

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
T. Smith

Special Legislation and Communications Committee

Meeting with Board of Directors *

November 19, 2024

12:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 19, 2024
Meeting Schedule**

**08:30 a.m. EOP
10:00 a.m. FAM
12:00 p.m. LEG
01:30 p.m. Break
02:00 p.m. BOD**

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: 862 4397 5848.

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

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

Teleconference Locations:

525 Via La Selva • Redondo Beach, CA 90277

City Hall • 303 W. Commonwealth Avenue • Fullerton, CA 92832

2680 W Segerstrom Avenue Unit I • Santa Ana, CA 92704

3008 W. 82nd Place • Inglewood, CA 90305

Cedars Sinai • 8700 Beverly Boulevard Room M313 • Los Angeles, CA 90048

Conference Room 2nd Floor • 1545 Victory Blvd 2nd FL • Glendale CA 91505

* 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 October 7, 2024 (copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions) [21-3949](#)

Attachments: [11192024 LEG 2A \(10072024\) Minutes](#)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

- 7-6 Authorize the General Manager to seek legislation for Metropolitan to increase the local agency dollar threshold for public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$75,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-3964](#)

Attachments: [11192024 LC 7-6 B-L](#)
[11192024 LEG 7-6 Presentation](#)

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

NONE

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

- 9-3 Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025 [21-3965](#)

Attachments: [11192024 LEG 9-3 B-L](#)
[11192024 LEG 9-3 Presentation](#)

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Report on Inspection Trip Program [21-4004](#)

Attachments: [11192024 LEG 6a Presentation](#)

- b. Report on Solar Cup Program [21-3969](#)

Attachments: [11192024 LEG 6b Presentation](#)

- c. Report on Activities from Washington, D.C. [21-4015](#)

Attachments: [11192024 LEG 6c Federal Legislative Matrix](#)

- d. Report on Activities from Sacramento [21-4016](#)

Attachments: [11192024 LEG 6d State Legislative Matrix](#)

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. External Affairs activities [21-3950](#)

Attachments: [11192024 LEG 7a External Affairs Activities](#)

[11192024 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

October 7, 2024

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 11:46 a.m.

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

Members absent: Directors Kassakhian and Phan.

Other Board Members present: Directors Camacho, Cordero, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McCoy, Miller, Ortega, and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Dela Cruz, Stites, Sims, Upadhyay, Wheeler, and Zinke

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 Legislation and Communications Committee held September 9, 2024.

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

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Gray, Jung, Lewitt, Luna, McMillan, Morris, Pressman and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Kassakhian, Phan, and Ramos.

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

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. Subject: Outreach for Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water.

Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer, Section Manager - Sustainability and Resilience

Ms. Schaffer provided an update on outreach and engagement activities for the Climate Adaptation Master Plan, including an update on recent activities and future plans.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

1.) Ortega

b. Subject: Quarterly State and Federal Regulatory Matrices.

Presented by: Christopher Gabelich, Principal Environmental Specialist

Mr. Gabelich provided an update on federal and state regulatory developments, including rule updates and new additions.

Director Ramos entered the meeting.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

None

c. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on the congressional legislative schedule which is in recess until November 12, a legislative update on fiscal year 2025 appropriations, WRDA and NDAA, and two Metropolitan supported bills: Help Hoover Dam Act; S.4016 and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024; and S.5012.

d. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Rosie Thompson, Principal Legislative Representative

Ms. Thompson provided an update on the legislative calendar, the Governor's action on Metropolitan's legislative priorities, other bills of interest, activity over the interim session, and statewide association planning meetings.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1) Dennstedt
- 2) Ortega

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: External Affairs Activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on the turf replacement program and rebates in a series of advertisements and noted that the fall media buy will total less than half of typical advertising spend this time of year. She also highlighted Water Professionals Week social media posts and the upcoming annual planning meeting with member agency legislative coordinators.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:41p.m.

Chair Jung



- **Board of Directors**
Legislation and Communications Committee

11/19/2024 Board Meeting

7-6

Subject

Authorize the General Manager to seek legislation for Metropolitan to increase the local agency dollar threshold for public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$75,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

Under the Public Contract Code as amended in 1984, Metropolitan is required to competitively bid all public works construction contracts exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). Over the past 40 years, the \$25,000 threshold has proved to be increasingly limiting when there is a need to execute minor public works construction contracts for maintenance and repairs. As the infrastructure has aged, the number of these minor projects has been increasing annually for Metropolitan.

Board approval is requested to authorize the General Manager to seek legislation that would increase the minimum threshold for competitive sealed bidding on public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$75,000 in Article 121 of the Public Contract Code (Chapter 1128, Statutes of 1984). Increasing the minimum bidding threshold would allow Metropolitan to address the inflationary impacts over the last 40 years for minor public works construction contracts. If successful, an increased threshold would allow for more time- and cost-effective public works contracting for small contracts under \$75,000, with an estimated savings of up to \$50,000 in staff time and other expenditures currently required to prepare and solicit bids per construction contract. These cost savings would be realized by avoidance of staff and consultant time needed for preparation of minor public works solicitations, as well as administrative fees associated with electronic bidding.

Proposed Action(s)/Recommendation(s) and Options

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation for Metropolitan to increase the minimum threshold for competitive bidding on public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$75,000.

Fiscal Impact: The costs associated with sponsoring this bill in the state legislature will be absorbed within existing staffing and program budgets. However, if the proposed legislation is enacted into law, project delivery on minor public works construction contracts will lead to cost savings of up to \$50,000 per contract due to reductions in staff and consultant time needed for preparation of public works solicitations (i.e., contract specifications), inclusive of administrative fees associated with posting and awarding of electronic bids.

Business Analysis: If successful, legislation authorizing the bidding threshold increase would address inflationary impacts not otherwise accounted for in the 1984 statute and would increase staff efficiencies associated with delivery of minor public works construction contracts.

Option #2

Do not authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation for Metropolitan to increase the minimum threshold for competitive bidding on public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$75,000.

Fiscal Impact: By not authorizing the General Manager to sponsor this legislation, Metropolitan would forego an estimated savings of up to \$50,000 per minor public works construction contract.

Business Analysis: Absent legislation, Metropolitan would continue to comply with the existing 1984 requirements to prepare contract specifications and competitively bid all minor public works construction contracts exceeding \$25,000.

Alternatives Considered

The California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCA) provides for alternative bidding procedures when an agency adopts alternative cost accounting procedures as defined by the state. Metropolitan has investigated use of CUPCCA and has deemed the use of it as administratively burdensome due to increased accounting requirements, complexity in implementation, and appearances of preferential treatment for certain prime contractors.

Staff also considered higher dollar amounts for an amended threshold but recommends the \$75,000 threshold because it is consistent with the results of an inflationary analysis and Metropolitan's administrative threshold for goods and services (Administrative Code 8140).

Applicable Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8140. Competitive Procurement

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8141: Competitive Sealed Bidding

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

1984 action, if any.

If the Public Contract Code is amended to increase the bidding threshold, a board action would be required to amend Metropolitan's administrative code to conform to this change.

Summary of Outreach Completed

Over the last two years, staff has been actively engaging in discussions with local agencies (cities, counties, flood control districts, transit agencies, conservation, and water districts, etc.) to determine appropriate minimum bidding thresholds for public works construction and to gain a better understanding of the thresholds that apply to different agencies. To date, staff have received 30 responses indicating both similar concerns and challenges, as well as support for an increase, where appropriate, in the Public Contract Code.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves proposals for legislation to be enacted by the state legislature. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(1).) Additionally, the proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4)).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

Public works are defined as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds. Additionally, the Labor Code has expanded the definition of public works over the years to include activities that previously were considered maintenance and/or inspection.

Article 121 of the Public Contract Code was added in 1984, which established competitive bidding requirements, setting the minimum threshold at \$25,000. Under Section 21565 of the Public Contract Code, Metropolitan is required to competitively bid all public works solicitations exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). Metropolitan's Administrative Code Section 8141 - Competitive Sealed Bidding codifies the statute and states that all contracts for public works estimated to cost \$25,000 or more shall be made upon competitive sealed bidding.

The bidding threshold for public works construction varies across California, from as little as \$2,000 for various smaller conservation districts to as high as \$150,000 for certain transportation and transit districts. Moreover, staff have contacted over 30 local agencies across California and the majority have indicated that their threshold is outdated, and they would consider supporting a legislative effort to increase their respective thresholds.

Over the past 40 years, the \$25,000 threshold has proved increasingly insufficient to carry out minor public works construction contracts in an efficient and cost-effective manner. As Metropolitan's infrastructure continues to age, the volume and cost of these minor public works contracts are expected to increase. The \$25,000 limit also hampers the ability of Metropolitan's construction forces to obtain specialized support needed to address urgently needed repairs expeditiously.

Proposed Legislation

Staff proposes legislation to amend the Public Contract Code to increase the minimum threshold for competitive bidding on public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$75,000 for Metropolitan.

Justification

Inflationary trends over the past 40 years demonstrate clearly that the threshold should be revised. Both the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Engineering News Record's (ENR) Construction Cost Index reflect a three-fold increase to the \$25,000 threshold. The CPI increase over the last four decades for the Los Angeles region is approximately 310 percent, while ENR's Construction Cost Index is 329 percent, both calculated using 1984 base dollars.

Over the past five years, staff has prepared, solicited, and awarded nearly 25 minor public works contract documents below the proposed \$75,000 threshold. Reviewing cost data and staff time for these projects, each solicitation costs Metropolitan approximately \$50,000 for preparation of the contract specifications, inclusive of administrative fees associated with posting and awarding of electronic bids. If the threshold were increased, Metropolitan's savings are estimated at up to \$50,000 per solicitation.

