

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: First Year of Legislative Session
December 8, 2025**

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>AB 259 B. Rubio (D – Baldwin Park)</p> <p>Sponsors: California Special Districts Association, Three Valleys Municipal Water District</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Local Government Committee on 4/21/2025.</p> <p>Two-Year Bill</p>	<p>Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.</p> <p>This bill eliminates the sunset on provisions added to the Brown Act by AB 2449, a bill that provided additional flexibility with Brown Act meeting procedures in the event of a board member’s physical absence in connection with a “just cause” or “emergency circumstances,” allowing those members to participate in the meeting remotely consistent with the process detailed in the bill.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>By removing the sunset on the Brown Act provisions, AB 259 preserves flexibility for Metropolitan and Member Agency board members to meet remotely and continue providing the public with essential services.</p>
<p>AB 532 R. Ransom (D – Stockton)</p> <p>Sponsor: California Municipal Utilities Association</p>	<p>Amended in Senate Local Government Committee on 7/17/2025.</p> <p>Dead</p>	<p>Water rate assistance program</p> <p>This bill seeks to revamp the State’s Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide water rate assistance to ratepayers of public water suppliers, or systems serving disadvantaged communities. The bill also would expressly allow urban retail water suppliers to establish a local low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program using voluntary contributions or other non- ratepayer funds.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>This bill would provide clarity in existing law to ensure that water agencies are able to establish local LIRA programs without fear of legal consequences given the provisions of Proposition 218.</p>

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<p>AB 580 G. Wallis (R – Bermuda Dunes)</p> <p>Sponsor: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</p>	<p>Chaptered</p> <p>Signed by the Governor, Chapter 270, Statutes of 2025</p>	<p>Surface Mining: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</p> <p>This bill extends the sunset date for 15 years or until January 1, 2041, on Metropolitan’s ability to operate under a single Master Reclamation Plan for repairs using earth-moving activities under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act for the maintenance of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA).</p>	<p>Sponsor</p> <p>Based on December 2024 Board Action.</p>	<p>Ensuring Metropolitan can continue operating under a single Master Reclamation Plan will maintain environmental oversight without delays and prevent duplicative compliance.</p>
<p>AB 638 C. Rodriguez (D – San Fernando)</p> <p>Sponsor: Natural Resources Defense Council</p>	<p>Amended in Senate on 7/3/2025.</p> <p>Dead</p>	<p>Stormwater: uses: irrigation</p> <p>This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to establish guidance for stormwater capture, and its use for the irrigation of public urban lands by July 1, 2026. Public lands include parks, street medians, parkways, and golf courses owned by the state, city, county, or designated for public use. The Board would be required to solicit public comment before establishing recommendations.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>About 76,000 Acre-Feet of stormwater runoff is currently treated at surface water treatment facilities and introduced directly into Metropolitan’s member agency distribution system. Metropolitan does not currently use urban runoff for irrigation on our properties.</p> <p>The use of stormwater for non- potable irrigation of public lands reduces the demand for potable water while enhancing drought resilience.</p>

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<p>AB 794 J. Gabriel (D – Encino)</p> <p>Sponsors: Clean Water Action, Environmental Working Group</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 4/10/2025.</p> <p>Two-Year Bill</p>	<p>California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations</p> <p>This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt an emergency regulation for water quality based on federal regulations in effect on January 19, 2025, regardless of whether the requirements were repealed or amended to be less stringent. The bill would prohibit an emergency regulation adopted pursuant to these provisions from implementing less stringent drinking water standards, as provided, and would authorize the regulation to include requirements that are more stringent than the requirements of the federal regulation. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2026, the SWRCB to adopt an emergency regulation and to initiate a primary drinking water standard for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).</p>	<p>Oppose Unless Amended</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>While AB 794 aims to protect public health, its approach circumvents the established regulatory process for setting Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Metropolitan’s Legislative Priorities and Principles call for using the best available science to protect public health and improve water quality when setting MCLs. The broad scope of this bill, which would allow the SWRCB to set through emergency action primary and secondary MCLs for any chemical with a federal MCL, sets a dangerous precedent and fails to align with well-established regulatory principles.</p>

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AB 1146 D. Papan (D – San Mateo)	Amended in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on 6/23/2025. Dead	<p>Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses</p> <p>This bill adds language to the Water Code prohibiting the release of stored water from a reservoir owned and operated by the United States if the release is done under false pretenses and would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to issue an injunctive relief order for violation of such release of stored water. This bill would define “false pretenses” as a release of water from a reservoir in a manner that is knowingly, designedly, and intentionally under a false or fraudulent representation or assumption as to the purpose and intended use of the water.</p>	<p>Watch</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>Amendments have narrowed the scope of this bill to reservoirs owned and operated by the United States, which would exclude Metropolitan’s and Member Agency owned and operated reservoirs.</p> <p>The bill’s definition of “false pretenses” remains unclear and does not specify what would qualify as “false or fraudulent representation,” nor does it indicate how intent would be determined.</p>

