

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

J. Lewitt, Chair
A. Fellow, VC
Communication
A. Kassakhian, VC
Legislation
L. Ackerman
M. Camacho
B. Dennstedt
G. Gray, Emeritus
F. Jung
M. Katz
M. Luna
M. Ramos
G. Shepherd Romey

Legislation and Communications Committee

Meeting with Board of Directors *

July 7, 2025

11:00 a.m.

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

The listen-only phone line is available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 873 4767 0235.

Members of the public may present their comments to the Board on matters within their jurisdiction as listed on the agenda teleconference and in-person. To provide public comment by teleconference dial 1-833-548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 876 9484 9772 or to join by computer [click here](#).

Monday, July 7, 2025 Meeting Schedule

09:00 a.m. EOT
11:00 a.m. LEG
12:45 p.m. Break
01:00 p.m. CWC
02:30 p.m. OWA

MWD Headquarters Building • 700 N. Alameda Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

* 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 Legislation and Communications Committee for May 12, 2025 [21-4778](#)

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. Update on Conservation Outreach [21-4808](#)
- b. Update on Local Government and Regional Affairs Outreach [21-4811](#)
- c. Report on Activities from Washington, D.C. [21-4807](#)

Attachments: [07072025 LEG 6C Federal Legislative Matrix Final.pdf](#)

- d. Legislative Update on Delta Conveyance Project [21-4809](#)
- e. Update on Golden Mussel Regulations [21-4810](#)
- f. Report on Activities from Sacramento [21-4806](#)

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. External Affairs activities [21-4779](#)

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.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, First Session
July 7, 2025

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Conservation	H.R. 1871 Huffman (D-CA) Moore (R-UT) S. 857 Curtis (R-UT) Padilla (D-CA)	3/05/25: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. 3/05/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for conservation subsidies to include water conservation or efficiency measures and stormwater management measures.	SUPPORT Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	This bill makes rebates that homeowners receive for water conservation improvements to their home, including smart irrigation systems and turf removal, exempt from federal taxes. If enacted, Metropolitan and its member agencies would no longer need to provide tax forms at the end of the year to customers that have received \$600 or more in water conservation rebates.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, First Session
July 7, 2025

