



THE CONNECTOR

Quarterly Updates



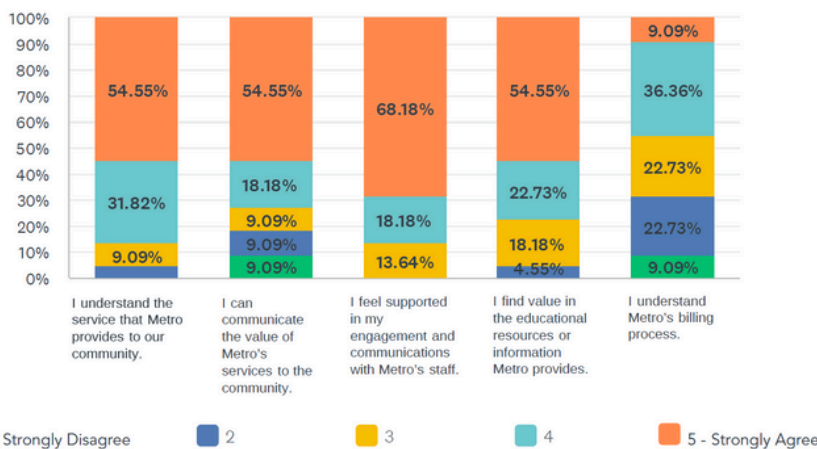
PAR 1428 – EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK SURVEY

Thank you for participating in Metro Water Recovery's recent survey!

Background and Context: A sixteen-question survey, conducted between April 3 and April 22, 2024, helps Metro understand how Board Members and Connectors view its current engagement strategy and seeks their insight into how communication with the public might be improved. Sent to each of the 62 Board Members and Connectors, the survey had 22 total respondents from 16 individual entities for a response rate of 26 percent. **Analysis:** The following insights serve to outline responses from Members and Connectors, concerning factors relevant to the creation of Metro's External Engagement Framework. Survey respondents were asked to consider their relationship

with Metro Water Recovery and rank their level of agreement with five statements. Through this, it was determined that Metro has several areas of **success** and other areas of **opportunity**.

The vast majority of respondents agree or strongly agree with the statement, "I understand the service that Metro Provides to our community." Most respondents **(73%)** agree or strongly agree that they can communicate the value of Metro's services to the community. Some **(18%)** disagree or strongly

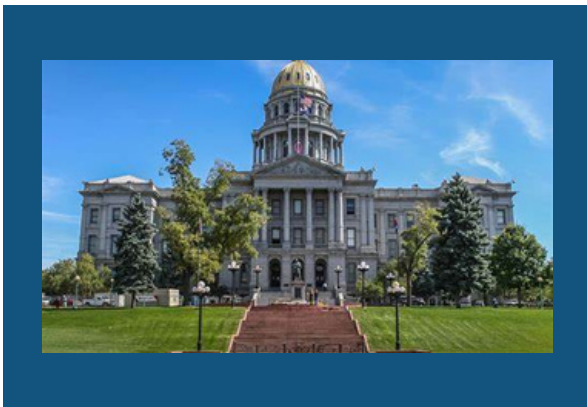


Survey Analysis, continued

July 1, 2024

disagree with the same statement. The vast majority (**86%**) agree or strongly agree that they feel supported in their engagement and communications with Metro's staff. Most (**77%**) find value in the educational resources or information Metro provides. Respondents (**32%**) disagree or strongly disagree with the statement, "I understand Metro's Billing process."

To read the full survey analysis, visit: [PAR1428 - External Engagement Framework Survey.](#)



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY, 2024

The 74th Session of the Colorado General Assembly concluded on May 8, 2024. Overall, the session was very successful with a near record number of bills introduced (705) during the 120-day legislative session. Metro Water Recovery's Government Affairs team worked hard to support the policy issues of greatest importance to Metro and our connectors. There were several large policy conversations that required significant stakeholder input, two of those conversations had the potential to impacted Metro: 1) Creating a new state program to address the dredge-and-fill permitting process; and 2) Working to increase affordable housing across the state. Engaging in these large stakeholder processes is a good opportunity to ensure issues related to Metro's policy agenda are protected or advanced.