An increase in this bidding threshold would provide the following benefits to Metropolitan:

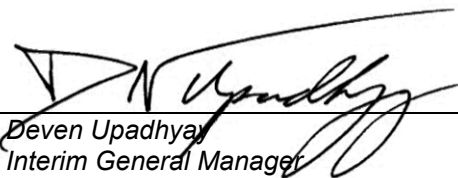
- Adjust the Metropolitan bidding threshold to better reflect inflationary impacts over the past 40 years on the cost of public works construction.
- For small construction contracts less than \$75,000, staff could administratively hire public works contractors and mobilize work immediately avoiding costly delays.
- Minor public works construction contracts under \$75,000 would be delivered more efficiently, with time and cost savings to Metropolitan.
- The substantial cost savings per solicitation would be realized by avoidance of staff and consultant time needed for preparation of minor public works solicitations and administrative fees associated with electronic bidding.

It is important to note that if the bidding threshold increase proposal is authorized and ultimately successful, the procedures in Metropolitan’s administrative code for public works contracting would need conforming changes to be consistent with the amended Public Contract Code.

Additionally, the passage of an increased threshold for competitive bidding does not preclude competitive bidding for any level contract if warranted or at the discretion of the General Manager.



Sue Sims 10/29/2024
External Affairs – Group Manager *Date*



Deven Upadhyay 11/4/2024
Interim General Manager *Date*

Ref# EA12696360

Legislation & Communications Committee



Seek legislation to increase the local agency dollar threshold for public works construction contracts

Item 7-6

November 19, 2024

Subject

Bill proposal to amend public works bidding threshold for Metropolitan

Purpose

Board authority to seek legislation

Recommendation & Fiscal Impact

Authorize possible sponsorship of legislation; if successful, potential cost savings of up to \$50,000 per public works construction contract under the \$75,000 threshold

Background

General Definition of Public Works

- Construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work; completed under contract and paid with public funds (in part or whole)
- Includes some maintenance and/or inspection activities
- Bidding threshold varies by agency

Public Works Bidding for Metropolitan

- Established in 1984
- Set minimum threshold at \$25,000

Background

1984 Statute & Inflationary Trends

- Per CPI and indices

Public Works Solicitations since 2020

- 25 public works solicitations under \$75K
- Staff & consultant cost ranges from \$25K-\$50K for preparation of specifications

Benefits of Increasing Threshold

- Update statute to reflect inflationary impacts
- Overall cost and time savings

Examples of Local Agency Thresholds

Agency	Threshold
Castaic Lake Water Agency	\$30,000
Orange County Water District	\$40,000
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	\$35,000
Santa Clara Valley Water District	\$50,000
San Francisco BART	\$150,000

Recent Minor Construction Contract Examples

Specification	Project Title	Contract Cost (A)	Staff Cost (B)	Ratio (B/A)
M-3025 (2019)	Gene Airport Fencing Repair and Replacement	\$34,619	\$19,000	55%
M-3041 (2020)	F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant Sedalia Property Grading and Drainage Improvements	\$38,000	\$20,075	53%
M-3063 (2023)	Iron Mountain Pumping Plant Operation and Maintenance Building Demolition and Abatement	\$34,000	\$25,450	72%
M-3078 (2024)	Hinds Pumping Plant Elevator Hydraulic Power Unit Replacement	\$42,211	\$13,700	32%

Options for Board Action

- Option #1
Authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation for Metropolitan to increase the minimum threshold for competitive bidding on public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$75,000
- Option #2
Do not authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation for Metropolitan to increase the minimum threshold for competitive bidding on public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$75,000

Recommendation

Option #1





- **Board of Directors**
Legislation and Communications Committee

11/19/2024 Board Meeting

9-3

Subject

Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025

Executive Summary

This letter presents the 2025 legislative priorities and principles recommended by staff for the Board of Directors' consideration and discussion.

Fiscal Impact

No direct fiscal impacts.

Applicable Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

Anticipated Board action letter to approve 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles (LPP) in December 2024

Details and Background

Background

This board information letter presents the 2025 LPP as recommended by staff for the Board's consideration. It lays out an integrated "One Water" collaborative approach on current, anticipated legislative water policy issues to effectively manage Southern California's watersheds, water resources, and water infrastructure to ensure long-term resilience and reliability for communities and ecosystems. Once adopted, staff use this document to determine Metropolitan's positions and advocate for these priorities and principles at the state and federal level through Metropolitan-sponsored legislation, engaging on bills, or pursuing state and federal funding. Updated legislative priorities and principles are presented annually to the Board of Directors. The current 2024 version was adopted in January 2024 (**Attachment 1**). The final, board-approved annual LPP document is publicly available on the Metropolitan website.

For the coming year, which begins new two-year state and federal legislative cycles, staff has updated the document to reflect developments and new laws on the state and federal arenas, and to be consistent with internal Metropolitan initiatives, including the GM Business Plan, the Metropolitan Climate Action Plan, and the Board-led planning effort on the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W). The draft 2025 LPP was presented to the Member Agency Legislative Coordinators Annual Planning Meeting on November 7, 2024, and to the Member Agency Managers' Meeting on November 15, 2024.

Recommended updates to the language can be seen in the attached redline of the 2024 LPP (**Attachment 2**). This board action letter presents a clean version of the legislative priorities and principles for 2025 with staff's recommended revisions, incorporating technical and policy input received. The Board will be considering a new

Metropolitan-specific bill proposal for 2025 regarding an amendment to the Public Contract Code; that item is included as a priority, although sponsorship of a bill is contingent on receiving the necessary board authorization.

The 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles below are respectfully submitted for consideration and discussion; input from the Board will be incorporated into the final draft, which will be coming back in December 2024 for adoption by the Board.

2025 Legislative Priorities

To help adapt to a changing climate, protect water resources, and partner with communities we serve, Metropolitan will work to support administrative/legislative actions and federal and state funding for the following priorities in 2025:

I. Top Legislative Priorities

1. Continue support for imported water supply resiliency and reliability, including planning for the Delta Conveyance Project, Sites Reservoir Project, Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements), and the development of post-2026 Colorado River operating guidelines.
2. Conserve existing water supplies and adapt to climate change by supporting demand management and water use efficiency, long-term non-functional turf conversion, and a federal tax exemption for water conservation rebates.
3. Advance Pure Water Southern California and other water recycling projects and long-term supply reliability improvements.
4. Support funding for regional conveyance and water storage improvements to ensure the region's water supply is adequate and reliable for all member agencies.
5. Protect drinking water quality and ensure access to safe and reliable drinking water, including upholding the polluter pays principle and supporting the ongoing cleanup of contaminated sites along the Colorado River.
6. Support adaptive management for ecosystem restoration in the Bay-Delta and Colorado River watersheds that takes into consideration evolving climate conditions, risk analyses, and best available science.
7. Improve water affordability, especially for disadvantaged communities, without burdening existing ratepayers.
8. Assist public agencies in the transition to zero-emission fleets and equipment, while ensuring operational reliability and maintaining emergency response capabilities.

II. Metropolitan-Sponsored State Bills

1. Support administrative/legislative actions to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date and allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan. (Board approved in November 2023, MI 53444)
2. Contingent on Board approval: Support legislation for Metropolitan to increase the local agency dollar threshold for public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$75,000. (Board decision anticipated November 2024)

2025 Legislative Policy Principles

The 2025 Legislative Policy Principles guide and inform Metropolitan's engagement on state and federal legislative and regulatory activities. They are updated annually and are developed in consultation with Metropolitan's subject matter experts and through outreach with the member agencies.

The policy principles address six strategic areas that inform Metropolitan’s integrated approach and the Board-led process for developing the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W). These policy areas include: (1) drinking water; (2) regional water resource management; (3) imported water supply; (4) sustainability, resiliency, and innovation; (5) infrastructure; and (6) system resiliency.

- I. Drinking Water – Metropolitan provides high-quality, reliable drinking water in an economically responsible way to the Southern California region that surpasses all federal and state drinking water regulations.

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

A. Water Quality and Treatment

1. Use best available science, occurrence and health effects data, and appropriate cost-benefit analyses or economic feasibility to protect public health and improve water quality. Apply these principles when setting maximum contaminant levels, health advisories, or notification/response levels, in addition to assessing laboratory capacity, analytical methods, and other regulatory standards or guidance levels.
2. Apply the “polluter pays” principle such that parties responsible for introducing contaminants in or near drinking water sources are held liable for cleanup, and not the drinking water, recycled water, and wastewater facilities that subsequently store, transport, or treat the water.
3. Comply with new regulatory standards, including treatment and mitigation measures, development of risk communication tools, and adequate time for implementation.
4. Protect source water quality, reduction of threats from invasive species, and mitigation of harmful algal blooms.
5. Improvements to the State Water Resource Control Board’s knowledge of CEC in waters of the state and drinking water, including support for the Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) Action Fund.

B. Water Governance, Affordability, and Funding – Metropolitan supports efforts to provide access to safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water to all communities.

1. Improve water affordability throughout the region, especially for disadvantaged communities, without burdening existing ratepayers.
2. Help for water systems to provide low-income ratepayer assistance programs in a way that is operationally feasible, sustainable, and maintains consumer confidence in retail agencies.
3. Improve governance and long-term sustainability of non-compliant water systems, provide assistance for voluntary consolidations, and ensure that all receiving public water systems are consulted on potential consolidations. Increase local agency flexibility in determining fees for service and assessment amounts.
4. Ensure the limited resources of the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund are prioritized for operation and maintenance costs, infrastructure improvements, and consolidation actions.

- II. Regional Water Resource Management – Metropolitan’s One Water Vision and the Board-led CAMP4W process promote collaboration with member agencies to adapt to climate change and plan for future water supply needs in a reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible manner.

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

A. Conservation

1. Support tax exemptions and/or credits for water conservation or efficiency incentives, including but not limited to long-term conversion of non-functional turf, local stormwater capture, and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape.

