

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Agenda

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

LEG Committee

F. Jung, Chair
A. Kassakhian, Vice Chair
L. Ackerman
B. Dennstedt
A. Fellow
J. Garza
G. Gray
J. Lewitt
M. Luna
J. McMillan
J. Morris
T. Phan
B. Pressman
M. Ramos

Legislation and Communications Committee

Meeting with Board of Directors *

January 14, 2025

1:15 p.m.

Agendas, live streaming, meeting schedules, and other board materials are available here:

**<https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. Written public comments received by 5:00 p.m. the business days before the meeting is scheduled will be posted under the Submitted Items and Responses tab available here:
<https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>.**

If you have technical difficulties with the live streaming page, a listen-only phone line is available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 891 1613 4145.

Members of the public may present their comments to the Board on matters within their jurisdiction as listed on the agenda via teleconference. To participate via teleconference 1-833-548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 815 2066 4276 or to join by computer [click here](#).

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 Meeting Schedule
08:30 a.m. LEGAL 11:30 a.m. Break 12:00 p.m. BOD 01:15 p.m. LEG

There will be No In-Person Participation Permitted. Participation is by teleconference only. See the teleconference information below.

* The Metropolitan Water District's meeting of this Committee is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee may participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee will not vote on matters before this Committee.

- 1. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))**

**** CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION ****

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the minutes of the Special Legislation and Communications Committee for November 19, 2024 (copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions) [21-4158](#)

Attachments: [01142025 LEG 2A \(12102024\) Minutes](#)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

NONE

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ****

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

NONE

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

NONE

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Report on Activities from Washington, D.C. [21-4160](#)

Attachments: [01142025 LEG 6a Federal Regulatory Matrix](#)
[01142025 LEG 6a Presentation](#)

- b. Report on Activities from Sacramento [21-4161](#)

Attachments: [01142025 LEG 6b State Regulatory Matrix](#)
[01142025 LEG 6b Presentation](#)

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. External Affairs activities [21-4159](#)

Attachments: [01142025 LEG 7a External Affairs Activities](#)
[01142025 LEG 7a Presentation](#)

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: This committee reviews items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors. Final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Committee agendas may be obtained on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. This committee will not take any final action that is binding on the Board, even when a quorum of the Board is present.

Writings relating to open session agenda items distributed to Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting are available for public inspection at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building and on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Requests for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Board Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

December 10, 2024

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Gray (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Lewitt, McMillan, Morris, Pressman, Ramos, and Smith (teleconference posted location)

Members absent: Directors Luna and Phan

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong, Camacho, Dick, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, McCoy, Ortega and Seckel

Committee Staff present: Upadhyay, Stites, Sims, Zinke, and Novoa.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S JURISDICTION

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Legislation and Communications Committee held November 19, 2024.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Morris to approve item 2A.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Jung, Kassakhian, Lewitt, McMillan, Morris, Pressman, Ramos, and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Gray, Luna, and Phan

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 3 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

8-6 Subject: Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Lana Haddad, Deputy Chief DE&I Officer

Motion: Adopted the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025

Director Gray entered the meeting.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Ackerman
- 2.) Dennstedt
- 3.) Ramos
- 4.) Pressman

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

After completion of the presentation, Director Ackerman made a motion, seconded by Director Dennstedt to approve item 8-6.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, Lewitt, McMillan, Morris, Pressman, Ramos, Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Luna and Phan

The motion for item 8-6 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 2 absent.

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby R. Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on the Congressional legislative schedule, a legislative update on fiscal year 2025 appropriations, fiscal year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 8070/S.4638), Water Resources and Development Act (H.R. 8812/S.4376), Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act (H.R. 7872/S.2514), and two Metropolitan supported bills: Help Hoover Dam Act, S.4016; and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024, S.5012.

- b. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay L. Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the legislative calendar, Governor Newsom's call for a special session to "Trump Proof" California, California budget update, and November 2024 election highlights.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Fellow

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on the 2025 Student Art Calendar, the Conservation Advertising Budget, the CAMP4W Outreach with Community Organizations, and the Annual Membership and Sponsorship Reports.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Chair Jung

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California January 14, 2025 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
DHS	<u>Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act (CIRCIA) Reporting Requirements</u>	On April 4, 2024, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) established a draft rule proposing reporting requirements for critical infrastructure entities that experience cybersecurity incidents. The draft rule proposes limiting reporting requirements to medium, large, and very large Community Water Systems and Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) that serve populations greater than 3,300.	The CIRCIA Reporting Requirements affect all water and wastewater agencies serving more than 3,300 customers. This population metric dictates which water providers are required by EPA to conduct risk and resilience assessments and to prepare emergency response plans. On July 3, 2024, ACWA submitted comments asking CISA to 1) refine the definition of “substantial cyber incident” to focus on capturing truly disruptive incidents, 2) align CISA reporting and data retention requirements with other federal cybersecurity requirements, 3) consider using the 50,000-person threshold in place of 3,300 for regulating water and wastewater operators, and 4) provide financial assistance to aid in compliance; among other comments.	Awaiting further action by CISA.
EPA	<u>Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs)</u>	On May 24, 2024, EPA published the final revisions to the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) regulation. The regulation requires public water systems serving 10,000 or more people to deliver CCRs twice a year, encourage modern electronic delivery options, clarify information regarding lead in drinking water, and provide translation for customers with limited English proficiency.	The biennial requirement is only for community water systems that serve 10,000 or more persons. Such systems that have a violation or action level exceedance between January 1 and June 30 of the current year, or have new Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) results must include a 6-month update with the second report explaining any violations. As a wholesaler, Metropolitan is not required to do a CCR, but provides water quality data to our member agencies twice per year to support the development of their CCRs.	The rule is effective June 2024, with the new content and delivery requirements starting in 2027.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California January 14, 2025 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	<u>Fluoride</u>	In a September 24, 2024, ruling, a federal judge found that EPA is required to provide a regulatory response under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) because fluoridation of water at 0.7 parts per million (ppm) -- the level presently considered “optimal” in the United States -- poses an unreasonable risk of reduced IQ in children. The judge’s order does not dictate precisely what EPA’s regulatory response must be.	California law requires water systems with 10,000 or more connections to fluoridate if funding is available. This court ruling does not require Metropolitan to change its current treatment operations. Per Metropolitan’s Board-adopted Drinking Water Fluoridation Policy, Metropolitan has adjusted the natural fluoride levels in its treated water supplies since 2007, in full compliance with federal and state drinking water regulations. It is important to note that drinking water is regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and not TSCA.	Awaiting any further action by EPA and/or the California Division of Drinking Water with respect to fluoride. EPA has until January 21, 2025, to appeal the ruling.
EPA	<u>Maximum Contaminant Levels for Perchlorate</u>	In the December 4, 2024, Federal Register, EPA announced that the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) will meet on January 9, 2025, to discuss a proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for perchlorate. This action is in response to a January 5, 2024, Consent Decree in the <i>NRDC v. EPA</i> case that required EPA to propose a maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) and NPDWR for perchlorate by November 21, 2025, and publish the final MCLG and NPDWR by May 21, 2027.	Previously, staff have commented in support of EPA promulgating a federal perchlorate standard to protect public health and help with long-term remediation of perchlorate contamination in the Colorado River Basin.	The NDWAC will meet on January 9, 2025, to discuss a proposed NPDWR for perchlorate.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California January 14, 2025 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	<u>Maximum Contaminant Levels for Six PFAS</u>	<p>On April 26, 2024, EPA published final drinking water standards for six (6) PFAS. EPA set individual maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS at 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt), and 10 ppt for PFNA, PFHxS, and GenX Chemicals. EPA will also regulate PFAS mixtures containing at least two or more PFHxS, PFNA, GenX Chemicals, and PFBS using a unitless Hazard Index of one (1). Lastly, EPA finalized health-based, non-enforceable MCLGs at 0 ppt for PFOA and PFOS and 10 ppt for PFNA, PFHxS, and GenX Chemicals.</p> <p>On June 7, 2024, AWWA and AMWA filed a Petition for Review asking a federal court to decide whether EPA acted appropriately in setting MCLs and MCLGs for six PFAS. Subsequently, the National Association of Manufacturers, American Chemistry Council, and The Chemours Company FC, LLC filed Petitions for Review, and NRDC and several community groups filed motions to intervene in support of EPA’s final rule. The court has set a briefing schedule, with final briefs due March 25, 2025.</p>	Metropolitan submitted comments on May 30, 2023, in support of regulating PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. However, staff commented that regulating the remaining PFAS is premature as these compounds did not follow the full regulatory process and may have unintended economic impacts.	Rule became effective on June 25, 2024, with a three-year compliance timeline from the rule's effective date.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California January 14, 2025 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	<u>PFAS and CERCLA Part I</u>	<p>On May 8, 2024, EPA published its final rule designating PFOA and PFOS, including their salts and structural isomers, as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).</p> <p>On June 10, 2024, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America, Associated General Contractors of America, Inc., and National Waste & Recycling Association filed a Petition for Review, asking a federal court to decide whether EPA acted appropriately in designating PFOA and PFOS as CERCLA hazardous substances. The American Chemistry Council and others have also filed Petitions for Review. NRDC and other groups have moved to intervene in defense of EPA’s rule. A group of passive receivers, including drinking water organizations, filed an <i>amici</i> brief explaining why EPA’s assessment of costs and benefits failed to take into account the effects on passive receivers. The court has set a briefing schedule, with final briefs due April 2, 2025.</p>	<p>Despite EPA’s April 19, 2024 “PFAS Enforcement Discretion and Settlement Policy Under CERCLA” that emphasized that EPA will not target water utilities, staff are still concerned that the final rule may encumber water utilities with potential liability under CERCLA for the disposal of water treatment residuals that may contain PFAS. Metropolitan submitted comments on November 7, 2022, to this effect and worked with ACWA, AMWA, AWWA, and WUWC on comments seeking an exemption under CERCLA for the water industry.</p>	<p>Rule is final and went into effect on July 8, 2024.</p>

