THE METRO UPDATE

Issue 170 - September 2026

SLA LEAK NORTH OF GROVE CREEK

Staff was notified of water leaking onto the roadway from the Salt Lake Aqueduct (SLA) north of Grove Creek. The Maintenance team met on-site with Pleasant Grove City directors to investigate the issue and discuss next steps.

The investigation confirmed an active leak at the location. Based on the history of the area, the water had previously been considered a spring because a small pool had consistently been present there over the years. The leak has been temporarily mitigated to prevent further erosion.

A larger repair will be needed due to the current water demand and the flow required to meet those demands. Over the next few weeks, the Maintenance team will prepare for the repair, which will involve excavating around the pipe to identify the source of the leak and make the necessary repairs. Additional updates will be provided as the project progresses.

SANITARY SURVEY

At least once every three years, the Division of Drinking Water conducts an on-site review of Metro Water's system, known as a Sanitary Survey. During the survey, the Division evaluates Metro Water's facilities and operations to ensure the system has the capacity to provide clean, safe drinking water and protect public health.

This year, the Division was on-site May 4 and May 6. Both treatment plants, all finished water reservoirs and several finished water aqueducts were inspected. The survey identified 17 deficiencies, ranging from a missing antisiphon device on the plant water system to the need for exceptions related to reservoir drains.

Metro Water staff immediately began addressing the deficiencies, with some corrections completed before the survey even ended. Other items required materials to be purchased, filter media to be added and seals on reservoir hatches to be replaced. By July 22, all but the requested exceptions had been resolved.

Five exceptions were requested for finished water reservoir drains and overflows. The exceptions are related to how the drains are configured. While Metro Water's drains have an air gap between the floor of the receiving basin and the drain, they discharge into an intermediate vault that collects the water before it is removed through a wasteway or pump. Because of this configuration, the Division's requirements call for the drain to be 12 inches above the rim of the basin.

Metro Water staff met with the Division to discuss the findings and determine the best path forward. Through those conversations and a better understanding of the system, two of the deficiencies were removed. Once the five requested exceptions are approved, all 17 deficiencies identified during the Sanitary Survey will be resolved.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Anniversary

Colin Hirayama, Chemist II - 20 years

CHEMICAL BAY SEWER DRAIN REPAIR

Recently, a leak was discovered in the Operations chemical bay. After investigating, staff determined the sewer drain was the source of the leak.

The repair will require removing and rebuilding several laterals and replacing the existing cast iron and ductile piping with ABS piping. Work is expected to begin later this week and will require scaffolding, planks, ladders and other equipment to safely access the area.

The project is expected to take several weeks to complete, and there will be periods when the area is without water. Operations staff are encouraged to plan accordingly and work closely with the project team throughout the repair. Our goal is to complete the work as quickly and safely as possible and return the system to full operation.

METRO WATER TOURS

Metro Water recently welcomed staff from Senator Mike Lee's office and newly elected Salt Lake City Councilmember Erika Carlsen for tours of our Little Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant. These types of visits provide our guests an opportunity to learn more about how Metro Water operates and the important role our facilities play in providing safe, reliable drinking water.

Tours like these are a valuable opportunity to share what happens behind the scenes and give community and government leaders a better understanding of the work our employees do every day. From treatment and water quality to operations and maintenance, visitors get a firsthand look at the people, infrastructure and processes that keep our system running.

Metro Water welcomes the opportunity to host community leaders, elected officials and other groups interested in learning more about our operations and the work we do.

FIBER MAPPING PROJECT

What lies beneath the water treatment plant is just as important as what can be seen above ground. Last fiscal year, Metro Water completed a project to map and document critical fiber cables and communication conduit infrastructure throughout the facility. With assistance from AE2S, the team traced communication pathways through eight buildings and six outdoor routes, completing the project on time and under budget.

Before the project, information about the infrastructure was scattered across records from years of different projects. The effort uncovered several previously undocumented conduits, including one damaged underground conduit that will need future attention. The information has now been consolidated into a technical memorandum, and the newly identified pathways have been added to Metro Water's GIS system.

This work will be especially valuable as Metro Water prepares for the Little Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant rebuild. Having a clear picture of what is underground will help teams plan construction and infrastructure relocations while reducing the risk of damaging critical systems. The new resource will also support future maintenance and construction projects, making this a valuable tool for years to come.