2. Encourage equitable water use efficiency and recycled water use among agricultural, industrial, and urban sectors.
3. Support retail water agencies' ability to meet the objectives of Conservation as a California Way of Life in a manner that maintains flexibility and local control. Support efforts to ensure new statutes and regulations are based on science; recognize regional distinctions (such as climate, land use, population, and hydrology); consider water affordability; and assess potential impacts to wastewater operations and recycled water projects.
4. Advance leak detection and water loss reduction. Support the development and implementation of flexible water loss standards for both retail and wholesale water systems.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions for the long-term conversion of non-functional turf in commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes and ban installation of non-functional turf in new construction. Support federal/state funding for the long-term conversion of non-functional turf in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes.

B. Desalination and Groundwater Remediation

1. Support brackish groundwater and seawater desalination projects, consistent with the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio, California's Water Supply Strategy and Metropolitan's CAMP4W goals.
2. Facilitate salinity control projects, including but not limited to source control, treatment, and concentrate management.
3. Advance research, pilot tests, and demonstration studies that encourage the development of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient desalination technologies.

C. Recycled Water

1. Advance Pure Water Southern California and other water recycling projects.
2. Improve flexibility of the State's water recycling grant program.
3. Implement the National Water Reuse Action Plan and California's Water Reuse Action Plan while preserving local flexibility and encouraging local, state, and federal coordination, research, and innovation.
4. Facilitate advancing direct potable reuse projects in California, including but not limited to streamlining the planning, development, and implementation of local and regional potable reuse projects, as well as addressing research gaps, advancing scientific knowledge, and strengthening partnerships and outreach to further the development of potable reuse.
5. Promote voluntary on-site wastewater treatment systems if they comply with Title 22 and do not negatively affect municipal water recycling systems.
6. Maximize voluntary use of recycled water.

D. Local Supply Development

1. Protect and enhance flexibility and responsiveness in developing diverse, climate-resilient resource portfolios tailored to local needs.
2. Promote integrated water resources development by advocating for clear, concise, and expedited regulations and policies that are easily understandable by the regulated community and public.
3. Expedite the development of new local resources to help adapt to climate change and safeguard water system operations. Advance stormwater as a beneficial resource and facilitate the funding and permitting of stormwater capture projects to augment local and regional water supplies and promote holistic watershed health.

4. Advance Metropolitan's surface and groundwater storage and/or recovery programs with member agencies and other partners.

E. Watershed Management

1. Enhance watershed management to provide broad public benefits, such as improved water quality and water supply reliability, reduced wildfire risks, greater scientific understanding, and other environmental improvements.
2. Advance implementation of watershed management plans, including watershed research and multi-benefit forestry management projects.
3. Advance implementation of the California Water Resilience Portfolio and the Water Supply Strategy, consistent with Metropolitan's goals and objectives, to enhance watershed-scale coordination, management and planning, and support programs and funding that improve water resilience and watershed functions.

III. Imported Water Supply – Metropolitan provides imported water supplies to its member agencies from two primary sources: the Colorado River via the Colorado River Aqueduct and Northern California watersheds via the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the State Water Project (SWP).

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

- A. Bay-Delta Initiatives– Metropolitan is involved in several key regulatory and planning processes in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta related to the operation of the SWP. The goals are to improve both water supply reliability and ecosystems in the Delta estuary for threatened and endangered species. To advance these goals, Metropolitan supports collaborative scientific efforts to enhance understanding of how to restore and manage the Bay-Delta while reducing reliance on it, consistent with the 2009 Delta Reform Act (Delta Reform Act).
1. Advance Delta Conveyance and EcoRestore in support of California's coequal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration and the Governor's California Water Resilience Portfolio.
 2. Improve scientific understanding of listed Delta fish and wildlife species and water project operations in the Delta, including data collection, real-time monitoring, and modeling. Promote the use of best available science to protect and restore aquatic species and habitats and enhance flexibility for water project operations while maintaining regulatory and statutory protections for species listed under the state and federal Endangered Species Act.
 3. Support implementation of state policies adopted as part of the Delta Reform Act and water management package, including clarification of the monitoring, reporting, and enforcement provisions related to in-Delta diversions.
 4. Protect water quality for beneficial uses and that are implemented in accordance with California water rights priorities.
 5. Advance the Delta Freshwater Pathway, improve levees (including levee modernization for the existing Delta levee system), levee maintenance programs (including real-time monitoring), and secure Delta flood-fighting materials and stockpiles.
 6. Modernize and effectively administer the California water rights system in the Delta watershed, including protecting stored water releases.
 7. Advance the Sites Reservoir Project and the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements), consistent with the Board's action for these efforts.

- B. Colorado River Resources – The Colorado River is a critical resource for the entire Southwest and many diverse ecosystems. Climate change has reduced the River’s flow, and degradation of the Colorado River’s water quality can cause economic, environmental, and human health impacts across the West. Metropolitan and other interested parties work to ensure we can continue to supply our communities with a safe and reliable water supply.
1. Support conservation and efficiency projects to enhance the resiliency of the Colorado River System and ensure that sufficient water is delivered to meet regional water supply needs. Support the cleanup of contaminated sites along the Colorado River. This includes, but is not limited to, uranium remediation in Moab, Utah; perchlorate remediation in Henderson, Nevada; hexavalent chromium remediation near Topock, Arizona; and a waste disposal site near Hoover Dam.
 2. Stabilize the financial position of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program), ensure continued coordination between states and federal agencies to further the Program goals, and maintain the safe operation of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Paradox Valley Unit salinity control project until a viable long-term alternative is implemented.
 3. Facilitate successful implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program by conserving Colorado River water and creating habitat for threatened and endangered species.
 4. Advance binational water conservation programs that benefit Colorado River supply augmentation and habitat restoration objectives.
 5. Support settlement of tribal reserved rights claims in the Colorado River Basin that are consistent with the evolving Law of the River.
- C. State Water Project – About 30 percent of Southern California’s water comes from the SWP in an average year. Metropolitan works with state and federal agencies as well as other SWP contractors to manage threats to the project, address environmental needs, and augment water supplies through existing and potential collaborative transfers and groundwater banking agreements.
1. Address the impacts of subsidence on the SWP and prevent future damage caused by unsustainable groundwater pumping.
 2. Repair and improve the joint state and federal facility and ensure that funding is equitably distributed between partners while maintaining SWP supply reliability.
 3. Clean up contaminated groundwater storage basins used for Metropolitan water banking programs along the California Aqueduct.
 4. Provide public share of costs, including recreation, flood protection, mitigation, environmental enhancement, and rehabilitation for multi-purpose SWP facilities.

IV. Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation – Metropolitan’s CAMP4W process supports sustainable practices that improve water and power system resilience to help water agencies prepare and respond to a rapidly changing environmental landscape. Metropolitan strives to fulfill the needs of the current generation without compromising the needs of future generations in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

A. Carbon Neutrality

1. Facilitate implementation of Metropolitan’s Climate Action Plan to reduce Metropolitan’s greenhouse gas emissions and reach carbon neutrality by 2045.
2. Assist the Department of Water Resources in reaching carbon neutrality for the SWP by 2045 in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner.

3. Improve, develop, and promote innovative climate adaptation solutions, including science-based strategies and tools that restore healthy soils, conserve water, or capture carbon.
4. Assist public agencies in the transition to zero-emission fleets and equipment, while ensuring operational reliability and maintaining emergency response capabilities.

B. Water/Energy Nexus

1. Facilitate energy efficiency and storage projects, and programs to reduce greenhouse gases and develop renewable resources.
2. Remove barriers and encourage energy sector investments in water conservation and energy management programs.
3. Preserve Metropolitan's ability to pursue a diverse set of supply options and oppose constraints on supply development, such as water resource loading orders based solely on energy intensity.
4. Ensure power costs are appropriate and proportional to the benefits received and that water system operations are not adversely affected by power-related legislation or administrative actions.
5. Use the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for water/energy nexus projects and maintain cap-and-trade allowances for Metropolitan and Department of Water Resources (i.e., State Water Contractors).
6. Maintain Metropolitan authority over energy-related matters relative to its system and operations (e.g., system reserve margin or resource adequacy requirements).

C. Renewable Energy

1. Define hydropower generation as renewable energy irrespective of a facility's nameplate generating capacity and include the provision of renewable energy credits for hydroelectric generation.
2. Enhance or expand hydropower at existing dams without adversely impacting the financial or operational aspects of those dams or impacting entities with rights to power from existing resources that directly or indirectly impact Metropolitan's service area.
3. Improve federal hydropower relicensing for existing facilities, including SWP resources.
4. Incorporate renewable energy resources for the SWP and the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) that contribute to the state's climate goals, such as pumped hydroelectric energy, without compromising the primary purpose of these water supply and delivery projects. Ensure consideration of transmission limitations, cost and portfolio availability, and prevent shifting of any unrelated impacts to SWP or CRA facilities.

D. Environmental Stewardship

1. Ensure environmental compliance by improving the clarity and workability of regulatory and reporting requirements, promoting consistency, and reducing duplication while also protecting public health and the environment.
2. Facilitate non-mitigation habitat restoration projects that benefit endangered and threatened species and ecosystem health.
3. Advance research and partnerships in water science, including snowpack and streamflow monitoring, stormwater runoff, drinking water quality, salinity control, source water protection, soil moisture monitoring, healthy soils, and watershed research.

