

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
May 4, 2026

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>AB 35 D. Alvarez (D – San Diego)</p> <p>Sponsor: San Diego County</p>	<p>Amended in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on 1/14/2026.</p>	<p>Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.</p> <p>This bill exempts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4) from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which establishes rulemaking procedures and standards for state agencies in California, to expedite funding allocations.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>AB 35 would streamline the funding process for Proposition 4 projects and allow Metropolitan, its member agencies, and partner agencies to access funds more quickly and accelerate project timelines. Proposition 4 funding includes multiple critical areas for Metropolitan, including funding for groundwater management, water recycling, Delta levees, and repairs to regional conveyance.</p>
<p>AB 259 B. Rubio (D – Baldwin Park)</p> <p>Sponsors: California Special Districts Association, Three Valleys Municipal Water District</p>	<p>Amended in the 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 2026 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>

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<p>AB 794 J. Gabriel (D – Encino)</p> <p>Sponsors: Clean Water Action, Environmental Working Group</p>	<p>Amended in the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 4/10/2025.</p> <p>Two-Year Bill Dead</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 2026 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>
<p>AB 2215 L. Calderon (D – Whittier)</p> <p>Sponsor: State Water Contractors</p>	<p>Amended in the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on 3/19/2026.</p>	<p>Water rights: permits: State Water Project.</p> <p>This bill would extend the timeline for the full development of the State Water Project water right permits to December 31, 2046, the same term as existing, validated contracts for the State Water Project water supply.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>AB 2215 would grant a necessary time extension to more fully modernize the State Water Project infrastructure in response to climate change. This bill is consistent with the Governor’s Executive Order N-16-15 (CA EO), January 31, 2025, which ordered the minimization of administrative obstacles to maximize water supplies. This legislative proposal implements this order without weakening environmental protections and while protecting existing due process protections.</p>

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<p>AB 2739 E. Soria (D – Merced)</p> <p>Sponsors: Irvine Ranch Water District, Rancho California Water District</p>	<p>Amended in the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on 4/6/2026.</p>	<p>Water: affordability and system stabilization.</p> <p>This bill would require the Department of Water Resources (DWR), upon appropriation, to develop the Community Water Affordability Program and would establish the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund within the State Treasury. The program would provide funding in the form of grants to local water suppliers for water system repairs, rehabilitation and enhancements, water safety and quality, and other local water system infrastructure projects, for the purpose of reducing the amount of local ratepayer funding required for those projects.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>AB 2739 aims to establish a durable statewide funding framework to address water affordability by targeting key cost drivers and by creating a sustainable funding source for a Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program and a system stabilization fund.</p> <p>This bill would support ratepayer affordability for our member agency retailers and also includes a fund that supports local infrastructure projects, which could be used to support upgrades to Metropolitan’s water supply system and reductions in energy costs.</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 the 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 the statute and includes several provisions that expand regulatory requirements without the benefit of scientific analysis.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>Currently, AB 601 poses risks to Metropolitan and its member agencies by: 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>

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<p>SB 872 J. McNerney (D – Pleasanton)</p>	<p>Amended in Senate Environmental Quality Committee 3/26/2026.</p>	<p>Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.</p> <p>This bill would require, over the next 20 years, that \$150M is to be appropriated annually to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to support capital improvements to restore water conveyance capacity for state water conveyance systems affected by subsidence. Additionally, this bill would require that \$150M be appropriated to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy for levee improvements that would improve the sustainability of local or state water supplies, and projects that improve instream, riparian, flood plain, and wetland habitat.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>The proposed annual appropriation of \$150M over 20 years to fund capital costs of subsidence repairs could reduce State Water Project charges to contractors. The total cost of SWP subsidence repairs is estimated at \$3 billion, meaning this proposal could result in savings of up to \$1.5B for Metropolitan ratepayers. Subsidence in the Central Valley has been caused by decades of overpumping of groundwater and was not caused by Metropolitan or the State Water Contractors. However, in the absence of state and federal funding, the costs for these critical repairs will be shifted to our agencies.</p> <p>The proposed allocations for improvements to levees within the Delta and other actions to improve the sustainability of local or state water supplies and projects that improve instream, riparian, floodplain, and wetland habitat would directly benefit Metropolitan by providing additional funding streams for levee improvements and indirectly through improvements within the Delta region.</p>
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SB 935 S. Choi (R – Irvine)	Assembly Desk.	<p>Local agency design-build projects: authorization.</p> <p>This bill would repeal the sunset date of January 1, 2031, authorizing local agencies to use the design-build procurement process for public works construction projects more than \$1,000,000 indefinitely.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>Repealing the sunset date for alternative project delivery processes is aligned with Metropolitan’s policy to streamline procurement of public works construction contracts.</p>
SB 952 J. Laird (D – Santa Cruz) Sponsor: State Water Contractors	Amended in Senate Rules Committee on 3/17/2026.	<p>State Water Project: renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources.</p> <p>Existing law mandates that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) achieve a power portfolio that consists of 100% of renewable and zero-carbon energy by 2035.</p> <p>This bill would require DWR to also consider portfolio diversity, resource type, location, and hours of typical peak operation when procuring eligible resources to satisfy state agency obligations imposed on the State Water Project; and allow DWR to shift energy credits from one year to the next if DWR procures more energy than necessary in a given year.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>SB 952 is an important affordability measure for the 27 million customers within the SWP service area, as it would clarify generation attributes DWR may consider for procurement and create certainty for DWR by allowing excess energy procured in low water years be applied to years when SWP energy needs are high.</p> <p>Metropolitan pays a significant portion of the State Water Project’s energy cost. This proposal provides a continued commitment to environmental sustainability while adding flexibility that maintains affordability.</p>

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SB 1125 C. Menjivar (D – San Fernando Valley)	Amended in Senate Environmental Quality Committee on 3/23/2026.	<p>Water Rate Assistance Program.</p> <p>This bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Program and Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to help provide water affordability assistance for drinking water to low-income residential ratepayers. This bill would authorize the State Board to provide for the deposit of the following moneys into the Fund: federal or state funding; voluntary contributions, including gifts, grants, or bequests; and returned funds.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>SB 1125 proposes a viable, reasonable path forward for Low-Income Rate Assistance that protects existing programs and limits the administrative burden on water suppliers.</p> <p>This bill is intended to be a companion measure to AB 2739 and would guide the State Board’s implementation of a low-income water rate assistance program. Water rate assistance would provide needed relief at the local retail level, leading to improved revenue stability for local water systems.</p>