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<p>AB 1319 N. Schultz (D – Burbank)</p>	<p>Amended in Senate Appropriations Committee on 9/2/2025.</p> <p>Signed by the Governor, Chapter 638, Statutes of 2025</p>	<p>Protected species: California Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>This bill would amend the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) to authorize the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to deem a species as a provisional candidate species if it finds that a federal action that occurs after January 19, 2025, results in a decrease in protection for that species and listing under CESA could provide protection for that species.</p> <p>This bill would provide that an entity shall not be held criminally or civilly liable for any take consistent with existing federal take authorization as long as the take authorization is issued before January 19, 2025.</p>	<p>Oppose Unless Amended</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>This bill could have profound impacts on Metropolitan’s activities and its State Water Project and Colorado River imported supplies. The time and cost to get CESA permits after CDFW listings would be high, and while permit applications are pending, opponents could litigate to halt or modify projects, including ongoing operations of the State Water Project and Colorado River water deliveries and power production.</p> <p>Recent amendments would allow CDFW to make its own determination to add a species as a “provisional candidate species” without any prior notice or opportunity to provide comment. This amendment significantly reduces transparency and would provide CDFW with unprecedented authority that could subject Metropolitan to significant additional mitigation that increases costs and reduces water deliveries. Metropolitan sought additional amendments to limit the applicability of this bill to species that are federally delisted.</p>

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<p>SB 31 J. McNerney (D – Stockton)</p> <p>Sponsor: WaterReuse California</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on 6/9/2025.</p> <p>Signed by the Governor, Chapter 736, Statutes of 2025</p>	<p>Water quality: recycled water</p> <p>SB 31 aims to enhance California’s water sustainability by increasing the use of recycled water in non-potable applications. This bill modernizes outdated regulations and expands the permissible uses of recycled water to reduce dependence on potable sources. The bill would make updates to Title 22 of the Code of Regulations to expand the use of recycled water in parks, schools, and food handling and processing facilities.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>Supporting the use of recycled water in non-potable applications such as irrigation, decorative water features, and industrial processes reduces the demand for potable water while enhancing drought resilience.</p>
<p>SB 72 A. Caballero (D – Merced)</p> <p>Sponsor: California Municipal Utilities Association</p>	<p>Chapters</p> <p>Signed by the Governor, Chapter 210, Statutes of 2025.</p>	<p>The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets</p> <p>This measure would revise the California Water Plan to require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update the California Water Plan by December 31, 2028, and every five years after, to include a long-term water supply target for 2050 and discussion on the development of specified water supply sources to meet demand.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>The intent of this bill is to help modernize California’s water management practices and provide long-term reliable supplies in response to the current climate challenges.</p> <p>Metropolitan supported a similar version of this bill in 2024, SB 366 (Caballero), which passed the Legislature and was vetoed by the Governor.</p>

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<p>SB 394 B. Allen (D – Santa Monica)</p> <p>Sponsor: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Judiciary Committee on 7/3/2025.</p> <p>Signed by the Governor, Chapter 540, Statutes of 2025</p>	<p>Water theft: fire hydrants</p> <p>SB 394 would allow a local agency that provides water service the ability to increase fines and penalties for water theft from fire hydrants. The bill also adds tampering with a fire hydrant, fire hydrant meter, or fire detector check, or the unauthorized diversion of water from a fire hydrant to the list of acts for which a utility may bring a civil cause of action.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Member Agencies and subagencies that provide local water services could adopt ordinances with enhanced penalties for water theft from a fire hydrant.</p>
<p>SB 454 J. McNerney (D – Stockton)</p> <p>Sponsor: Association of California Water Agencies</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>	<p>State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program</p> <p>SB 454 would establish a PFAS Mitigation Fund to address PFAS contamination in California's drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater systems. Administered by the SWRCB, the fund will provide financial support through grants, loans, and contracts to water suppliers and wastewater operators to cover or reduce treatment and disposal costs, ensuring safe and clean water across the state with a focus on disadvantaged communities.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>The proposed bill would be highly beneficial to Metropolitan, its Member Agencies, and other water and wastewater agencies currently grappling with increased PFAS-related regulations and source contamination issues. By allowing for grants, loans, and contracts through the PFAS Mitigation Fund, and the provision of assistance services, the bill provides much-needed financial relief and assistance to support treatment and mitigation efforts.</p>

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<p>SB 601 B. Allen (D – Santa Monica)</p> <p>Sponsors: California Coastkeeper Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 7/10/2025.</p> <p>Two-Year Bill</p>	<p>Water: waste discharge</p> <p>The intent of this bill is to restore Clean Water Act protections in California that were removed per the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2023 Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision. However, the bill goes beyond restoring statute and includes several provisions that expand regulatory requirements without the benefit of scientific analysis.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>Currently, AB 601 poses risks to Metropolitan and its member agencies by: adopting EPA’s drinking water standards for PFAS/PFOS, bypassing the state rulemaking process; increasing costs of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) permits for discharges of water when dewatering or operating water supply infrastructure, potentially requiring all such water to be recycled regardless of cost to comply; exposing Metropolitan and its Member Agencies to citizen suits in state court, and, for certain nexus waters, both state and federal court; and creating uncertainty in discharge permitting as the bill’s ambiguous provisions and implications are likely to be litigated.</p>