- E. Workforce Development and Safety – Metropolitan is committed to ensuring the resiliency of its workforce and to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as workplace violence prevention, to promote the physical and mental safety and well-being of its workforce and the communities it serves.
 - 1. Improve educational opportunities in the water sector, including career technical education and workforce development.
 - 2. Strengthen training programs and certification processes for water system staff.
 - 3. Promote safe work environments.
- F. Innovation – Supporting and promoting innovation and emerging technologies continues Metropolitan’s longstanding tradition of creatively solving complex challenges.
 - 1. Advance research and development of new and emerging technologies, such as satellite- and computer-based systems to monitor source water quality, ecosystem health, and threatened and endangered species. Support technologies that measure and predict water use, evaporation, and moisture monitoring; expand coordination with technology incubators, research institutions, and other stakeholders.
 - 2. Promote open water data platforms and sharing, including improving access to agency data, streamlining the collection and submission of water agency data, and promoting collaboration among federal, state, and local stakeholders.
- V. Infrastructure – Metropolitan has a strategic priority to invest in key capital projects in its region to enable long-term, reliable water deliveries. Key projects identified in Metropolitan’s Capital Investment Plan focus on improvements to the CRA, treatment plants, and distribution systems.
Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:
 - A. Initiate, expedite, and defray the costs of planning, financing, constructing, repairing, and rehabilitating water and power infrastructure projects, including but not limited to general obligation bonds, tax-exempt municipal bonds, grants, low-interest loans, and direct appropriations. Ensure equitable cost-sharing of water and power infrastructure projects.
 - B. Expand funding programs, expedite project approval and reporting processes, and prevent project backlogs in state and federal funding or financing.
 - C. Support the “beneficiaries pay” approach as a financing mechanism for statewide projects and programs and oppose public goods charges or other charges levied on water agencies for funding broader public benefits.
 - D. Advocate for public share of costs, including mitigation, rehabilitation, and recreation, for multi-purpose water infrastructure.
 - E. Support new or expanded water and power infrastructure or programs that complement existing water supplies and operations to ensure reliability for all member agencies.
- VI. System Resiliency – Metropolitan diligently maintains and significantly invests to safeguard a region-wide water supply and delivery system that is a cornerstone of Southern California’s \$1.6 trillion economy. Climate change and increasing weather extremes are serious challenges facing Metropolitan and its member agencies. Additionally, Metropolitan must be prepared to respond rapidly to natural disasters and security threats. Resiliency ensures the systems for water supply. Delivery and power remain strong, can return to service quickly, and are prepared to address future challenges.
Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:
 - A. Climate Resiliency
 - 1. Support local and regional drought resiliency projects to improve system flexibility; facilitate the integration of existing and planned local water supplies, distribution, and regional water facilities.

2. Advance planning and research into the potential risks of climate change on water and power resources (and water quality) (and work to offset these risks).
3. Help offset the effects of climate change on imported and local water supplies through watershed protection and enhancement of water quality, supply, and demand-side management actions.
4. Recognize and help mitigate the significant differences in the capabilities and needs of communities and regions to respond to the impacts of climate change.
5. Help develop local drought contingency plans in areas of the state that have increased concern about wholesale water system delivery constraints.

B. Emergency Preparedness

1. Assist the water industry in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from extreme weather events and natural disasters, including earthquakes and wildfires, catastrophic accidents, and physical or cyber sabotage. These actions may include, but are not limited to, hazard mitigation and emergency response planning, funding, and post-emergency service restoration.
2. Assist the water industry in addressing the effects of wildfires and power outages, including the impacts of public safety power shutoff events.
3. Support the Federal Emergency Management Agency programs to assist with hazard mitigation and emergency repairs and improvements, including but not limited to dam safety, spillway improvements, and erosion control repairs.

C. Physical and Cyber Security

1. Support continued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversight of water system security in coordination with other federal and state agencies with expertise in security, including the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the Chemical Security Analysis Center.
2. Support enhanced physical security and cybersecurity for water and power infrastructure.
3. Support trade associations and coalition efforts to share information and develop standard guidance and best management practices to protect water and power critical infrastructure from cyber vulnerabilities.
4. Ensure Metropolitan's ability to reliably operate and maintain its facilities, infrastructure, and real property assets, including rights of way, and to protect against encroachment.

D. Chemical Security

1. Improve supply chain reliability, achieve tax-exempt status for water treatment chemicals, and ensure consistent access to water treatment chemicals.
2. Ensure the continued use of gaseous chlorine to protect public health.

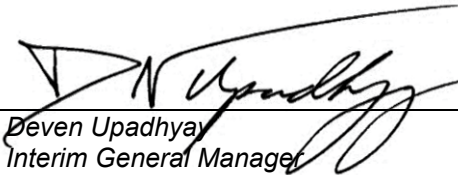
Timing and Urgency

This item is presented as information; adoption is time-sensitive in December 2024 to optimize effective advocacy for Metropolitan policy and project interests at the state and federal levels at the start of the new legislative session.



Susan Sims
Group Manager, External Affairs

10/28/2024
Date



Deven Upadhyay
Interim General Manager

10/31/2024
Date

Attachment 1 – 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles

Attachment 2 – Final Redline of 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, as of October 16, 2024

Ref# ea12696217



2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & PRINCIPLES

The 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles lay out an integrated “One Water” collaborative approach to managing Southern California’s watersheds, water resources, and water infrastructure to ensure long-term resilience and reliability for communities and ecosystems.

Staff use this document to advocate for these priorities and principles at the state and federal levels through advancing Metropolitan-sponsored legislation, engaging on bills or pursuing federal and state funding.

Adopted by

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board of Directors

on

January 9, 2024



2024 Legislative Priorities

To help adapt to a changing climate, protect water resources, and partner with communities we serve, Metropolitan will work to support administrative/legislative actions and federal and state funding for the following priorities in 2024:

A. Top Legislative Priorities:

1. Continue support for imported water supply resiliency and reliability, including planning for the Delta Conveyance Project, Sites Reservoir Project, Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements), and the development of near-term and post-2026 Colorado River operating guidelines.
2. Conserve existing water supplies and prepare for climate change by supporting demand management and water use efficiency, long-term non-functional turf conversion, and a federal tax exemption for water conservation rebates.
3. Advance Pure Water Southern California and other water recycling projects and long-term supply reliability improvements.
4. Support funding for regional conveyance and water storage improvements to ensure the region's water supply is adequate and reliable for all member agencies.
5. Protect drinking water quality and access to safe and reliable drinking water, including upholding the polluter pays principle and ensuring the continued cleanup of sites along the Colorado River.
6. Support adaptive management for ecosystem restoration in the Bay-Delta and Colorado River watersheds that takes into consideration evolving climate conditions, risk analyses, and best available science.
7. Improve water affordability, especially for disadvantaged communities, without burdening existing ratepayers.

B. Metropolitan-Sponsored State Bill (Board approved in November 2023, MI 53444)

1. 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.



2024 Legislative Policy Principles

The 2024 Legislative Policy Principles will guide and inform Metropolitan’s engagement on state and federal legislative and regulatory activities. They were developed in consultation with subject matter experts at Metropolitan. The principles holistically address six strategic areas of policy that inform Metropolitan’s One Water Vision and the Board-led process for developing the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W). These policy areas include: (1) drinking water; (2) regional water resource management; (3) imported water supply; (4) sustainability, resiliency, and innovation; (5) infrastructure; and (6) system resiliency.

I. Drinking Water – Metropolitan provides to the Southern California region high-quality, reliable drinking water in an economically responsible way that surpasses all federal and state drinking water regulations.

A. Water Quality and Treatment

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that utilize best available science, occurrence and health effects data, and appropriate cost-benefit analyses or economic feasibility to protect public health and improve water quality. Apply these principles when setting maximum contaminant levels, health advisories, or notification/response levels, in addition to assessing laboratory capacity, analytical methods, and other regulatory standards or guidance levels.
2. Support application of the “polluter pays” principle such that parties responsible for introducing contaminants, such as per- and polyfluoralkyl substances, in or near drinking water sources are held liable for cleanup, and not drinking water and wastewater facilities that subsequently store, transport, or treat the water.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for treatment and mitigation measures to comply with any new regulatory standards, develop risk communication tools, as well as provide adequate time for implementation.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to protect source water quality, reduce threats from invasive species, and mitigate harmful algal blooms.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the constituents of emerging concern (CEC) Action Fund to improve the State Water Resource Control Board’s knowledge of CEC in waters of the state and drinking water.

B. Water Governance, Affordability, and Funding – Metropolitan supports efforts to provide access to safe, reliable and affordable drinking water to all residents.

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that prioritize providing safe, reliable and affordable drinking water to disadvantaged communities.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that improve water affordability throughout the region, especially for disadvantaged communities, without burdening existing ratepayers.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to help water systems provide low-income ratepayer assistance programs.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that improve governance and long-term sustainability of non-compliant water systems and provide



assistance for voluntary consolidations that improve their technical, managerial, or financial capacity, while ensuring that all receiving public water systems are consulted on changes of organization, including proposed consolidations or extensions of service area.

5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that provide local agencies flexibility in determining fees for service and assessment amounts.
6. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that ensure the limited resources of the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund are allocated to advance projects, operation and maintenance costs, infrastructure improvements, and/or consolidation actions that will achieve long-term sustainability for water systems and the communities that rely on those systems.

II. Regional Water Resource Management – Metropolitan’s One Water Vision and the Board-led CAMP4W process promote collaboration with member agencies to plan for future water supply needs and the challenges ahead in a reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible manner. This involves protecting imported water supplies and quality, supporting local resource development, advancing water use efficiency, and supporting ecosystem protection and restoration.

A. Conservation

1. Support tax exemptions and/or credits for water conservation or efficiency incentives, including but not limited to long-term conversion of non-functional turf (NFT), local stormwater capture, and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to encourage equitable water use efficiency and recycled water use among agricultural, industrial, and urban sectors.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to advance Conservation as a California Way of Life in a manner that maintains flexibility and local control. Support efforts to ensure new statutes and regulations are based on science; recognize regional distinctions (i.e., climate, land use, population, and hydrology); water affordability; and potential impacts to wastewater operations and recycled water projects.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for leak detection and water loss reduction. Support the development and implementation of flexible water loss standards for both retail and wholesale water systems.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions for the long-term conversion of NFT in commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes and ban installation of NFT in new construction. Support federal/state funding for the long-term conversion of NFT in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes.