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California January 14, 2025 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	<u>PFAS and CERCLA Part II</u>	On April 13, 2023, EPA requested public “input and data” regarding whether to designate the precursors to PFOA and PFOS, as well as seven additional PFAS, as hazardous substances under CERCLA. The seven additional PFAS are PFBS, PFHxS, PFNA, Gen X, PFBA, PFHxA, and PFDA. The notice also requested input on regulating groups or categories of PFAS as hazardous substances.	Metropolitan submitted comments on August 3, 2023, that EPA should consider updated occurrence data and develop robust and reliable analytical methods before making any regulatory determination for the affected PFAS. In addition, staff requested that EPA explore other regulatory pathways for PFAS rather than CERCLA, as well as follow the "polluter pays" principle and make additional funding available for treatment and cleanup costs.	EPA had previously planned to propose a rule listing other PFAS as CERCLA hazardous substances in April 2025, but it now lists the date of the proposed rule as “To Be Determined.”
EPA	<u>PFAS and RCRA Part I</u>	On February 8, 2024, EPA released a proposed rule to revise the definition of “hazardous waste” under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) such that PFAS can be included in corrective actions for treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDFs).	On March 26, 2024, staff submitted a comment letter expressing concern that while the rule is focused on TSDFs, the rule could raise the disposal costs of PFAS-laden materials sent to TSDFs and that this was not included in the cost analysis. Staff also asked that EPA adopt formal RCRA enforcement guidance for TSDFs, such that water utilities are protected against future liability; and that EPA follow the “polluter pays” principle and/or make additional funding available for treatment and cleanup.	EPA anticipated finalizing the rule in December 2024.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California January 14, 2025 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	<u>PFAS and RCRA Part II</u>	On February 8, 2024, EPA released a proposed rule to list nine PFAS (PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, HFPO-DA or GenX Chemicals, PFNA, PFHxS, PFDA, PFHxA, and PFBA) and their salts and isomers as “hazardous constituents” under RCRA.	On April 8, 2024, staff submitted a comment letter addressing EPA’s proposal to list nine PFAS and their salts and isomers as “hazardous constituents” under RCRA. A hazardous constituent listing is the first step towards a potential “hazardous waste” listing. If these nine PFAS were to be classified as hazardous wastes under RCRA, then they would automatically be classified as “hazardous substances” under CERCLA. Like our comments on the PFAS-CERCLA regulatory effort, Metropolitan emphasized that while we support regulating PFAS, the regulatory community needs guardrails in place (e.g., analytical methods, regulatory limits, and cleanup standards) prior to regulating these compounds. Staff also reiterated that EPA should follow the polluters pay principle.	EPA anticipates finalizing the rule in July 2025.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California January 14, 2025 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	<u>Lead and Copper Rule Improvements</u>	<p>On October 30, 2024, EPA published the final Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). The LCRI builds on the 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and the original Lead and Copper Rule. The final rule focuses on identifying and replacing lead service lines within 10 years; lowering the lead action level from 0.015 to 0.010 parts per million (ppm); removing the lead trigger level; improving tap sampling procedures; and improving public education and outreach materials to include renters and individuals with limited English proficiency.</p> <p>On December 13, 2024, AWWA filed a petition with the D.C. Court of Appeals challenging the LCRI. AWWA contends that the requirement that water systems must replace lead service lines on private property and owned by entities other than the systems if the systems can “access” such lines is neither feasible nor lawful. AWWA is also concerned about the impact of the final rule on water affordability.</p>	<p>The rule will result in additional sampling at Metropolitan’s desert housing but is not applicable to the main water treatment system. Under the 2021 LCRR, water systems were required to provide an initial inventory of their lead service lines by October 16, 2024. Under the final LCRI, all water systems must submit a baseline inventory by November 1, 2027, and will be required to regularly update their inventories, create a publicly available service line replacement plan, and identify the materials of all service lines of unknown material. Staff partnered with trade associations to provide comments.</p>	<p>The final rule went into effect on December 30, 2024.</p>