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Endangered Species Act Oversight	H.R. 831 Calvert (R-CA) Lee (D-NV) Titus (D-NV) Horsford (D-NV) Stanton (D-AZ) Ciscomoni (R-AZ) S. 291 Padilla (D-CA) Schiff (D-CA) Cortez Masto (D-NV) Rosen (D-NV) Kelly (D-AZ) Gallego (D-AZ)	1/31/25: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. 1/29/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2025 Establishes an interest-bearing account for the non-federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP).	SUPPORT Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	The LCR MSCP program addresses the needs of threatened and endangered species and provides reliability for water deliveries and hydropower production. The bill will allow the Bureau of Reclamation to hold the non-federal funds for the LCR MSCP in an interest-bearing account. The interest collected will be reinvested in LCR MSCP projects, contributing to the continued success of this program and helping offset the impact of inflation. This bill would benefit Metropolitan because we are a member of California’s LCR MSCP participant group.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Endangered Species Act Oversight	H.R. 1894 Calvert (R-CA) Costa (D-CA) McClintock (R-CA) Issa (R-CA)	3/06/25: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.	Federally Integrated Species Health Act or the “FISH Act” Transfers the authority to oversee Endangered Species Act (ESA) related responsibilities for anadromous fish from the Secretary of Commerce to the Secretary of the Interior.	SUPPORT Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	This bill would consolidate the management and regulation of anadromous fish under the ESA at the Fish and Wildlife Service. Currently, ESA authority is split between FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). California’s water delivery system and its fisheries would benefit from having a single federal agency responsible for anadromous species management.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 3158 Lee (D-NV) Amodei (R-NV) Stanton (D-AZ) Ciscomani (R-AZ) Horsford (D-NV) Titus (D-NV) Ansari (D-AZ) Calvert (R-CA) Cisneros (D-CA) Schweikert5 (R-AZ) S. 1570 Cortez Masto (D-NV) Kelly (D-AZ) Gallego (D-AZ) Rosen (D-AZ) Padilla (D-CA) Schiff (D-CA)	5/01/25: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. 5/01/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Help Hoover Dam Act Amends the Boulder Canyon Project Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expend money in the Colorado River Dam fund.	SUPPORT Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	This legislation gives the Bureau of Reclamation authority to utilize stranded funds paid by the Hoover Dam power contractors for operations, maintenance, repair, and clean up actions at Hoover Dam. The bill would benefit Metropolitan and its member agencies by providing a new source of funding for needed work on Hoover Dam.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	S. 350 Padilla (D-CA) Daines (R-MT)	1/30/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Wildfire Emergency Act of 2025 To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and for other purposes.	SUPPORT Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	This bill has water supply, water quality, and ecosystem benefits for the Colorado River watershed and State Water Project watershed. Proper forest management and wildfire prevention promotes runoff, helps protect water quality, and improves habitat.
Source Water Protection	H.R. 1267 Perez (D-WA) Maloy (R-UT)	2/12/25: Referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure.	Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act Provides exemptions to drinking water and wastewater facilities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) for PFAS chemicals designated as hazardous substances.	SUPPORT Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	The bill follows the “polluters pay” principle for cleanup of PFAS under CERCLA by shielding drinking water and wastewater systems from cleanup liability when they properly dispose of water treatment byproducts containing PFAS.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 1459 Crow (D-CO) S. 670 Bennet (D-CO) Wyden (D-OR) Hickenlooper (D-CO) Gallego (D-AZ) Rosen (D-NV)	2/20/25: Referred to the House Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources. 2/20/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.	Protect the West Act of 2025 Establishes a \$60 billion fund at the Treasury Department for use by the Secretary of Agriculture for restoration and resilience projects, wildfire risk reduction projects and habitat restoration projects.	SUPPORT Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	This bill would benefit Metropolitan and its member agencies by funding projects to improve watershed health. It creates a grant program for restoration and resilience projects to improve forest conditions, rangeland health, watershed functions, or wildlife habitat. Additional grants would provide funding for partnership projects to reduce wildfire risk, restore habitat, and expand access to the outdoors. State agencies, local and tribal governments, and special districts may use these funds along with partner organizations.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 2093 Calvert (R-CA) Garamendi (D-CA) Rouzer (R-NC)	3/14/25: Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.	Federal Water Pollution Control Permitting Terms Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) with respect to permitting terms.	SUPPORT Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	This legislation would extend the maximum term for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits issued under the Clean Water Act from 5 to 10 years for public agencies that have demonstrated compliance with existing permit conditions. This change is designed to better reflect the construction schedules for public agencies.
Water Project Authorizations	H.R. 338 Costa (D-CA) Valadao (R-CA)	1/13/25: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.	Every Drop Counts Act Amends the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to raise the cap for eligible groundwater storage projects from 30,000 AF per year to 150,000 AF per year.	SUPPORT Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	Increasing the size of groundwater storage projects eligible to apply for this funding could benefit Metropolitan and our member agencies. The proposed cap of 150,000 AF per year is more than twice the annual storage capacity of the AVEK High Desert Water Bank. The revised program would create a new funding opportunity for larger scale groundwater storage projects in the Central Valley.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water Project Authorizations	H.R. 1311 Harder (D-CA)	2/13/25: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure.	Stop the Tunnels Act Prohibits the Corps of Engineers from issuing a permit for the Delta Conveyance Project.	OPPOSE Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	This bill prevents the Army Corps from issuing a Clean Water Act section 404 permit for the Delta Conveyance Project. Metropolitan has invested in the planning and permitting process for this project and if enacted, this bill would stop the permitting process from moving forward.