B. Desalination & Groundwater Remediation

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for brackish groundwater and seawater desalination projects, consistent with the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio and 2022 Water Supply Strategy and Metropolitan's CAMP4W goals.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for salinity control projects, including but not limited to source control, treatment, and concentrate management.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for research, pilot tests, and demonstration studies to encourage the development of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient desalination technologies.

C. Recycled Water

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the Pure Water Southern California Program and related projects.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to improve flexibility of the State's water recycling grant program.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the implementation of the National Water Reuse Action Plan and California Water Reuse Action Plan while protecting local flexibility and encouraging local, state, and federal coordination, research, and innovation.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that facilitate the adoption of direct potable reuse regulations by December 31, 2023. These actions include but are not limited to planning, development, and implementation of local and regional potable reuse projects; and initiatives to fill research gaps and advance the science to promote the further development of potable reuse.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to promote voluntary on-site water treatment systems if they maintain compliance with Title 22 and do not negatively affect municipal water recycling systems.
6. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that maximize voluntary use of recycled water.

D. Local Supply Development

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that protect and advance local flexibility and responsiveness in developing locally appropriate, climate-resilient diverse resource portfolios.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that promote integrated water resources development by advocating for clear, concise, and expedited regulations/policies that are easily understandable by the regulated community and public.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to expedite the development of new local resources (including recycled water, direct potable reuse, groundwater, stormwater, desalination projects, and groundwater remediation)



without compromising the operational, financial, water quality, regulatory, environmental, and customer interests of Metropolitan and other water and wastewater agencies.

4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that advance stormwater as a beneficial resource and facilitate the funding and permitting of stormwater capture projects to augment local and regional water supplies and promote holistic watershed health.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that advance Metropolitan's surface and groundwater storage and/or recovery programs with member agencies and other partners.

E. Watershed Management

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to enhance watershed management in Southern California, the Bay-Delta, and Colorado River watersheds that provide broad public benefits, including water quality and water supply reliability, reduced wildfire risks, greater scientific understanding, and other environmental improvements.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that help advance implementation of watershed management plans, including watershed research and multi-benefit forestry management projects.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for implementation of the California Water Resiliency Portfolio and the Water Supply Strategy, as consistent with Metropolitan goals and objectives, to ensure improved watershed-scale coordination, watershed management and planning, and programs and funding that provide water resilience and improve watershed functions.

III. Imported Water Supply – Metropolitan provides imported water supplies to its member agencies from two primary sources: the Colorado River via the Colorado Aqueduct and Northern California watersheds via the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the State Water Project (SWP).

A. Bay-Delta Initiatives– Metropolitan is involved in several key regulatory and planning processes in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta related to the operation of the SWP. The goal is to advance water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration concurrently by modernizing the state's water infrastructure with the proposed Delta Conveyance Project and improving the habitat and function of the Delta estuary for the benefit of threatened and endangered species. To advance these goals, Metropolitan supports collaborative scientific efforts to better understand how to restore and manage the Bay-Delta while reducing reliance consistent with the 2009 Delta Reform Act (Delta Reform Act).

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to advance Delta Conveyance and EcoRestore in support of California's coequal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration and the Governor's California Water Resilience Portfolio.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to improve scientific understanding of listed Delta fish and wildlife species and water project operations in the Delta, including data collection, real-time monitoring, and modeling. Promote the use of best available science to protect and restore aquatic species and



- habitats, and enhance flexibility for water project operations while maintaining regulatory and statutory protections for species listed under the state and federal Endangered Species Act.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for implementation of state policies adopted as part of the Delta Reform Act and water management package, including clarification of the monitoring, reporting, and enforcement provisions related to in-Delta diversions.
 4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to consolidate review and oversight of anadromous species protection under the U.S. Department of the Interior.
 5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that protect water quality for beneficial uses and that are implemented consistent with California water rights priorities.
 6. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to advance the Delta Freshwater Pathway, levee improvements (including levee modernization for the existing Delta levee system), levee maintenance programs (including real-time monitoring for the existing Delta levee system), and secure Delta flood-fighting materials and stockpiles.
 7. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding in the Delta watershed to account for and administer the California water rights system, including protecting stored water releases.
 8. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to advance Sites Reservoir and the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements), consistent with the Board's action to advance these efforts.
- B. Colorado River Resources – The Colorado River is a critical resource for the entire Southwest and many diverse ecosystems. Degradation of the Colorado River's water quality can cause significant economic, environmental, and human health impacts across the West. Metropolitan and other interested parties work to ensure we can continue to supply our communities with a safe and reliable water supply.
1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding of conservation and efficiency projects to enhance the resiliency of the Colorado River System and Metropolitan's Colorado River supplies.
 2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to ensure that sufficient water is stored and delivered from Lake Mead to meet regional water supply needs while acknowledging the evolving Law of the River.
 3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the cleanup of contaminated sites along the Colorado River. This includes, but is not limited to, uranium remediation in Moab, Utah; perchlorate remediation in Henderson, Nevada; hexavalent chromium remediation near Topock, Arizona; and a waste disposal site near Hoover Dam.
 4. Promote continued coordination between states and federal agencies to further the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program) and work to include



- water conservation as a criterion in the selection of salinity control projects. Support actions to stabilize the financial position of the Program and maintain the operation of the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Paradox Valley Unit salinity control project at a safe level.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species in a manner that allows the Lower Basin States to conserve Colorado River water.
 6. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that advance binational water conservation programs that benefit Colorado River supply augmentation and habitat restoration objectives.
 7. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to update and apply reasonable and beneficial use determinations while acknowledging the evolving Law of the River.
- C. State Water Project – About 30 percent of Southern California's water comes from the SWP in an average year. Metropolitan works with state and federal agencies as well as other SWP contractors to manage threats to the project and address environmental needs and augment water supplies through existing and potential collaborative transfers and groundwater banking agreements.
1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to address the impacts of subsidence on the SWP and prevent future damage caused by unsustainable groundwater pumping.
 2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for joint state and federal facility repairs, rehabilitation, and improvements, and ensure funding is equitably distributed between partners while maintaining SWP supply reliability.
 3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the cleanup of contaminated groundwater storage basins used for Metropolitan water banking programs along the California Aqueduct.
 4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the public share of costs, including recreation, flood protection, mitigation, environmental enhancement, and rehabilitation for multi-purpose SWP facilities.



IV. Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation – Metropolitan supports policies and funding that encourage sustainable practices that improve water and power system resilience and adapt to a rapidly changing environmental landscape. Metropolitan strives to fulfill the needs of the current generation without compromising the needs of future generations in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

A. Carbon Neutrality

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to implement Metropolitan’s Climate Action Plan to reduce Metropolitan’s greenhouse gas emissions and reach carbon neutrality by 2045.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to assist the Department of Water Resources in reaching carbon neutrality for the SWP by 2045 in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to improve, develop, and promote innovative climate adaptation solutions and support science-based strategies and tools that benefit the environment by restoring healthy soils, conserving water, and capturing and/or sequestering carbon.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that assists public agencies in the transition to zero-emission fleets and equipment.

B. Water/Energy Nexus

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for energy efficiency and storage projects, and programs to reduce greenhouse gases and develop renewable resources.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that remove barriers and encourage energy sector investments in water conservation and energy management programs.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that preserve Metropolitan’s ability to pursue a diverse set of supply options and oppose constraints on supply development, such as water resource loading orders based solely on energy intensity.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to ensure power costs are appropriate and proportional to the benefits received and that water system operations are not adversely affected by power-related legislation/administrative actions.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for water/energy nexus projects and maintain Cap-and-Trade allowances for Metropolitan and Department of Water Resources (i.e., State Water Contractors).
6. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that maintain Board authority over energy-related matters (e.g., system reserve margin or resource adequacy requirements).



C. Renewable Energy

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that define hydropower generation as renewable energy irrespective of a facility's nameplate generating capacity and include the provision of renewable energy credits for hydroelectric generation.
2. E-Ensure that administrative/legislative actions and funding to enhance or expand hydropower at existing dams do not adversely impact those dams, either financially or operationally, or entities with rights to the power from the existing resources that directly or indirectly impact Metropolitan's service area.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to improve federal hydropower relicensing for existing facilities, including SWP resources.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the SWP and the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) to incorporate renewable energy resources, such as pumped hydroelectric energy, that contribute to the state's climate goals without impacting the projects' primary purpose, provided consideration is given to transmission limitations, cost and portfolio availability, and unrelated impacts are not shifted to SWP or CRA facilities.

D. Environmental Stewardship

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for environmental compliance to improve clarity and workability of the requirements and promote consistency and reduce regulatory duplication, while protecting public health and the environment.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to facilitate non-mitigation habitat restoration projects that benefit endangered and threatened species.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for research and partnerships on water science, including snowpack and streamflow monitoring, runoff, drinking water quality, salinity control, source water protection, soil moisture monitoring, healthy soils, and watershed research.

E. Workforce Development – Metropolitan is committed to ensuring the resiliency of its workforce and to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion to promote the physical and mental safety and well-being of its workforce and the communities it serves.

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to improve educational opportunities in the water sector, including career technical education and workforce development.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that improve water system staff training and certification processes.



F. Innovation – Supporting and promoting innovation and emerging technologies continues Metropolitan’s long tradition of creatively solving difficult challenges.

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the research and development of new and emerging technologies such as satellite- and computer-based technologies to monitor source water quality, ecosystem health, state- and federal-threatened and endangered species; measure and predict agricultural water use, urban outdoor water use, and reservoir evaporation; and expand coordination with technology incubators, research institutions, and other stakeholder groups.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to promote open water data platforms and sharing, including improving access to agency data, streamlining the collection and submission of water agency data, and promoting collaboration among federal, state, and local stakeholders.

V. Infrastructure – Metropolitan has a strategic priority to invest in key capital projects in our region to enable long-term, reliable water deliveries. Key capital projects identified in Metropolitan’s Capital Investment Plan focus on improvements to the CRA, treatment plants, and distribution systems.