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Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	<u>County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund Guidance</u>	On November 20, 2023, EPA released its second version of draft guidance on how to apply the “functional equivalency” test found in the <i>County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund</i> decision. In the <i>Maui</i> decision, the Supreme Court set forth seven factors to help determine if a NPDES permit is required when a point source pollutant discharged to groundwater has the same “functional equivalency” as a direct discharge to a navigable water.	On December 21, 2023, Metropolitan submitted comments expressing support for the draft guidance. Metropolitan operations are not expected to be impacted by the new guidance, but the guidance is expected to help protect source water quality throughout the Colorado River Basin. Discharges by Metropolitan to groundwater in California are already covered by state permitting requirements, and the new guidance is not expected to trigger any additional permitting requirements for Pure Water Southern California or Delta operations.	Awaiting final guidance.
USFWS	<u>Proposed Listing of Santa Ana Speckled Dace as Threatened Species</u>	On August 13, 2024, the USFWS proposed listing the Santa Ana Speckled Dace as a threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) with protective regulations under Section 4(d) of the Act (“4(d) rule”). The 4d rule would include exceptions from take prohibition for forest and wildland management activities, habitat restoration and enhancement activities (including dam operations where they benefit the species), and removal of non-native species. If the USFWS finalizes this rule as proposed, FESA protections would apply. Due to the lack of sufficient data, Critical Habitat is not being designated at this time.	This fish currently occurs in isolated populations in Southern California in the headwaters of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, Santa Ana, and San Jacinto River watersheds. Metropolitan has facilities that cross lower reaches of these streams. Listing could add additional constraints on maintenance and construction activities if the species were to migrate and/or get flushed downstream into areas with Metropolitan facilities. Presence of this listed species could also potentially affect operations of water supply facilities for local agencies. Staff evaluated the listing for potential impacts on Metropolitan. Known populations of Dace occur in very few locations near, and downstream of, Metropolitan facilities.	Awaiting further action by USFWS.

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Legislation and Communications Committee

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Item 6a

January 14, 2025

**Report on
Activities
from
Washington,
D.C.**

Subject

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Purpose

To provide a legislative update.

**118th Wrap
Up:
Bills Enacted
Into Law**

**FY 25 National
Defense
Authorization Act**

**Water Resources
and Development
Act of 2024**

**Colorado River
Salinity Control Fix
Act**

118th Wrap Up: Unfinished Business

FY25 Appropriations

- Government funded until March 14

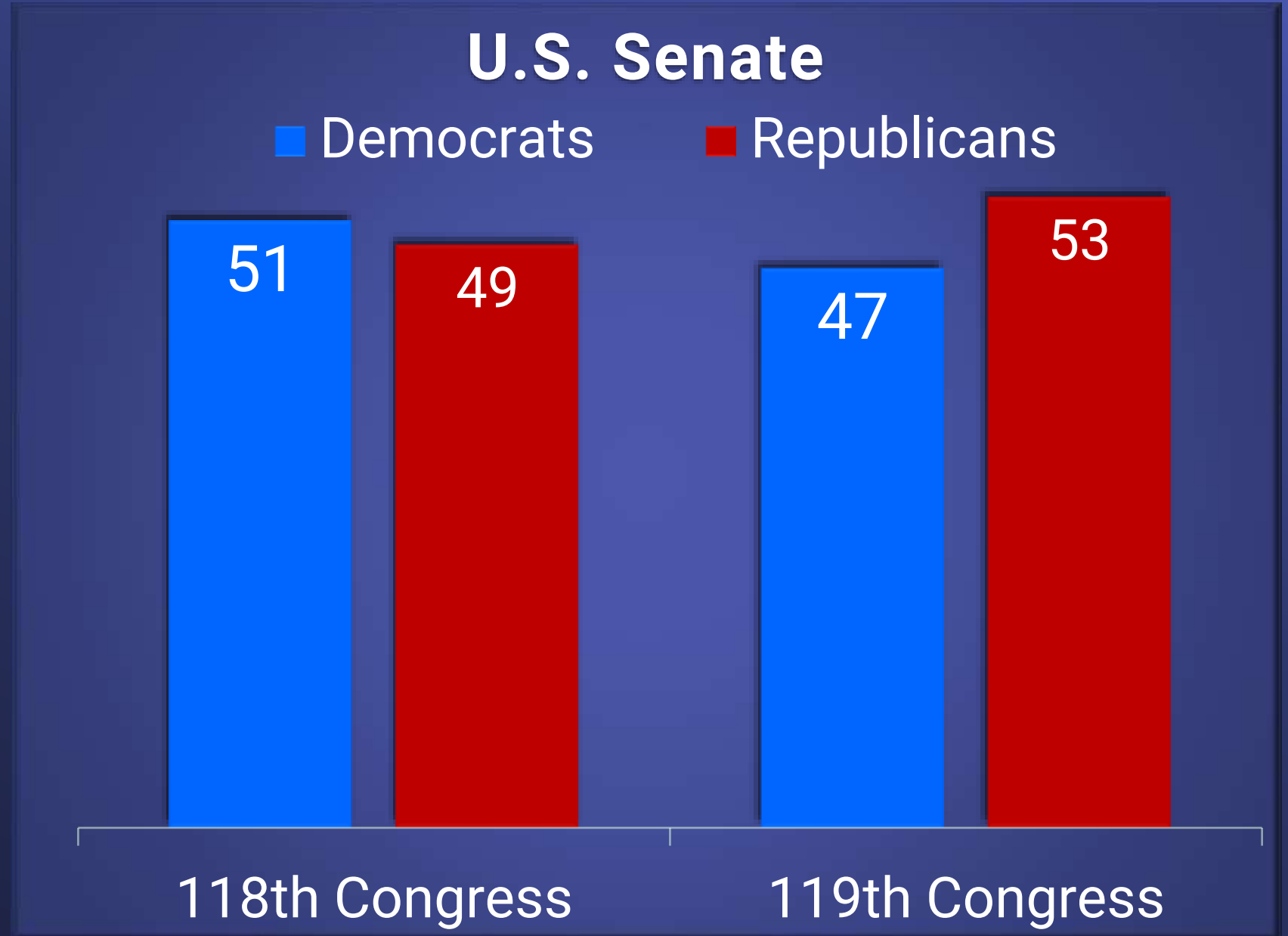
Lower Colorado River Multispecies Conservation Program Amendment Act

- Failed

Help Hoover Dam Act

- Failed

Senate Make-Up



Committee Assignments: Senate



Adam Schiff

- Agricultural, Nutrition, and Forestry
- Environment and Public Works
- Judiciary
- Small Business



Alex Padilla

- Energy and Natural Resources
- Environment and Public Works
- Budget
- Judiciary
- Rules

