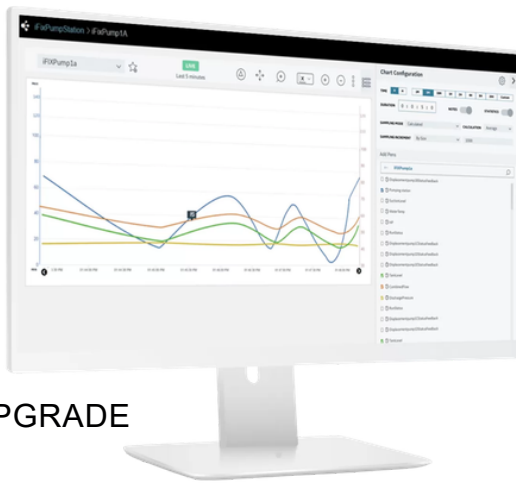


Some of Ron's proudest moments include making improvements and additions to the LCWTP and assisting with start-up of the POMWTP. But just as meaningful to him was the opportunity to share his knowledge and teach others along the way. The friendships he has built over the years mean a great deal to him, and he's often said there are "a lot of good folks here."

Ron is especially grateful for Metro Water's management team, from his direct managers to upper leadership. Their trust, respect, and willingness to listen ensured his ideas were valued and showed that management cared about his perspective which made his work even more meaningful.

In retirement, Ron is looking forward to gardening, fishing, golfing, traveling, spending time with his grandkids, and checking off some bucket-list trips.

Thanks Ron, for more than two decades of dedication, generosity and service to Metro Water. We wish him a joyful and fulfilling retirement as he enjoys this next chapter.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Anniversaries

Nathan Scown, Operations Manager – 20 years

Jerry Martinez, Master Electrician – 5 years

New Employee

Matt Gibson – IT Technician

HISTORIAN UPGRADE COMPLETE

Metro Water has completed the Historian upgrade at both water treatment plants. Historians are live time-series databases that continuously archive operating information, creating the trends and reports staff use to understand plant performance.

Replacing a live Historian required careful coordination. Each new archiver had to begin recording exactly where the previous system stopped so no live data was missed. The team also transferred about two decades of archived history to the new system. The replacement Historian servers are more responsive and in better overall health, providing a stronger foundation for accessing and analyzing plant data.

The upgraded Historian also includes Web Trends, a browser-based tool that allows authorized staff to chart and compare past operating conditions. This makes it easier to investigate changes and gather context for reports without having to open an iFIX operator screen.

In February, we shared an update on the dual-monitor workstations installed for operators, giving them a clearer view of trends, alarms, and process information. With the workstation improvements, server upgrades, and now the completed Historian upgrades, Metro Water has wrapped up the larger iFIX upgrade effort. The longer-term transition to Ignition is a separate project and will continue as its own effort.



METRO WATER RECOGNIZED AT AWWA INTERMOUNTAIN SECTION CONFERENCE

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) Intermountain Section recently held its annual conference in Logan, Utah, bringing together water professionals from across the region. Metro Water staff attended the conference to connect with industry peers, learn about emerging practices, and represent Metro Water.

The conference brought two exciting recognitions for Metro Water. Josie Taber, Lab Supervisor, was announced as the new Intermountain Section Second Trustee. In this role, Josie will have an opportunity to contribute to the section's leadership and help support the water industry across the region.

Metro Water also took home the Best Surface Water award in the conference's annual taste test. The award recognizes the quality and taste of Metro Water's drinking water and reflects the work our staff do every day to provide safe, high-quality water to our customers.