- A. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to initiate, expedite, and defray the costs of planning, financing, constructing, repairing, and rehabilitating water infrastructure projects, including but not limited to general obligation bonds, tax-exempt municipal bonds, grants, low-interest loans, and direct appropriations. Ensure equitable cost-sharing of water infrastructure projects.
- B. Support administrative/legislative actions to expand funding programs, expedite project approval and reporting processes, and prevent project backlogs in state and federal funding or financing.
- C. Support the “beneficiaries pay” approach as a financing mechanism for statewide projects and programs and oppose public goods charges, or other charges levied on water agencies for funding broader public benefits.
- D. Support administrative/legislative and funding for the public share of costs, including mitigation, rehabilitation, and recreation, for multi-purpose water infrastructure.
- E. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for new or expanded water infrastructure or programs that complement existing water supplies to ensure reliability for all member agencies.

VI. System Resiliency – Metropolitan diligently maintains and significantly invests to safeguard a region-wide water supply system that is a cornerstone of Southern California’s \$1.6 trillion economy. Changes in the climate and accompanying weather extremes are serious challenges facing Metropolitan. Additionally, Metropolitan needs to be prepared to respond rapidly to natural disasters and security threats. Resiliency ensures the water supply and delivery system is strong, can return to service quickly, and is prepared to address future challenges.



A. Climate Resiliency

1. Support legislative/administrative actions and funding for local and regional drought resiliency projects to improve system flexibility.
2. Support legislative/administrative actions and funding for planning and research into the potential water resource and quality effects of climate change.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for imported source watershed protection and enhancement of water quality, supply, and demand-side management actions to help offset the effects of climate change.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that recognize and help mitigate the significant differences in the capability and needs of communities and regions to withstand the impacts of climate change.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for local drought contingency planning areas in the state that have increased concern about wholesale water system delivery constraints.
6. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that facilitate the integration of existing and planned local water supply, distribution systems, and regional water facilities.

B. Emergency Preparedness

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that assist the water industry in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from extreme weather events and natural disasters, including earthquakes and wildfires, catastrophic accidents, and physical or cyber sabotage. These actions may include, but are not limited to, actions to provide funding for emergency responses and planning and post-emergency restoration of service.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that assist the water industry to address the effects of wildfires and power outages, including the impacts of public safety power shutoff events.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency programs to assist with emergency repairs and improvements, including but not limited to dam safety, spillway improvements, and erosion control repairs.

C. Physical and Cyber Security

1. Support administrative/legislative and funding for continued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversight of water system security in coordination with other federal and state agencies with expertise in security, including the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the Chemical Security Analysis Center.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for enhanced physical security and cybersecurity for water and power infrastructure.



3. Support trade associations and coalition efforts to share information and develop standard guidance and best management practices to protect water and power critical infrastructure from cyber vulnerabilities.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that ensure Metropolitan's ability to reliably operate and maintain its facilities, infrastructure, and real estate assets, including rights of way, and to protect against encroachment.

D. Chemical Security

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to improve supply chain reliability, achieve tax-exempt status for water treatment chemicals, and ensure access to water treatment chemicals.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions to ensure the continued use of gaseous chlorine to protect public health.



2024~~2025~~ LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & PRINCIPLES

The ~~2024~~2025 Metropolitan Legislative Priorities and Principles lay out an integrated “One Water” collaborative approach ~~to~~on current water policy issues for effectively managing Southern California’s watersheds, water resources, and water infrastructure to ensure long-term resilience and reliability for communities and ecosystems.

Staff use this document to advocate for these priorities and principles at the state and federal levels through advancing Metropolitan-sponsored legislation, engaging on bills and/or regulatory issues, or pursuing federal and state funding.

Adopted by

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board of Directors

on

January 9, 2024~~XXX~~



20242025 Legislative Priorities

To help adapt to a changing climate, protect water resources, and partner with communities we serve, Metropolitan will work to support administrative/legislative actions and federal and state funding for the following priorities in 20242025:

I. Top Legislative Priorities:

1. Continue support for imported water supply resiliency and reliability, including planning for the Delta Conveyance Project, Sites Reservoir Project, Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements), and the development of ~~near-term and~~ post-2026 Colorado River operating guidelines.
2. Conserve existing water supplies and ~~prepare for~~adapt to climate change by supporting demand management and water use efficiency, long-term non-functional turf conversion, and a federal tax exemption for water conservation rebates.
3. Advance Pure Water Southern California and other water recycling projects and long-term supply reliability improvements.
4. Support funding for regional conveyance and water storage improvements to ensure the region's water supply is adequate and reliable for all member agencies.
5. Protect drinking water quality and ensure access to safe and reliable drinking water, including upholding the polluter pays principle and ~~ensuring~~supporting the ~~continued ongoing~~ cleanup of contaminated sites along the Colorado River.
6. Support adaptive management for ecosystem restoration in the Bay-Delta and Colorado River watersheds that takes into consideration evolving climate conditions, risk analyses, and best available science.
7. Improve water affordability, especially for disadvantaged communities, without burdening existing ratepayers.
8. Assist public agencies in the transition to zero-emission fleets and equipment, while ensuring operational reliability and maintaining emergency response capabilities.

II. Metropolitan-Sponsored State Bills

1. Support administrative/legislative actions to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date ~~to~~and allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan. (Board approved in November 2023, MI 53444)
2. Contingent on Board approval: Support legislation for Metropolitan to increase the local agency dollar threshold for public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$75,000. (Board decision anticipated November 2024)



~~2024~~2025 Legislative Policy Principles

The ~~2024~~2025 Legislative Policy Principles ~~will~~ guide and inform Metropolitan's engagement on state and federal legislative and regulatory activities. They ~~were~~are updated annually and are developed in consultation with Metropolitan's subject matter experts ~~at Metropolitan, and through outreach with the member agencies.~~

The policy principles ~~holistically~~ address six strategic areas ~~of policy~~ that inform Metropolitan's One Water Vision and the Board-led process for developing the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W). These policy areas include: (1) drinking water; (2) regional water resource management; (3) imported water supply; (4) sustainability, resiliency, and innovation; (5) infrastructure; and (6) system resiliency.

- I. Drinking Water – Metropolitan provides ~~to the Southern California region~~ high-quality, reliable drinking water in an economically responsible way to the Southern California region that surpasses all federal and state drinking water regulations.

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

A. Water Quality and Treatment

1. Use best available science, occurrence and health effects data, and appropriate cost-benefit analyses or economic feasibility to protect public health and improve water quality. Apply these principles when setting maximum contaminant levels, health advisories, or notification/response levels, in addition to assessing laboratory capacity, analytical methods, and other regulatory standards or guidance levels.
2. Apply the "polluter pays" principle such that parties responsible for introducing contaminants, ~~such as per- and polyfluoralkyl substances,~~ in or near drinking water sources are held liable for cleanup, and not the drinking water, recycled water, and wastewater facilities that subsequently store, transport, or treat the water.
3. Comply with ~~any~~ new regulatory standards, develop including treatment and mitigation measures, development of risk communication tools, as well as provide and adequate time for implementation.
4. Protect source water quality, ~~reduce~~reduction of threats from invasive species, and ~~mitigate~~mitigation of harmful algal blooms.
5. Improve the State Water Resource Control Board's knowledge of CEC in waters of the state and drinking water, including support for the Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) Action Fund.

- B. Water Governance, Affordability, and Funding – Metropolitan supports efforts to provide access to safe, reliable and affordable drinking water to all ~~residents~~communities.

~~0. Prioritize providing safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water to disadvantaged communities.~~

1. Improve water affordability throughout the region, especially for disadvantaged communities, without burdening existing ratepayers.
2. ~~Help for~~ water systems ~~to~~ provide low-income ratepayer assistance programs ~~in a way that is operationally feasible, sustainable and maintains consumer confidence in retail~~



agencies.

3. Improve governance and long-term sustainability of non-compliant water systems ~~and~~, provide assistance for voluntary consolidations ~~that improve their technical, managerial, or financial capacity, while ensuring~~, and ensure that all receiving public water systems are consulted on ~~changes of organization, including proposed potential~~ consolidations. Increase local ~~agencies~~agency flexibility in determining fees for service and assessment amounts.
4. Ensure the limited resources of the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund are ~~allocated to advance projects, prioritized for~~ operation and maintenance costs, infrastructure improvements, and ~~or~~ consolidation actions ~~that will achieve long-term sustainability for water systems and the communities that rely on those systems.~~

II. Regional Water Resource Management – Metropolitan’s One Water Vision and the Board-led CAMP4W process promote collaboration with member agencies to adapt to climate change and plan for future water supply needs ~~and the challenges ahead~~ in a reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible manner. ~~This involves protecting imported water supplies and quality, supporting local resource development, advancing water use efficiency, and supporting ecosystem protection and restoration.~~

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

A. Conservation

1. Support tax exemptions and/or credits for water conservation or efficiency incentives, including but not limited to long-term conversion of non-functional turf (~~NFT~~), local stormwater capture, and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape.
2. Encourage equitable water use efficiency and recycled water use among agricultural, industrial, and urban sectors.
3. Support retail water agencies’ ability to advance ~~meet the objectives of~~ Conservation as a California Way of Life in a manner that maintains flexibility and local control. Support efforts to ensure new statutes and regulations are based on science; recognize regional distinctions (~~i.e., such as~~ climate, land use, population, and hydrology); consider water affordability; and assess potential impacts to wastewater operations and recycled water projects.
4. Advance leak detection and water loss reduction. Support the development and implementation of flexible water loss standards for both retail and wholesale water systems.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions for the long-term conversion of ~~NFT~~non-functional turf in commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes and ban installation of ~~NFT~~non-functional turf in new construction. Support federal/state funding for the long-term conversion of ~~NFT~~non-functional turf in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes.

B. Desalination ~~&~~and Groundwater Remediation

1. Support brackish groundwater and seawater desalination projects, consistent with the



Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio ~~and 2022, California's~~ Water Supply Strategy and Metropolitan's CAMP4W goals.