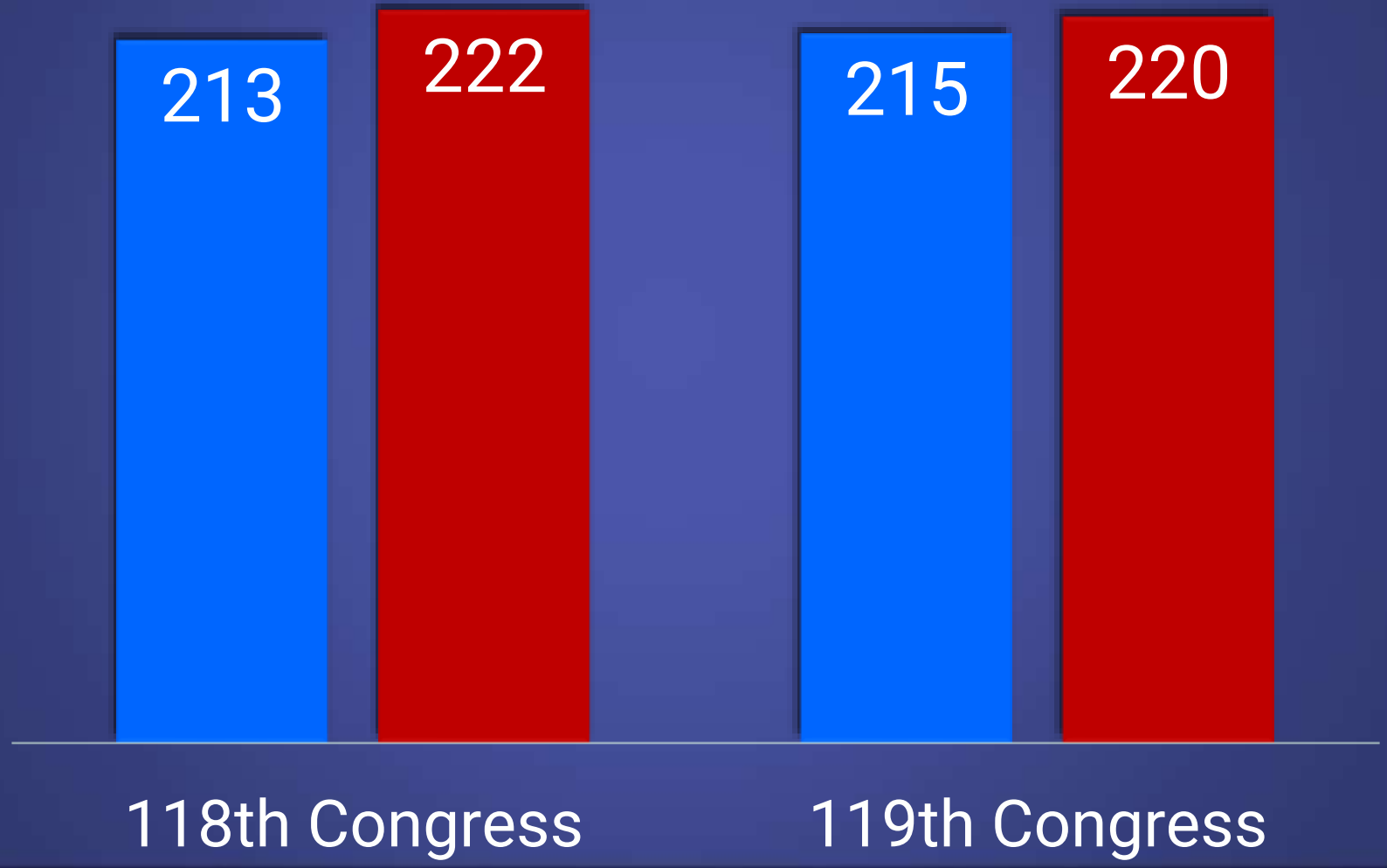


House Make-Up



U.S. House of Representatives

■ Democrats ■ Republicans



New House Congressional Delegation Members



George Whitesides (D-27)
FLIP – Mike Garcia (R)



Luz Rivas (D-29)
Tony Cardenas (D)



Laura Friedman (D-30)
Adam Schiff (D)



Gil Cisneros (D-31)
Grace Napolitano (D)



Derek Tran (D-45)
FLIP – Michelle Steele (R)



Dave Minn (D-47)
Katie Porter (D)



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California January 14, 2025 – State Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Regulation	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
Cal/OSHA	<u>Workplace Violence Prevention in General Industry</u>	SB 553 (Cortese, 2023), which took effect on July 1, 2024, included minimum employer requirements for Workplace Violence Prevention Plans (WVPPs) and required Cal/OSHA to propose by December 31, 2025, and the Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board to adopt by December 31, 2026, regulations regarding WVPPs. In response, Cal/OSHA released a draft WV regulation on July 15, 2024, which included the WVPP requirements, as well as new engineering controls, communication requirements, recordkeeping, and post-incident procedures.	Metropolitan has implemented SB 553 WVPPs requirements and will continue to update our WVPP as necessary.	Awaiting final rule by December 31, 2026.
Cal/OSHA	<u>Enterprise-Wide and Egregious Violations Rulemaking</u>	In July 2024, Cal/OSHA proposed regulations providing definitions of an “egregious violation” (i.e., willful) and an “enterprise-wide violation” (i.e., violations at more than one worksite). Employers cited for enterprise-wide violations associated with workplace safety won’t be eligible for penalty adjustments except for size. The proposed penalty for enterprise-wide violations will be multiplied by the number of worksites covered by the citation at the time of the inspection. The proposed regulations also increase the lookback period for assessing serious, repeat, or willful violations from three years to five years.	Cal/OSHA’s proposed rules are in response to SB 606 (Gonzalez, 2021) that expanded Cal/OSHA’s authority to issue citations, require abatement, and seek court orders that address workplace safety law violations. For those employers labeled as “egregious,” especially with multiple work locations, the financial penalties can be more severe.	Awaiting revised draft of the regulations.

Cal/OSHA – California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 CARB – California Air Resources Board
 CCEEB – California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance
 CDFW – California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
 CMUA – California Municipal Utilities Association
 DTSC – Department of Toxic Substances Control

DDW – Division of Drinking Water
 OAL – Office of Administrative Law
 OEHHA – Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
 PRR – Phylmar Regulatory Roundtable
 SCAQMD – South Coast Air Quality Management District
 SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California January 14, 2025 – State Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Regulation	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
Cal/OSHA	<u>Proposed Updates on Lead Standards for General Industry and Construction</u>	On February 15, 2024, Cal/OSHA adopted new lead standards for general industrial and construction work areas. The standards lower the eight-hour time-weighted average Permissible Exposure Level for lead from 50 to 10 µg/m ³ and lowers the Action Level from 30 to 2 µg/m ³ . The standards also increase the need for blood lead level (BLL) testing when an employee’s BLL is at or above 10 µg/dL, among other requirements.	The rule requires industry to conduct new lead exposure assessments and update written procedures, training, and potentially implement additional engineering controls (e.g., HEPA-equipped vacuum, containment, and ventilation). Staff provided input through PRR over the feasibility of the proposed standards – namely the engineering controls.	Standards go into effect January 1, 2025.
CARB	<u>Advanced Clean Fleets</u>	On October 1, 2024, CARB released a discussion draft on amendments to the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation brought on by the passage of AB 1594 (Garcia, 2023). The draft introduces a definition for “traditional utility-specialized vehicles” and alters exemption requirements, potentially allowing utilities to add internal combustion engine vehicles over 8,500 lbs. to their fleets when zero-emission trucks are not available in similar configurations or suitable for utility-specific operations.	Metropolitan provided comments that CARB should expand the definition of “traditional utility-specialized vehicle” to include vehicles with towing capacities exceeding 30,000 lbs., develop criteria for low-use vehicles, and refine the exemptions for both replacement and addition of new qualified internal-combustion engine powered vehicles. Lastly, staff asked CARB to delay the compliance date for Class 8 ZEVs used to transport extremely hazardous materials, such as chlorine, until 2030 or exempt this application altogether.	CARB expects to hold a Board hearing in early 2025.
CARB	<u>Proposed Zero-Emission Appliance Standards</u>	CARB is developing zero-emission appliance standards to require California sales of zero-emission (ZE) space and water heaters by 2030 for new construction or renovating existing buildings. The potential regulation would not require existing non-ZE space and water heaters to be replaced before 2030.	These standards are in line with CARB’s climate and air quality strategy as laid out in the 2022 Scoping Plan and State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan. These standards may impact regional requirements for grid capacity, access to electricity and building retrofit costs.	CARB anticipates adopting the regulation in 2025 with implementation beginning in 2030.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California January 14, 2025 – State Regulatory Matrix