The most exciting outcome from the 2024 legislative session was the passage of [HB24-1062](#). The Metro government affairs team led the

effort to pass a bill concerning *administrative inspection warrants for a metropolitan sewage disposal district*. The team worked to identify a bill sponsor, support the bill drafting process, solicit expert input from Metro staff and connectors, work with stakeholders to gain support, and organize staff's testimony. The bill was signed into law on April 17, 2024, and will take effect on August 6, 2024. HB24-1062 will provide Metro with independent administrative warrant authority, authorizing us to work quickly and directly with the court system, and when necessary, to enter a business that may pose a danger to public health and/or the environment. Having timely access to businesses is essential to assessing compliance with Industrial Pretreatment Program requirements and in responding to problems that arise from any non-compliance. HB 24-1062 will enable the health and safety concerns associated with commercial wastewater to be addressed efficiently, uniformly, and transparently.

Metro also dedicated significant resources to support [SB24-081](#), a bill that will expand PFAS source control. Metro and our connectors know just how critical it is that these chemicals do not enter the water cycle. This new law rightfully puts the burden on the entities that manufacture and produce intentionally added PFAS products. Preliminary data show that most PFAS that Metro receives comes from common household products. This bill will make an immediate impact while treatment options continue to evolve. Thank you to our partners in the clean water community and to our legislative leaders for their partnership on this great bill.

The third bill that Metro advocated for was [SB24-037](#)--Study Green Infrastructure for Water Quality Management. The new law directs the University of Colorado, Colorado State University, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to conduct a feasibility study related to using green infrastructure to achieve water quality standards. As a leader in the clean water sector, Metro is committed to supporting sustainable options to meet our clean water goals.





Applewood Sanitation District Metro Water Recovery Tour

Back row, left to right: Jim Landry, District Engineer, Briana Gerou, ASD Board President, Karl Kluge, Engineering, Mandi Kirk, ASD Board Paralegal, Sara Constantine, Engineering, Rick Gonclaves, Engineering, Jason Miner, ASD Board Member **Front Row, left to right:** Kevin Schmidt, ASD Board Secretary, Joan Fritsche, ASD District Attorney, Barbara Panian, ASD Board Assistant Secretary

Regional Water Reuse Feasibility Study

Metro Water Recovery, Aurora Water, and Denver Water share goals to protect the region's water resources, surface water quality, and drinking water sources. Water reuse could become an important strategic pillar in Aurora Water's and Denver Water's future sustainable and resilient drinking water supply management to assure a continued high level of service for existing and future customers. Intentional water reuse, including direct potable reuse (DPR), could help broaden and diversify the future water supply portfolio in the larger Denver Metropolitan Area, using the reliable source of high-quality, treated wastewater that Metro produces for further advanced treatment and drinking water production.

As the primary provider of treated wastewater available for water reuse for the two large Connectors, Metro Water Recovery is a pivotal partner for regional potable and non-potable water management planning. For instance, in a DPR system, the three parties would share the responsibility for the protection of public health for their customers. Close and early coordination among all partners on critical aspects related to water quality, infrastructure planning, and compliance with the regulations and policies set forth by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) are prudent to identify and align on feasible water reuse implementation strategies in the region and make the best use of existing infrastructure and water rights by all partners in the future.

An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) has been negotiated among the three parties, stipulating Metro Water Recovery will enter into an Agreement with Carollo Engineers to perform the Study; Denver Water and Aurora Water will be identified as intended third party beneficiaries in the consultant agreement and Carollo Engineers will be clearly identified as an independent contractor for Metro.

EMERGING ISSUES: REGULATORY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHT

Engagement with regulatory agencies and in regulatory processes is a key aspect of Metro Water Recovery's environmental compliance programs. Metro frequently engages through active participation in stakeholder workgroups which are created and led by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

This type of engagement affords Metro opportunities to learn about new or changed regulations and to provide input, share technical and other expertise, and to express concerns with regulators and other stakeholders. This Emerging Issues Report focuses on two important stakeholder efforts which recently kicked off: (1) Updates to the [CDPHE 10-Year Water Quality Roadmap](#) (10-Year Roadmap or Roadmap) and (2) An Associated Feasibility and Implementation Workgroup. The outcomes of both workgroups will impact Metro.

What is the 10-Year Roadmap?