2. Facilitate salinity control projects, including but not limited to source control, treatment, and concentrate management.
3. Advance research, pilot tests, and demonstration studies ~~to that~~ encourage the development of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient desalination technologies.

C. Recycled Water

1. Advance Pure Water Southern California ~~Program~~ and ~~related other water recycling~~ projects.
2. Improve flexibility of the State's water recycling grant program.
3. Implement the National Water Reuse Action Plan and ~~California~~ California's Water Reuse Action Plan while ~~protecting~~ preserving local flexibility and encouraging local, state, and federal coordination, research, and innovation.
4. Facilitate advancing direct potable reuse ~~regulations by December 31, 2023. These actions include projects in California, including~~ but ~~are~~ not limited to: streamlining the planning, development, and implementation of local and regional potable reuse projects; ~~and initiatives to fill, as well as addressing~~ research gaps ~~and advance the science to promote the;~~ advancing scientific knowledge; and strengthening partnerships and outreach to further the development of potable reuse.
5. Promote voluntary on-site ~~water wastewater~~ treatment systems, if they maintain compliance ~~comply~~ with Title 22 and do not negatively affect municipal water recycling systems.
6. Maximize voluntary use of recycled water.

D. Local Supply Development

1. Protect and ~~funding that protect and advance local~~ enhance flexibility and responsiveness in developing ~~locally appropriate~~ diverse, climate-resilient ~~diverse~~ resource portfolios tailored to local needs.
2. Promote integrated water resources development by advocating for clear, concise, and expedited regulations ~~and~~ policies that are easily understandable by the regulated community and public.
3. Expedite the development of new local resources ~~(including recycled to help adapt to climate change and safeguard~~ water system operations. Advance stormwater as a beneficial resource and facilitate the funding and permitting of stormwater capture projects to augment local and regional water supplies and promote holistic watershed health.
4. Advance Metropolitan's surface and groundwater storage and/or recovery programs with member agencies and other partners.

E. Watershed Management

1. Enhance watershed management ~~in Southern California, the Bay-Delta, and Colorado River watersheds that~~ to provide broad public benefits, ~~including such as improved~~ water



quality and water supply reliability, reduced wildfire risks, greater scientific understanding, and other environmental improvements.

2. Advance implementation of watershed management plans, including watershed research and multi-benefit forestry management projects.
3. Advance implementation of the California Water ~~Resiliency~~Resilience Portfolio and the Water Supply Strategy, ~~as~~ consistent with ~~Metropolitan~~Metropolitan's goals and objectives, to ~~ensure improved~~enhance watershed-scale coordination, ~~watershed~~ management and planning, and support programs and funding that ~~provide~~improve water resilience and ~~improve~~ watershed functions.

III. Imported Water Supply – Metropolitan provides imported water supplies to its member agencies from two primary sources: the Colorado River via the Colorado River Aqueduct and Northern California watersheds via the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the State Water Project (SWP).

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

A. Bay-Delta Initiatives– Metropolitan is involved in several key regulatory and planning processes in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta related to the operation of the SWP. The ~~goal is~~goals are to ~~advance~~improve both water supply reliability and ~~ecosystem restoration concurrently by modernizing the state's water infrastructure with the proposed Delta Conveyance Project and improving the habitat and function of ecosystems in~~ the Delta estuary for ~~the benefit of~~ threatened and endangered species. To advance these goals, Metropolitan supports collaborative scientific efforts to ~~better understand~~enhance understanding of how to restore and manage the Bay-Delta while reducing reliance on it, consistent with the 2009 Delta Reform Act (Delta Reform Act).

1. Advance Delta Conveyance and EcoRestore in support of California's coequal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration and the Governor's California Water Resilience Portfolio.
2. Improve scientific understanding of listed Delta fish and wildlife species and water project operations in the Delta, including data collection, real-time monitoring, and modeling. Promote the use of best available science to protect and restore aquatic species and habitats, and enhance flexibility for water project operations while maintaining regulatory and statutory protections for species listed under the state and federal Endangered Species Act.
3. Support implementation of state policies adopted as part of the Delta Reform Act and water management package, including clarification of the monitoring, reporting, and enforcement provisions related to in-Delta diversions.
4. Protect water quality for beneficial uses and that are implemented ~~consistent~~in accordance with California water rights priorities.
5. Advance the Delta Freshwater Pathway, ~~levee improvements~~improve levees (including levee modernization for the existing Delta levee system), levee maintenance programs (including real-time monitoring ~~for the existing Delta levee system~~), and secure Delta flood-fighting materials and stockpiles.
6. Modernize and ~~funding in the Delta watershed to account for and~~effectively administer the California water rights system in the Delta watershed, including protecting stored water releases.



7. Advance the Sites Reservoir Project and the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements), consistent with the Board's action ~~to advance for~~ these efforts.
- B. Colorado River Resources – The Colorado River is a critical resource for the entire Southwest and many diverse ecosystems. Climate change has reduced the River's flow, and degradation of the Colorado River's water quality can cause ~~significant~~ economic, environmental, and human health impacts across the West. Metropolitan and other interested parties work to ensure we can continue to supply our communities with a safe and reliable water supply.
1. Support conservation and efficiency projects to enhance the resiliency of the Colorado River System and ensure that sufficient water is ~~stored and~~ delivered ~~from Lake Mead~~ to meet regional water supply needs. Support the cleanup of contaminated sites along the Colorado River. This includes, but is not limited to, uranium remediation in Moab, Utah; perchlorate remediation in Henderson, Nevada; hexavalent chromium remediation near Topock, Arizona; and a waste disposal site near Hoover Dam.
 2. ~~Promote~~ Stabilize the financial position of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program), ensure continued coordination between states and federal agencies to further the ~~Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program) and work to include water conservation as a criterion in the selection of salinity control projects. Support actions to stabilize the financial position of the~~ Program goals, and maintain the safe operation of the ~~United States~~ U.S. Bureau of ~~Reclamation's~~ Reclamation Paradox Valley Unit salinity control project ~~at a safe level, until a viable long-term alternative is implemented.~~
 3. Facilitate successful implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program ~~to promote the recovery of by conserving Colorado River water and creating habitat for~~ threatened and endangered species ~~in a manner that allows the Lower Basin States to conserve Colorado River water.~~
 4. Advance binational water conservation programs that benefit Colorado River supply augmentation and habitat restoration objectives.
 5. Support settlement of tribal reserved rights claims in the ~~U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to update and apply reasonable and beneficial use determinations while acknowledging~~ Colorado River Basin that are consistent with the evolving Law of the River.
- C. State Water Project – About 30 percent of Southern California's water comes from the SWP in an average year. Metropolitan works with state and federal agencies as well as other SWP contractors to manage threats to the project ~~and,~~ address environmental needs, and augment water supplies through existing and potential collaborative transfers and groundwater banking agreements.
1. Address the impacts of subsidence on the SWP and prevent future damage caused by unsustainable groundwater pumping.
 2. Repair and ~~funding for~~ improve the joint state and federal facility ~~repairs, rehabilitation, and improvements,~~ and ensure that funding is equitably distributed between partners while maintaining SWP supply reliability.
 3. Clean up contaminated groundwater storage basins used for Metropolitan water banking programs along the California Aqueduct.



4. Provide public share of costs, including recreation, flood protection, mitigation, environmental enhancement, and rehabilitation for multi-purpose SWP facilities.

IV. Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation – ~~Metropolitan~~ Metropolitan's CAMP4W process supports ~~policies and funding that encourage~~ sustainable practices that improve water and power system resiliency ~~and adapt~~ to help water agencies prepare and respond to a rapidly changing environmental landscape. Metropolitan strives to fulfill the needs of the current generation without compromising the needs of future generations in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

A. Carbon Neutrality

1. Facilitate implementation of Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan to reduce Metropolitan's greenhouse gas emissions and reach carbon neutrality by 2045.
2. Assist the Department of Water Resources in reaching carbon neutrality for the SWP by 2045 in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner.
3. Improve, develop, and promote innovative climate adaptation solutions ~~and support,~~ including science-based strategies and tools that ~~benefit the environment by restoring~~ restore healthy soils, ~~conserving~~ conserve water, ~~and capturing and/or sequestering~~ capture carbon.
4. Assist public agencies in the transition to zero-emission fleets and equipment, while ensuring operational reliability and maintaining emergency response capabilities.

B. Water/Energy Nexus

1. Facilitate energy efficiency and storage projects, and programs to reduce greenhouse gases and develop renewable resources.
2. Remove barriers and encourage energy sector investments in water conservation and energy management programs.
3. Preserve Metropolitan's ability to pursue a diverse set of supply options and oppose constraints on supply development, such as water resource loading orders based solely on energy intensity.
4. Ensure power costs are appropriate and proportional to the benefits received and that water system operations are not adversely affected by power-related legislation ~~/ or~~ administrative actions.
5. Use the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for water/energy nexus projects and maintain cap-and-trade allowances for Metropolitan and Department of Water Resources (i.e., State Water Contractors).
6. Maintain Metropolitan authority over energy-related matters relative to its system and operations (e.g., system reserve margin or resource adequacy requirements).

C. Renewable Energy

1. Define hydropower generation as renewable energy irrespective of a facility's nameplate generating capacity and include the provision of renewable energy credits for hydroelectric generation.



2. Enhance or expand hydropower at existing dams ~~do not without~~ adversely ~~impacting~~ impacting the financial or operational aspects of those dams, ~~either financially or operationally,~~ or impacting entities with rights to ~~the~~ power from ~~the~~ existing resources that directly or indirectly impact Metropolitan's service area.
3. Improve federal hydropower relicensing for existing facilities, including SWP resources.
4. Incorporate renewable energy resources for the SWP and the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) ~~to incorporate renewable energy resources, such as pumped hydroelectric energy,~~ that contribute to the state's climate goals, ~~such as pumped hydroelectric energy,~~ without ~~impacting~~ impacting ~~compromising~~ the ~~projects'~~ primary purpose, ~~provided of these water supply and delivery projects.~~ Ensure consideration ~~is given to of~~ transmission limitations, cost and portfolio availability, and prevent shifting of any unrelated impacts ~~are not shifted~~ to SWP or CRA facilities.