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CARB	<u>Zero- Emissions Forklift Rule</u>	On September 16, 2024, OAL approved CARB’s Zero-Emission Forklift Regulation. The rule prohibits fleet operators from purchasing new propane or gasoline-fueled Class IV (any lift capacity) and Class V forklifts (lifting capacity up to 12,000 lbs.) starting in 2026. Fleets would need to phase-out 2018 model year (MY) and older forklifts starting in 2028. Fleet operators would be allowed to purchase used 2025 MY or older forklifts so long as the MY has not been phased out.	The rule requires industry, including Metropolitan and member agencies, to develop a forklift replacement strategy. Staff are working on a forklift replacement strategy for Metropolitan’s 17 propane- and one gas-powered forklifts. Metropolitan submitted comments addressing concerns with provisions in the latest rulemaking package.	The rule goes into effect January 1, 2026.
CDFW	<u>Proposed rule governing suspension and revocation of Fish & Game Code section 1602 Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreements</u>	On November 19, 2024, CDFW circulated revisions to the proposed regulation specifying the procedures for CDFW to suspend or revoke Lake or Stream Alteration Agreements (LSAAs). Fish and Game Code section 1612 authorizes CDFW to suspend or revoke an LSAA if it determines the permittee is not in compliance with its terms or has failed to provide required status reports. The proposed process provides notice and an opportunity to cure any alleged violations before CDFW would suspend or revoke an LSAA.	While Metropolitan has never faced a notice of suspension or revocation, on June 18, 2024, Metropolitan provided comments that the proposed regulation may be problematic to agencies with LSAAs if the notice is erroneous or if the notice does not provide sufficient time to cure alleged violations (or explain why no violation has occurred) before suspension or revocation would be required under the regulation. Metropolitan also provided clarification language to address these concerns.	Awaiting final rule.

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DTSC	<u>Generator Improvements Rule</u>	On May 6, 2024, OAL approved DTSC’s revised Generator Improvements Rule (GIR). The new rule aligns the state with federal requirements. By July 1, 2024, each large quantity generator will be required to submit a Quick Reference Guide along with the contingency plan to the local emergency responders either when the contingency plan is amended or when the generator first becomes subject to large quantity generator requirements.	By aligning with federal standards, the new GIR may clarify and simplify hazardous waste/material handling procedures. Staff will need to update standard operating procedures to correctly cross-reference the renumbered rule sections. Staff commented through CCEEB to help streamline rule compliance (e.g., how best to submit contingency plans and associated Quick Reference Guides).	Phase I went into effect July 1, 2024. Staff are awaiting Phase II of GIR rulemaking.
Fish and Game Commission	<u>Emergency regulation to add golden mussel to the list of restricted animals</u>	On December 12, 2024, the Fish and Game Commission adopted an emergency regulation that adds golden mussel to its list of restricted animals or regulated invasive species. Adding golden mussel to the list of restricted animals will immediately prohibit the importation, transportation, and possession of live golden mussels; as well as allow water managers operating mussel prevention programs grounds to refuse watercraft from launching into waterways. Additionally, it will allow law enforcement to detain vessels or equipment until such time as they no longer pose a threat to the environment.	If golden mussels are detected in Metropolitan’s water supplies, Metropolitan will work with Fish and Game to adopt control measures or a plan to avoid infesting other regulated water bodies. Metropolitan submitted comments to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) after Fish and Game adopted the regulation, which is allowed for emergency regulations per Government Code Section 11349.6.	Awaiting final OAL approval.

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<p>Fish and Game Commission</p>	<p><u>Petition to list the White Sturgeon as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA)</u></p>	<p>On June 19, 2024, the California Fish and Game Commission approved white sturgeon as a candidate species under CESA. As such, any activity that causes a “take” of white sturgeon will require an incidental take permit from CDFW.</p>	<p>The listing may impact operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, as well as Sites Reservoir, the Delta Conveyance Project and the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes. The State Water Contractors and San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority sent comment letters in June and October 2024 emphasizing that the listing is not warranted as the white sturgeon population is stable, the petition does not use the best available science, and that incidental take from operation of the SWP and CVP has been historically low, especially relative to take from recreational fishing and the recent die off due to red tides in San Francisco Bay.</p>	<p>By June 9, 2025, CDFW must prepare and submit to the Fish and Game Commission a peer-reviewed status report on the species that is based on the best scientific information. CDFW may request a six-month extension.</p>
<p>Fish and Game Commission</p>	<p><u>Petition to list Western Burrowing Owl as Threatened or Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA)</u></p>	<p>On October 25, 2024, the Fish and Game Commission determined that the Western Burrowing Owl is a candidate for listing under CESA, primarily due to loss of habitat. As a candidate for listing, the species is afforded the same regulations and protections as if it were listed as threatened or endangered.</p>	<p>The Western Burrowing Owl exists in Metropolitan’s service area in Southern California. Presence of the species can affect timing of maintenance and construction projects with additional constraints, permitting, and mitigation requirements beyond what currently exist if it becomes listed.</p>	<p>Awaiting the Fish and Game Commission decision to list the Western Burrowing Owl as Threatened or Endangered.</p>

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SCAQMD	<u>Rule 1146 Series, Zero Emission Water Heaters, Boilers and Process Heaters</u>	SCAQMD is proposing a series of rules to require all industrial, institutional, and commercial natural gas-powered water heaters, boilers, and process heaters to be replaced or retrofitted with zero-emission technologies such as all-electric heat pumps, or electric resistance units. The rules pertain to equipment with a heat input capacity greater than 5 million British thermal units per hour (MBtu/hr) (Rule 1146), 2 to 5 MBtu/hr (Rule 1146.1), and less than 2 MBtu/hr (Rule 1146.2).	The Rule 1146 series of rules are designed to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions in accordance with SCAQMD’s 2022 Air Quality Management Plan. Of the three rules, 1146.2 was adopted and has a phased implementation plan between January 1, 2026, and January 1, 2033. To help offset transition costs, SCAQMD is developing a Zero-Emission Rebate Program that will assist residential and some commercial buildings to transition to zero NOx emission space and water heating, with a focus on overburdened communities.	Rule 1146 rulemaking started November 13, 2024. Rule 1146.1 rulemaking started November 13, 2024. Rule 1146.2 adopted on June 7, 2024.
SCAQMD	<u>Proposed Rule 1445, Control of Toxic Metal Particulate Emissions from Laser and Plasma Cutting</u>	The proposed regulation would control metal particulate emissions from both portable and stationary laser and plasma cutting operations. Toxic emissions would be reduced from point source emissions by establishing higher efficiency control device requirements, and fugitive emissions would be addressed by requirements for building enclosures, housekeeping and best management practices.	While this rule is limited in scope to laser and plasma cutting operations, it may set precedent for future toxics regulations (e.g., welding operations). Staff are working with Clean Water SoCal to ensure the proposed regulation reflects the existing exemption for portable plasma cutters performing maintenance and repair activities. Staff has also asked that additional control devices not be required for existing permitted equipment that have already been shown to meet health risk requirements, among other technical issues.	Final adoption on hold pending rule refinements per public comments.