In October of 2017, CDPHE initiated the 10-Year Water Quality Roadmap as a response to the ongoing challenges related to elevated nutrient levels in water across the state. Elevated levels of nutrients in Colorado's waterways come from both point sources, like industrial facilities and wastewater treatment plants, and nonpoint sources, such as storm water and agricultural runoff. The roadmap builds on regulatory strategies for nutrients established in 2012, including the adoption of interim numeric standards for nutrients, technology-based standards (through Regulation No. 85), and adoption of a voluntary incentive program and the Colorado Nutrient Management Plan in 2017. Regulation No. 85: Nutrients Management Control Regulation establishes technology-based permit effluent limits for Total Inorganic Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus as interim requirements until the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) adopts final nutrient standards.

One of the main intentions behind the development of the 10-Year Roadmap was to provide regulatory and planning certainty for wastewater utilities and other stakeholders. By outlining a clear, structured, and long-term plan for managing nutrient pollution and revising water quality standards, the roadmap aimed to give regulated entities a predictable framework within which they could plan compliance strategies and capital investments. The Roadmap was intended to represent an approach to addressing nutrient pollution through a planned, decade-long strategy seeking to balance technology, scientific insights, regulatory requirements, and stakeholder interests. This approach serves as a state-wide implementation plan instead of implementing more traditional integrated planning tools which are applied on a facility-by-facility basis.

At the time the Roadmap was initiated, CDPHE recognized wastewater utilities and other stakeholders would have significant challenges associated with meeting stringent nutrient standards. Because of this, the Roadmap included feasibility studies which would include the evaluation of engineering solutions, sector-based considerations, and site-specific adaptations. The goal of the feasibility approach was to make progress through achievable and sustainable goals for all stakeholders while the CDPHE and WQCC developed and adopted approaches for the significant number of facilities that would not be able to achieve the anticipated standards.

What is Happening Now?

CDPHE's progress in multiple areas of the Roadmap has been slower than planned and technological challenges associated with stringent nutrient standards remain. As a result, during quarterly 10-Year Roadmap stakeholder meetings, CDPHE announced it was evaluating



Emerging Issues, continued

the possibility of making some changes to the timelines associated with multiple areas of the Roadmap including additional time to build a robust feasibility and implementation framework for nutrients and other parameters. CDPHE indicated nutrients were still a priority, but it would likely be seeking input from stakeholders and the WQCC regarding proposed updates to the Roadmap.

The current (2024) stakeholder workgroups are associated with proposed updates to the 10-Year Roadmap, the additional focus on the feasibility framework, and implementation. Implementation relates to how associated standards will be implemented into discharge permits.

In What Ways Could Metro be Affected?

Any new regulation, policy, or procedure comes with opportunities and challenges. Metro Water Recovery staff continually evaluates how the outputs from the Feasibility and Implementation Workgroup may impact Metro. At this time, the following lists identify potential opportunities and challenges being examined by Metro. Metro expects these lists to change throughout the stakeholder process.

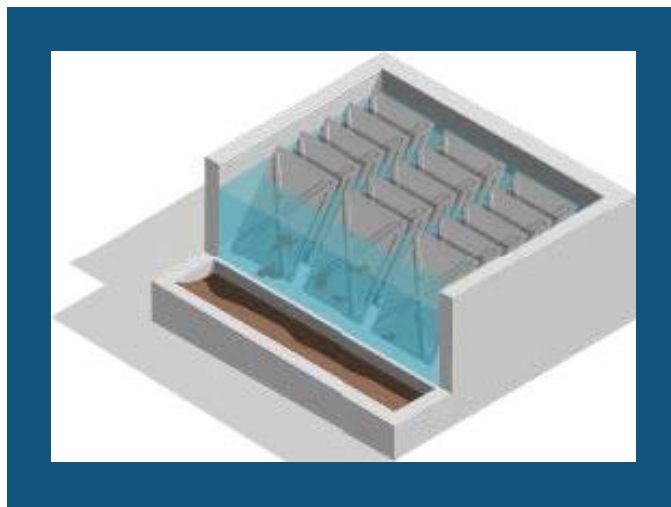
Opportunities

- More certainty regarding CDPHE's pollutant priorities
- More certainty on the decision-making framework for competing pollutants and treatment technologies
- Additional time before being required into solutions that result in sunk costs
- Options that result in the quicker implementation of environmental improvements
- Appears to be collaborative approach for improving relationships and working with CDPHE and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on an actionable framework

Challenges

- Temperature implementation may be delayed statewide but permit effluent limits and deadlines already exist within Metro's administratively extended permits
- The stakeholder process delays our ability to provide certainty for large-scale capital planning
- Additional Metro resources are being dedicated to the important stakeholder work

For questions, contact Director of Environmental Services Jennifer Robinett at jrobinett@MetroWaterRecovery.com.



