



Legislation, Regulatory Affairs and Communication
Committee

Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024

Item 7-11

January 8, 2024

Item 7-11
Adopt
Legislative
Priorities &
Principles for
2024

Subject

Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles
for 2024

Purpose

Annual review of updates

Next Steps

Board adoption - January 2024

Purpose & Process

- Annual update
- Provide Board guidance & direction on current, timely issues
- Seek & incorporate and/or respond to updated internal and external input
- Identify seven Metropolitan & regional priorities
- Identify one Metropolitan-sponsored legislative initiative
- After Board adoption, posted publicly on Metropolitan website

Current Actions & Next Steps

- Present to Member Agency Legislative Coordinators (Nov 1)
- Board Information Item Posted (Nov 1)
- Present to Member Agency General Managers (Nov 3)
- Information Item to Board (Nov 14)
- Seek, receive & respond to input (Nov – Dec 2023)
- Action Item to Board for adoption (Jan 2024)

Summary of High-Level Changes since November 2023

Top Legislative Priorities Proposed Changes

- Priority 1. Specify support for **planning** of Delta conveyance, Sites Reservoir, etc.
- Priority 4. Add **water storage**, update with focus on supply **reliability**
- Priority 5. Simplify bullet and confirm CERCLA protections and ongoing advocacy included in Section I.A.2
- Priority 7. Update for consistency with principle I.B.2

Summary of High-Level Changes since November 2023

Proposed Changes to Legislative Principles

- I.A.2 - Specify PFAS, delete ambiguous language for clarity
- II.A.3 – Add water affordability as a consideration
- II.D. 5 - Add **surface storage**
- III.B. Colorado River Resources section
 - Eliminate duplication
 - Add **water conservation** as criterion
 - Provide for “regional water supply needs”
 - Recognize the evolving Law of the River

Top Legislative Priorities - Updates since November 2023

1. Imported water supply resiliency & reliability
 - specifies “**planning for**” Delta, Sites, etc.
2. Demand management and water use efficiency
3. Pure Water Southern California & long-term supply reliability improvements
4. Support funding for regional conveyance **and water storage**; and ensure **supply reliability** is equitable

Top Legislative Priorities - Updates since November 2023

5. Protection of drinking water quality & access to safe and reliable water for all Californians; polluter pays principle

*confirmed CERCLA protections & advocacy

6. Ecosystem restorations accounting for evolving climate and risk analyses

7. Improve water affordability, especially for disadvantaged communities, without burdening existing ratepayers/customers

MWD-
sponsored
Initiative
(authorized
November
2023)

- Support administrative/legislative actions 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.

Strategic Policy Areas

- I. Drinking Water
- II. Regional Water Resource Management
- III. Imported Water Supply
- IV. Sustainability, Resiliency & Innovation
- V. Infrastructure
- VI. System Resiliency

I. Drinking Water

A. Water Quality & Treatment

I.A.2 - specify PFAS

I.A.5 – update to support implementation of SB 230 (Portantino): State Water Resources Control Board: Constituents of Emerging Concern in Drinking Water Program

B. Water Governance, Affordability & Funding

I.B.5 - added to protect local agency flexibility in determining fees for service and assessments

II. Regional Water Resource Management

A. Conservation

- II.A.3 - add water affordability as a consideration

B. Desalination and Groundwater Remediation

C. Recycled Water

D. Local Supply Development

- II.D.5 – add surface storage

E. Watershed Management

III. Imported Water Supply

A. Bay-Delta Initiatives

B. Colorado River Resources

- Reduce redundancies
- Add water conservation as criterion
- Provide for “regional water supply needs”
- Acknowledge the evolving Law of the River

C. State Water Project

IV. Sustainability, Resiliency, & Innovation

A. Carbon Neutrality

B. Water/Energy Nexus

C. Renewable Energy

D. Environmental Stewardship

E. Workforce Development

F. Innovation

V. Infrastructure

- A. Funding and financing tools
- B. Equitable cost-sharing
- C. Expansion of funding; expedite approvals/reporting
- D. Funding for public share of costs
- E. Expanded water infrastructure principle to support infrastructure that complements existing water supplies to ensure reliability for all MAs (*former SWP focus*)

VI. System Resiliency

- A. Climate Resiliency
- B. Emergency Preparedness
- C. Physical and Cyber Security
- D. Chemical Security

Board Options

Option #1

Adopt the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024

Option #2

Take no action

Staff Recommendation

Option #1 Adopt the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024

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Adopt Legislative Priorities & Principles for 2024

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