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SWRCB	<u>California Ocean Plan Amendments for Seawater Desalination</u>	On October 29, 2024, the SWRCB held a scoping session to launch the regulatory process for the Ocean Plan. The SWRCB seeks to expand the use of an integrated water resource management and needs assessment, such as an Urban Water Management Plan, for determining the need for seawater desalination facilities; consider tribal interests, human right to water, racial equity, and environmental justice in permitting decisions; and enhance permitting efficiency. The Ocean Plan will also include guidance for slant well studies, mitigation, coastal hazards, and other topics.	On November 13, 2024, Metropolitan submitted comments on the potential amendments to Ocean Plan. Staff commented that local water agencies should determine the need for seawater desalination, rather than a needs assessment; a permitting pathway should be provided for new technologies such as offshore desalination; and desalination should be developed in concert with alternative supplies and at the discretion of locally elected officials and water agency managers.	Awaiting regulatory draft language.
SWRCB	<u>Conservation as a California Way of Life</u>	On October 22, 2024, OAL approved the SWRCB’s Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life regulation. In direct response to legislative mandates found in AB 1668 (Friedman, 2018) and SB 606 (Hertzberg, 2018), the regulation establishes standards for components of the urban water use objective for urban water retailers. These components include residential indoor and outdoor water use, commercial-industrial-institutional (CII) landscapes with dedicated irrigation meters, as well as for retail water loss, variances for unique water uses (e.g., seasonal populations, etc.), and a bonus incentive for potable reuse.	The regulatory framework affects retail water suppliers. Since 2021, Metropolitan has submitted seven comment letters addressing technical components of the regulation and compliance matters.	Urban retail water suppliers are required to submit their reporting form to SWRCB by January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter.

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SWRCB	<u>Manganese Notification and Response Levels</u>	On February 16, 2023, DDW proposed new notification and response levels (NL and RL) for manganese at 20 parts per billion (ppb) and 200 ppb, respectively.	The proposed NL and RL are significantly lower than the current NL and RL (0.5 parts per million (ppm) and 5.0 ppm, respectively). Thus, water agencies may need to report more instances of NL and RL exceedances in their Consumer Confidence Reports and/or make operational changes.	Awaiting further action by DDW.
SWRCB	<u>MCL for Perchlorate</u>	In 2017, DDW announced it would review the MCL established in 2007 for perchlorate at 6 parts per billion (ppb). On October 6, 2020, DDW lowered the detection limit for purposes of reporting (DLR) from 4 ppb to 2 ppb starting in January 2021, and further decreased the DLR to 1 ppb in January 2024. These actions were in response to OEHHA lowering the Public Health Goal (PHG) for perchlorate from 6 ppb to 1 ppb in February 2015.	DDW’s perchlorate MCL review and changes to the DLR could result in the MCL being lowered soon, as an MCL must be set as close to the PHG as is technologically and economically feasible. On August 6, 2020, Metropolitan submitted comments expressing concerns that a DLR of 1 ppb was premature and that DDW should hold off implementing the lower DLR until such time that adequate laboratory capacity is determined and perchlorate occurrence data at the 2 ppb DLR are collected and evaluated.	The DLR of 1 ppb went into effect January 1, 2024. Awaiting further action by DDW on revising the MCL.
SWRCB	<u>MCLs for PFOA and PFOS</u>	On April 5, 2024, OEHHA adopted PHGs of 0.007 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 1 ppt for PFOS. A PHG is the level of a drinking water contaminant that does not pose a significant risk to health with lifetime exposure. DDW will use the PHGs to develop drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS that are as close to the PHGs as possible but still technically and economically achievable for drinking water systems.	Once announced, staff will evaluate impacts and potential comments.	Awaiting official release of proposed regulation.

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SWRCB	<u>Notification Level for NDMA</u>	On December 4, 2024, OEHHA proposed lowering the PHG for N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) in drinking water from 3 parts per trillion (ppt) to 0.5 ppt. The current Notification Level (NL) for NDMA, established in 2002, is 10 ppt. DDW will now take this recommendation under advisement when potentially updating the NL for NDMA.	NDMA is a byproduct of chloramination and other industrial processes. For calendar year 2024, Metropolitan’s treated water effluents and systemwide distribution system have consistently been below the current NL of 10 ppt.	Comment period ends on January 20, 2025, and OEHHA intends to hold a public workshop on the same day.
SWRCB	<u>Notification Level for PFHxA</u>	On September 18, 2024, OEHHA recommended a Notification Level (NL) for PFHxA at 1 part per billion (ppb). NLs are nonregulatory, health-based advisory levels that DDW establishes for contaminants for which regulatory standards have not been set. DDW will now take this recommendation under advisement when potentially setting a NL for PFHxA.	While Metropolitan has sporadically detected PFHxA in source and treated water samples, they were at very low parts per trillion (ppt) levels, whereas the proposed NL is far higher at 1 ppb. Hence, this proposed NL should have minimal impact on Metropolitan.	Awaiting further action by DDW.
SWRCB	<u>Statewide General Permit for Drinking Water System Discharges</u>	Provides a categorical exception to water purveyors for short-term or seasonal planned and emergency (unplanned) discharges resulting from essential operations and maintenance activities undertaken to comply with the federal and state drinking water regulations.	Metropolitan uses this permit for its dewatering operations. Staff would like to expand coverage to include “on-spec” highly treated tertiary water (i.e., post advanced water treatment water prior to either spreading/injection or another drinking water facility). Early talks indicate SWRCB is amenable to this change.	Permit renewal in about 2 years.

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SWRCB	<u>Underground Storage Tank Regulations</u>	On November 22, 2024, SWRCB released draft language that significantly rewrites the underground storage tank (UST) regulations. The draft language deletes all reference to single-walled USTs as they must be permanently closed by December 31, 2025; proposes streamlined construction, monitoring, and testing requirements; utilizes performance goals over prescriptive methods where possible; and reorders the sections within the UST regulations.	The revised regulation affects all water agencies that store hazardous substances (e.g., gasoline or diesel) in USTs. Staff are currently reviewing the draft language for any potential impacts on Metropolitan’s UST program.	Comments are due by January 7, 2025, with an anticipated effective date of January 1, 2026.
SWRCB	<u>Water Quality Control Plan</u>	On October 25, 2024, SWRCB released a revised Draft Sacramento/Delta Updates to the Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay-Delta Plan). The draft updates include options for the program of implementation for incorporating a regulatory pathway, based on the proposed Plan amendments in the draft Staff Report, or a pathway based on the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program. Additionally, the draft updates include options for two modular alternatives (Alternatives 5a and 6a) that were described in the draft Staff Report. The SWRCB has not yet selected a pathway for updating the Bay-Delta Plan.	On January 19, 2024, Metropolitan provided comments individually and through the State Water Contractors on Phase 2 of the WQCP. The Draft Staff Report’s Proposed Action flow objective is predicted to result in an annual average reduction of 446,000 acre-feet for southern California municipal supplies. SWRCB has encouraged all stakeholders to work together to reach one or more Voluntary Agreements for consideration by the SWRCB that could implement the proposed amendments to the WQCP through a variety of tools, including non-flow habitat restoration for sensitive salmon and smelt species, while seeking to protect water supply reliability. Metropolitan is participating in the Phase 2 proceedings and Voluntary Agreement negotiations.	Comments on Alternatives 5a and 6a are due January 30, 2025. Staff is currently reviewing the draft updates and will provide comments by the specified due dates. The SWRCB has noticed a series of five public workshops beginning on November 20, 2024, and concluding on January 23, 2025.