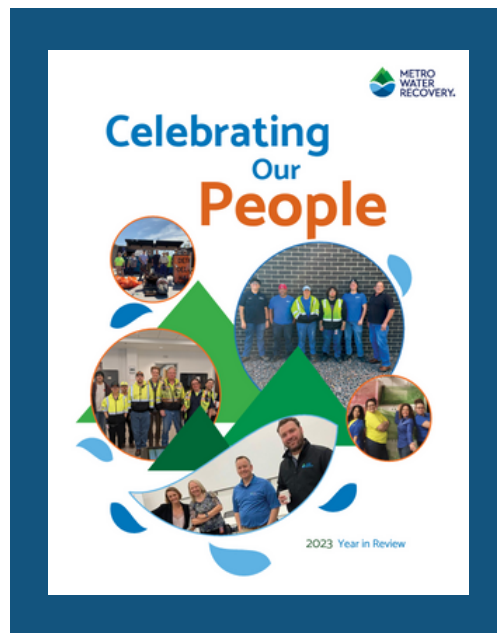
Tertiary treatment, which may be impacted by the workgroup, involves polishing for removal of solids, nutrients, pathogens, and thermal pollution.



Metro Releases Popular Annual Financial Report

For the first time ever, Metro has produced a Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). Based on our Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, the PAFR was created to ensure financial transparency for our ratepayers, residents, connectors, government agencies, and other interested parties in an easy-to-understand format.

Visit our [website](#) to read the PAFR for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023.



2023 Year in Review

Metro produces a Year in Review document that highlights accomplishments from each previous calendar year. Finalized in June, Metro’s 2023 Year in Review has a unique theme: Celebrating Our People. Organized by three distinct categories based on Metro’s Strategic Plan pillars – Our People, Our Work, and Our Communities – our 2023 Year in Review is a true celebration of Metro’s great employees, their achievements, and their leadership in the clean water industry. We invite you to read the document and share it widely with your colleagues and in your community. [Access the 2023 Year in Review on our website here.](#)

Crestview Water & Sanitation District Metro Water Recovery Tour



Crestview Board Members, Danny Sweeney, Tom Ruszkowski, and Kathy Laurienti, Metro Water Recovery Public Information Specialist, Maritza Franco, Crestview District Manager, Mitch Terry, and Metro Water Recovery Board Member, Michael Barrett



Annual Charges Summary Helpful Documents

Rules and Regulations

click the links below for Metro's
one-pagers on charges:

Annual Charges Planning

Annual Charges Process

2025 Annual Charges Summary



Dates to Remember

7/15: 2Q Sewer Connection Charges Due

7/16: Metro Board Meeting

8/20: Metro Board Meeting

9/16: 3Q Annual Charges Due

9/19: Metro Board Meeting

10/14: 3Q Sewer Connection Charges Due



New to Metro Water Recovery, Gerri Bragdon arrived in late March as Dawn Ambrosio's new executive assistant. Gerri's experience ranges from high school English teacher to small business owner to supporting C-level executives. Her previous EA experience for the Colorado Department of Local Affairs prepared her well for this new position with Metro. The dynamics of the Strategy and Communications department are invigorating, and Gerri is excited to support this growing, creative, and dedicated team.

When asked whether she prefers the ocean over the mountains, Gerri will always choose the Rockies as her favorite place for unending entertainment. Aside from camping, snowshoeing, and rafting, her lifelong hiking habit has resulted in 15 Colorado fourteeners summits so far; there are more to come.

Gerri's new favorite thing is her e-bike. Mainly a bike path rider, she's found many new routes along the connecting paths throughout the Denver Metro Area where she grew up.

Gerri and her partner, Brian, met in Sister Margaret's first grade classroom a lifetime ago. They are enamored with their sweet and sassy three-year-old American Pit Bull Terrier, who brings laughter into every setting.

Gerri finds her Zen knitting sweaters and teaching classes for a local yarn shop, bringing people together with a sense of humor and the love of the craft.