

Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and  
Communications Committee



# Authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act

Item # 7-15  
November 14, 2023

**Item 7-15**  
Authorize the  
General  
Manager to  
sponsor  
legislation to  
amend  
SMARA

## Subject

Possible bill to amend SMARA to eliminate the sunset date to allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan

## Purpose

Sponsor legislation

## Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation

## Budgeted

# Background

Metropolitan uses earth, stone, sand, gravel, and other materials for critical water conveyance operations and maintenance activities along the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA)



Borrow pit along the CRA

## Background

In 2017, County of San Bernardino notified Metropolitan that it was subject to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA)

- Shortly thereafter, County of Riverside followed San Bernardino's lead
- Metropolitan agreed to comply with SMARA for its sites along the CRA
- Metropolitan sponsored legislation to operate under a master reclamation plan for SMARA compliance

Previous  
Metropolitan  
Sponsored  
Legislation

# AB 442 (Mayes) – Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975: exemption: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: master reclamation plan

- Exempted Metropolitan from SMARA for emergency excavations or grading
- Until January 1, 2026
  - Authorized Metropolitan to prepare a single master reclamation plan
  - State Mining and Geology Board to serve as lead agency for SMARA
  - Metropolitan reimburses the Board for all reasonable costs

## Proposed Action

Authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date to allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan

# Board Options

## Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date to allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan

## Option #2

Do not authorize.

# Staff Recommendation

## Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date to allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan