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Legislation and Communications
Committee

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Item 6b

January 14, 2025

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Subject

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Purpose

To provide an update on relevant state legislative issues

Sacramento Legislative Calendar

Legislative Calendar

Jan 6: Legislature reconvenes

Jan 10: Budget bill must be submitted by Governor

Jan 24: Last day to submit bill requests to the
Office of Legislative Counsel

Feb 21: Last day for bills to be introduced

Governor's January Budget Proposal

Sacramento Legislative Highlights



Senate Committee Chairs

Sacramento Legislative Highlights



Natural
Resources
and Water

Sen Monique
Limon, SD 21



Environmental
Quality

Sen Catherine
Blakespear, SD 38



Budget Sub on
Resources and
Water

Sen Ben Allen,
SD 24



Utilities and
Energy

Sen Josh
Becker, SD 13

Sacramento
Legislative
Highlights

Assembly Committee Chairs



Water Parks
and Wildlife

Asm Diane
Papan, AD 21



Environmental
Safety and
Toxic Materials

Asm Damon
Connolly, AD 12



Budget Sub on
Resources and
Water

Asm Steve
Bennett, AD 38



Utilities and
Energy

Asm Cottie
Petrie-Norris,
AD 73

Sacramento
Legislative
Highlights

Metropolitan Sponsored Bills

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act Extension

Increasing Threshold for Public Bidding on
Construction Contracts

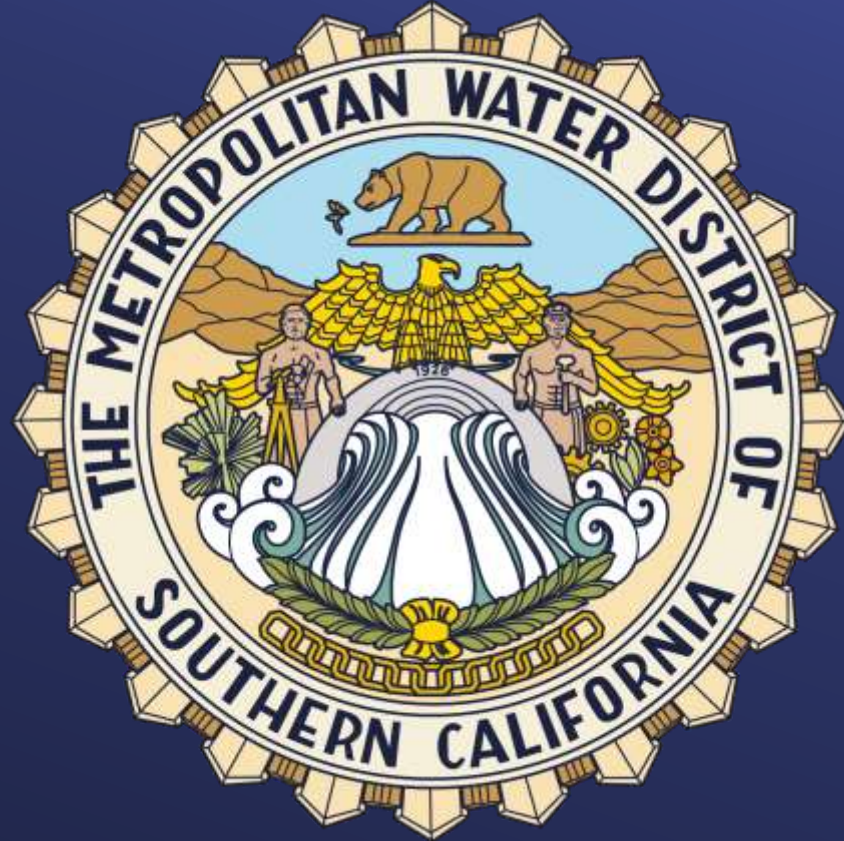
Sacramento
Legislative
Highlights

Member Agency Legislative Proposals

Three Valleys MWD: Teleconferencing Brown Act Extension

Las Virgenes MWD: Water Theft

Eastern MWD: Alternate Board Member





External Affairs

- External Affairs Monthly Activities Report for December 2024

Summary

This report provides a summary of External Affairs’ group activities for December 2024.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Highlights



From left: Chair Ortega and Metropolitan directors with USBR Commissioner Touton at the CRWUA Conference; Governor Newsom and DWR Director Nemeth met with Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Goldberg and Interim GM Upadhyay to discuss state and regional water issues, Two of the winning student artists with Admiral Splash.

Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Camacho, Directors Alvarez, Cordero, DeJesus, Kurtz, Miller, and McCoy, and executive staff attended the Colorado River Water Users Association Conference. Highlights of the event included panel discussions by representatives of the Upper and Lower Basin states and a reception hosted by Metropolitan, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and the Central Arizona Project honoring retiring Colorado River Board of California Executive Director Harris and outgoing USBR Commissioner Touton. (December 3–6)

Vice Chair Camacho and Director Bryant, Interim Executive Officer Bednarski, Chief SRI Officer Crosson and Bay-Delta Group Manager Hawk and other Metropolitan staff attended the Association of California Water Agencies fall conference. (December 3-5)

Governor Newsom and DWR Director Nemeth met with Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Goldberg, and Interim GM Upadhyay to discuss a range of issues including those related to the Delta Conveyance Project, Colorado River, and climate change impacts to water supplies. (December 6)

Metropolitan hosted the Student Art Calendar event celebrating the work of 37 students that is featured in the 2025 calendar. Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Camacho, Directors Alvarez, Dennstedt, and Faessel attended the event along with AGM Zinke. (December 12)

GM Monthly Report December 2024

Local

This month, staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 31 webinars, meetings, and events with community organizations on Metropolitan activities and issues. Metropolitan also sponsored and Director Dick attended the regional holiday reception hosted by the League of California Cities Orange County Division. (December 11)

Media and Communications

Press Releases:

- Metropolitan Board approves \$142 million in additional funding for remaining planning of Delta Conveyance Project
- Metropolitan Board of Directors censures a board colleague for racist remark

Coordinated an interview between National Public Radio/KUNC reporter Alex Hager and Interim GM Upadhyay regarding federal Inflation Reduction Act funding.

Oversaw the response to the Public Records Act request and questions from LA Times reporter Ian James regarding a letter from Chief of Staff Mortada to Metropolitan board and equal employment opportunity investigations.

Arranged an interview between CBS13 Sacramento reporter Madisen Keavy and Chair Ortega regarding the board vote on funding for Delta Conveyance Project planning costs.

Coordinated an interview between LAT's Ian James and Director Kassakhian regarding a board action censuring Director Morris.

