

THE METRO UPDATE

INSPECTING THE SALT LAKE AQUEDUCT

During the SLAR project, the 69-inch Finished Water Salt Lake Aqueduct (FWSLA) was temporarily shut down for maintenance. This created an opportunity to address a leak that had been occurring past the isolation gate at the Little Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant. The challenge was finding the best way to inspect the pipe and determine how to reduce the leakage.

Staff decided the most practical access point was a manway lid located between the pump building, connection structure, and meter vault. Entry to this area required careful planning and coordination with several departments to ensure the work was done safely and correctly.

Over the course of a week, crews performed four confined space entries into the aqueduct. The first entry, on January 29th, focused on assessing the condition of the hatch lid and beginning the process of cutting bolts. A second entry, on February 2nd, allowed the team to finish cutting and remove the bolts. The next day, a third entry was made under a hot work permit to complete welding on the hatch lid. Finally, on February 5th, six staff members entered the pipe to conduct a thorough inspection and document their findings.

This collaborative effort brought together staff from Operations, Maintenance, Engineering, Administration, and Industrial Automation & Electrical. The collaboration ensured the inspection was completed safely and on time.



JOHN BAER APPOINTED TREASURER FOR INTERMOUNTAIN SECTION AWWA



We're proud to announce John Baer, Metro Water's Controller, has been invited to serve as Section Treasurer on the Board of Directors for the Intermountain Section of the American Water Works Association. This volunteer role spans four years and represents an exciting opportunity to contribute to the broader water community alongside professionals from other utilities, engineering firms, state agencies, and municipalities.

Founded in 1881, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) is the world's largest organization of water supply professionals, with more than 50,000 members and 4,300 utilities delivering 80% of North America's drinking water. The AWWA provides education, advocates for safe and sustainable water, and fosters collaboration across the industry.

The Intermountain Section serves Utah and southern Idaho with about 570 members, offering networking, training, and leadership opportunities to strengthen water systems and protect public health. This appointment reflects Metro Water's commitment to leadership and service within the water community.

SALT LAKE AQUEDUCT SHUTDOWN AND PIPELINE RELOCATION



As part of the SLAR project, a section of the Finished Water\Salt Lake Aqueduct (FW\SLA) needed to be relocated. This required shutting down the aqueduct and temporarily delivering water north of the Little Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant through the 1960s-era Little Cottonwood Conduit (LCC).

To prepare, Metro Water coordinated with Salt Lake City Public Utilities and Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District to switch connections from the FW\SLA to the FW\LCC. Because water in the FW\SLA would remain stagnant for more than 2 weeks, chlorine levels were increased to maintain water quality throughout the project.

On January 26th, the FW\SLA was isolated, locked out, and draining began. By January 27th, the aqueduct was fully drained, allowing the contractor to cut the pipe and begin relocation work. Starting February 2nd, crews worked around the clock to expedite the process. By February 9th, the new aqueduct connection was complete, disinfected, and ready to refill. The aqueduct was filled on February 10th, and stagnant water was purged into an empty cell at Terminal Reservoir.

Water quality samples were scheduled for February 10th and 11th. If results are clear, the aqueduct will return to service the following Friday.

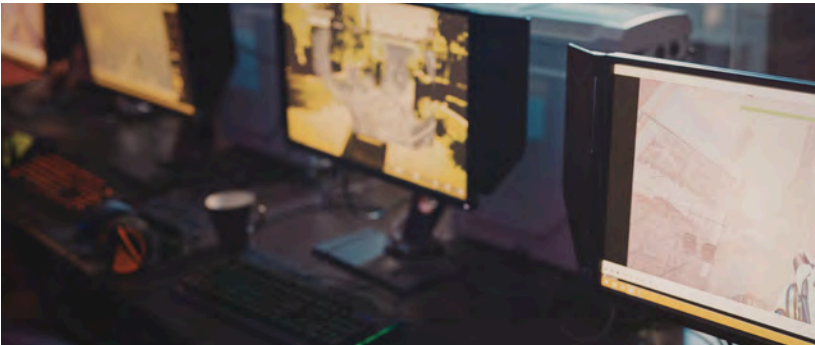
DUAL-MONITOR UPGRADE IMPROVES OPERATOR EFFICIENCY

Metro Water recently completed a major upgrade in our main control rooms: dual-monitor workstations for iFIX, the software operators use to monitor and control water treatment and distribution. This change gives operators the expanded view they've wanted for years, making it easier to track trends, alarms, and process details all at once.

While it might sound simple, this was far more than a hardware swap. The navigation system behind iFIX had to be completely rebuilt to work seamlessly across two screens. The old framework was decades old and too fragile to adapt, so the team rewrote it from the ground up. This effort was essential for future upgrades, including new alarm management features that improve safety and reliability.

The new setup feels like two independent screens running side by side, with smarter navigation and fewer slowdowns. Operators have already noticed the difference—less clutter, fewer keyboards, and faster access to critical information during startups and routine rounds.

Big thanks to everyone involved, especially Michael Russell for his heavy lifting on screen updates and testing. Next steps include finishing the remaining stations and moving forward with server upgrades, paving the way for even more improvements.



HUMAN RESOURCES

New Employees:

Erin Kuhlmeier, Engineer I
Taylor Willes, Facilities Technician
Elizabeth Woodall, Administrative Assistant

Promotions:

Jake McGill – Assistant Operations Manager

Service Anniversary:

Scot Collier, I&E Supervisor – 20 years