Set up an interview between CalMatters reporter Alastair Bland and Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager Hawk regarding the Voluntary Agreements/Healthy Rivers and Landscapes program.

Facilitated an interview between KPCC reporter Jacob Margolis and Interim WRM Manager Goshi regarding initial State Water Project allocation.

Arranged an interview between freelance reporter Daniel Rothberg and Interim Executive Officer Bednarski about wastewater recycling and Pure Water Southern California for the nonprofit online magazine, Reasons to Be Cheerful.

Supervised a photoshoot of the Pure Water Southern California facility by New York Times for a story on the future of water in the region.

Coordinated responses to SoCal Water Wars reporter John Earl regarding the investigation of GM Hagekhalil.

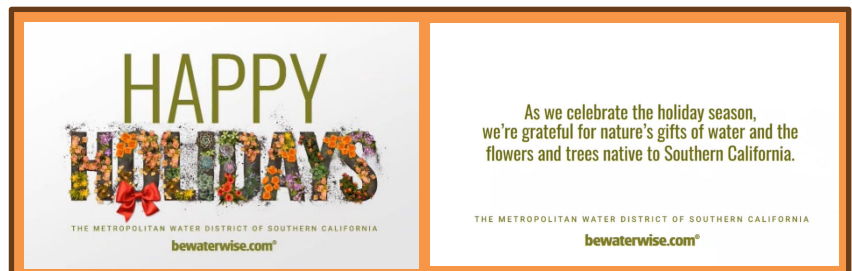
Designed and animated the district's 2024 holiday card.

Social Media

Completed the first phase of the Goodbye, Grass conservation advertising campaign series, which has received more than 7.3 million impressions with nearly 75,000 clicks to bewaterwise.com.

Coordinated with the State Water Resources Control Board on assets to recognize the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Safe Drinking Water Act including debuting a new video highlighting the Water Quality Laboratory on social media platforms.

Highlighted photos from district community outreach events to thank the community for their engagement and honored Native American Heritage Day with a quote from Interim GM Upadhyay.





Continued to receive good engagement for the weekly Water Champions employee social media series that has featured 18 employees since Labor Day, including Senior Environmental Specialist Alex Marks, Administrative Assistants Daisy Piedra and Stacie Notick, and Associate Resource Specialist Larry Lai in December.

Featured employee activities and outreach events on social platforms, including the Education Program’s annual student water art celebration, the CRWUA conference, Pure Water Southern California tours, and photos from district-sponsored inspection trips.

Website

Completed the upgrade of mwdh2o.com content management system.

Posted Spanish landing page on bewaterwise.com for the Goodbye,

Grass advertising campaign.

Generated nearly 26,000 visits to mwdh2o.com with careers, job listings, and board pages being the most popular.

Registered 24,722 views on bewaterwise.com, with the Goodbye Grass campaign landing page. Turf Replacement Program rebate page and California native plants page were the most visited this month.

Community Outreach

Directed outreach to residents affected by the upcoming Rialto pipeline rehabilitation project in Upland.

Events

Hosted a bilingual tour of Weymouth and the Water Quality Lab for Council for Watershed Health and several other community-based organizations. (December 3)

The Community Partnering Program provided grant funding to the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden’s Native Plant Festival. (December 4)

Provided a tour of Weymouth for the city of San Diego’s Alvarado Plant staff members. (December 6)

Chair Ortega hosted a CRA Inspection Trip with representatives from the NAACP. (December 6–7)

Tour of SWP East Branch Facilities for IEUA (December 10); Tour of Lake Matthews and Mills Water Treatment Plant for Riverside County Task Force—requested by Western Municipal Water District (December 13).



Participants from NAACP and MWD staff at Hoover Dam, part of a three-day Colorado River Inspection Trip

Member Agency Managers meeting (December 13); Member Agency Business Model Workshop (December 13)

Hosted webinar with Nature Based Solution Blue Ribbon Panel Workshop (December 17)

Meeting with city of Lakewood on Pure Water alignment (December 10); meeting with LA County Sanitation District’s sewer line relocation as part of Pure Water Southern California-Reach 2; Pure Water tour with Metropolitan legal office staff members (December 12), and Presentation to Central Basin MWD (December 16)

GM Monthly Report December 2024

Education

Interacted with over 470 teachers, students, and adults through in-person and online field trips and community events with USC, Pierce College, and the workforce advisory councils.

The Discover DVL field trip game app continues to be the most played on field trips amongst other similar augmented reality games participating in the SoCal Explorer Campaign. (December 1)



Students on a field trip use the Discover DVL online mission activity to learn about the facility, Metropolitan and the region's water issues.



Legislation and Communications Committee

External Affairs Activities

Item 7a

January 14, 2025

Report on
Activities
from
External
Affairs

Subject

Report on Activities from External Affairs

Purpose

To provide management announcements and highlights for External Affairs

Conservation Advertising Quarterly Report



- Budgeted for FY 2024/25: Up to \$3.5 million
 - Expenditures to date: \$925,000
 - Plan spring campaign: \$800,000-\$850,000
- Spend strategies will continue to reflect Board direction to carefully manage expenditures

Employee Engagement



Water Champions
Etiwanda Pipeline Project



Water Champions
Pure Water Southern California



Water Champions
State Water Project
Water Supply



Water Champions
Business Support for
Construction Services Unit



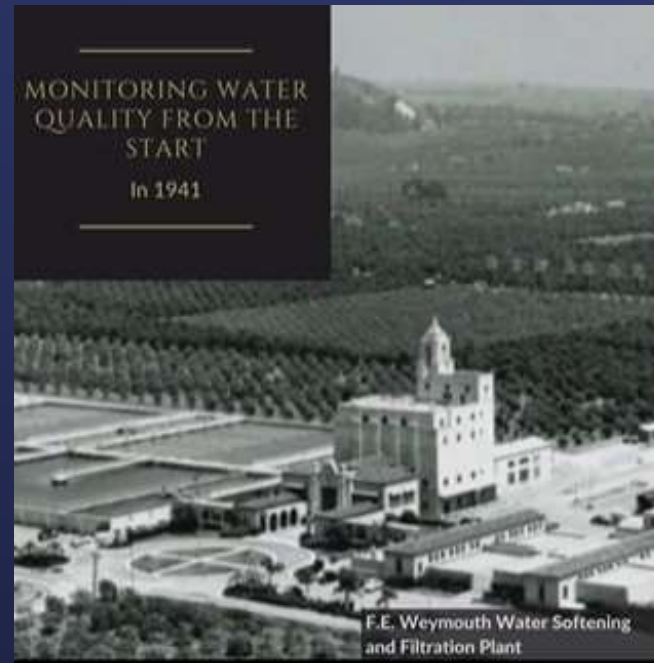
Water Champions
Perris Valley Pipeline



Water Champions
Second Lower Feeder
Pipeline Rehabilitation



Safe Drinking Water 50th Anniversary



Diversity Outreach



- Spanish language landing page for 'Goodbye Grass' turf and tree rebate programs
- Bilingual tour of Weymouth and Water Quality Lab for Council for Watershed Health and other CBOs
- Hosted CRA Inspection Trip with reps from NAACP

Community Engagement



- CORO Fellow Alyssa Fundal
- Project will develop approaches to increase young adult engagement with issues related to water supply, conservation and sustainability