D. Environmental Stewardship

1. Ensure environmental compliance ~~to improve by improving the~~ clarity and workability of ~~the regulatory and reporting~~ requirements ~~and promote, promoting~~ consistency, and ~~reduce regulatory~~ reducing duplication, while also protecting public health and the environment.
2. Facilitate non-mitigation habitat restoration projects that benefit endangered and threatened species and ecosystem health.
3. Advance research and partnerships ~~on~~ in water science, including snowpack and streamflow monitoring, stormwater runoff, drinking water quality, salinity control, source water protection, soil moisture monitoring, healthy soils, and watershed research.

E. Workforce Development and Safety – Metropolitan is committed to ensuring the resiliency of its workforce and to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as workplace violence prevention, to promote the physical and mental safety and well-being of its workforce and the communities it serves.

1. Improve educational opportunities in the water sector, including career technical education and workforce development.
2. Strengthen training programs and certification processes for water system staff.
3. Promote safe work environments.

F. Innovation – Supporting and promoting innovation and emerging technologies continues Metropolitan's ~~long~~ longstanding tradition of creatively solving ~~difficult~~ complex challenges.

1. Advance research and development of new and emerging technologies such as satellite- and computer-based ~~technologies~~ systems to monitor source water quality, ecosystem health, ~~state- and federal-~~ threatened and endangered species; Support technologies that measure and predict ~~agricultural-~~ water use, ~~urban outdoor water use, and reservoir~~ evaporation; and moisture monitoring; expand coordination with technology incubators, research institutions, and other ~~stakeholder groups~~ stakeholders.
2. Promote open water data platforms and sharing, including improving access to agency data, streamlining the collection and submission of water agency data, and promoting collaboration among federal, state, and local stakeholders.



- V. Infrastructure – Metropolitan has a strategic priority to invest in key capital projects in ~~our~~its region to enable long-term, reliable water deliveries. Key ~~capital~~ projects identified in Metropolitan’s Capital Investment Plan focus on improvements to the CRA, treatment plants, and distribution systems.

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

- A. Initiate, expedite, and defray the costs of planning, financing, constructing, repairing, and rehabilitating water and power infrastructure projects, including but not limited to general obligation bonds, tax-exempt municipal bonds, grants, low-interest loans, and direct appropriations. Ensure equitable cost-sharing of water and power infrastructure projects.
- B. Expand funding programs, expedite project approval and reporting processes, and prevent project backlogs in state and federal funding or financing.
- C. Support the “beneficiaries pay” approach as a financing mechanism for statewide projects and programs and oppose public goods charges, or other charges levied on water agencies for funding broader public benefits.
- D. Advocate for public share of costs, including mitigation, rehabilitation, and recreation, for multi-purpose water infrastructure.

Support new or expanded water and power infrastructure or programs that complement existing water supplies and operations to ensure reliability for ~~all~~Metropolitan and its member agencies.

- VI. System Resiliency – Metropolitan diligently maintains and significantly invests to safeguard a region-wide water supply and delivery system that is a cornerstone of Southern California’s \$1.6 trillion economy. ~~Changes in the climate~~Climate change and ~~accompanying increasing~~ weather extremes are serious challenges facing Metropolitan ~~and its member agencies~~. Additionally, Metropolitan ~~needs to~~must be prepared to respond rapidly to natural disasters and security threats. Resiliency ensures the systems for water supply. ~~D~~elivery and ~~delivery system is~~power remain strong, can return to service quickly, and ~~is~~are prepared to address future challenges.

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

A. Climate Resiliency

1. Support local and regional drought resiliency projects to improve system flexibility; facilitate the integration of existing and planned local water supplies, distribution, and regional water facilities.
2. Advance planning and research into the potential ~~water resource and quality effects~~risks of climate change ~~on water and power resources (and water quality) (and work to offset these risks)~~.
3. Help offset the effects of climate change on imported ~~source~~and local water supplies through watershed protection and enhancement of water quality, supply, and demand-side management actions ~~to help offset the effects of climate change~~.
4. Recognize and help mitigate the significant differences in the ~~capability~~capabilities and needs of communities and regions to ~~withstand~~respond to the impacts of climate change.
5. Help develop local drought contingency planning plans in areas ~~in~~of the state that have increased concern about wholesale water system delivery constraints.



1. — ~~Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that facilitate the integration of existing and planned local water supply, distribution systems, and regional water facilities.~~

B. -Emergency Preparedness

1. Assist the water industry in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from extreme weather events and natural disasters, including earthquakes and wildfires, catastrophic accidents, and physical or cyber sabotage. These actions may include, but are not limited to, ~~actions to provide funding for hazard mitigation and~~ emergency ~~responses and~~ response planning, funding, and post-emergency service restoration ~~of service~~.
2. Assist the water industry ~~to address~~ in addressing the effects of wildfires and power outages, including the impacts of public safety power shutoff events.
3. Support the Federal Emergency Management Agency programs to assist with hazard mitigation and emergency repairs and improvements, including but not limited to dam safety, spillway improvements, and erosion control repairs.

C. Physical and Cyber Security

1. Support continued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversight of water system security in coordination with other federal and state agencies with expertise in security, including the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the Chemical Security Analysis Center.
2. Support ~~enhanced~~ physical security and cybersecurity for water and power infrastructure.
3. Support trade associations and coalition efforts to share information and develop standard guidance and best management practices to protect water and power critical infrastructure from cyber vulnerabilities.
4. Ensure Metropolitan's ability to reliably operate and maintain its facilities, infrastructure, and real estate property assets, including rights of way, and to protect against encroachment.

D. Chemical Security

1. Improve supply chain reliability, achieve tax-exempt status for water treatment chemicals, and ensure consistent access to water treatment chemicals.
2. Ensure the continued use of gaseous chlorine to protect public health.



Legislation and Communications Committee

Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025

Item 9-3

November 19, 2024

Item #9-3

Legislative
Priorities and
Principles for
2025

Subject

Annual review of staff-recommended updates to the Legislative Priorities and Principles

Purpose

Seek Board feedback & direction

Next Steps

- Assess, incorporate and/or respond to input
- Return for Board adoption – December 2024

Purpose & Process

- Annual update
- Provide Board guidance & direction on anticipated legislative/regulatory issues
- Seek & incorporate feedback and input
- Identify eight Metropolitan & regional priorities
- Identify any Metropolitan-sponsored legislative initiative(s)
- Express Metropolitan legislative principles in 6 over-arching strategic areas
- After adoption, posted publicly on website

Summary of High-Level Changes

- Streamline document
 - Reduce repetitive phrases
 - Eliminate lists of examples
 - Keep bullets intentionally more general to speak to policy issue & principle
- Reflect recent developments in law, regulations, and anticipated legislative activity
- Add new priority to address public agency transition to zero emissions fleet & equipment
- Add a new MWD-sponsored bill proposal(s)

Summary of High-Level Changes

- Revised 3 bullets in I:A Water Quality & Treatment to:
 - 2 – add recycled water
 - 3 – add treatment & mitigation measures
 - 5 – express support for CEC Action Fund
- I.B.1 was incorporated into the description
- Revised 1 bullet 5 in III.B. Colorado River Resources to express support for tribal settlement, consistent with the Law of the River

Summary of High-Level Changes

- Revised IV.E. Workforce Development and Safety
- Revised V. Infrastructure to add power infrastructure throughout; also include support for infrastructure that complements both existing supplies and *operations*.
- VI.A Climate Resiliency – combined bullets 1, 6
- VI.B Emergency Preparedness – add hazard mitigation throughout

Current Actions & Next Steps

- Board information item posted - November 6
- Present to Member Agency Legislative Coordinators - November 7
- Present to Member Agency General Managers - November 15
- Information item to Board - November 19
- Board action item posting – anticipated November 27
- Action Item to Board for adoption - December 10

Top Legislative Priorities

1. Imported water supply resiliency & reliability
2. Demand management and water use efficiency
3. Pure Water Southern California & long-term supply reliability improvements
4. Support funding for regional conveyance
5. Drinking water quality & access to safe and reliable water; polluter pays principle
6. Ecosystem restorations accounting for evolving climate and risk analyses
7. Improve water affordability without burdening existing ratepayers/customers
8. **NEW:** Assist public agencies in the zero-emissions fleet & equipment transition, maintaining reliability & emergency response capabilities

Possible MWD- sponsored State Bill(s)

- Amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date to allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan. (Approved November 2023, M.I. 53444)
- Amend the Public Contract Code to increase the minimum dollar threshold from \$25,000 to \$75,000 for public works construction contracts competitive bidding requirements (*contingent on Board authorization*)

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

- Revise bullet 2 – add recycled water
- Revise bullet 3 – add treatment and mitigation measures
- Revise bullet 5 – support for CEC Action Fund

B. Water Governance, Affordability & Funding

- Incorporate former bullet 1 in description

II. Regional Water Resource Management

- A. Conservation
- B. Desalination & Groundwater Remediation
- C. Recycled Water
- D. Local Supply Development
- E. Watershed Management

No major changes

III. Imported Water Supply

A. Bay-Delta Initiatives

No major changes

B. Colorado River Resources

- Revised Bullet 5 – add support for settlement of tribal reserved right claims consistent with the Law of the River

C. State Water Project

No major changes

IV. Sustainability, Resiliency, & Innovation

No major changes in A, B, C, D, or F

- A. Carbon Neutrality
- B. Water/Energy Nexus
- C. Renewable Energy
- D. Environmental Stewardship
- E. Workforce Development and Safety
 - Add bullet 3 – to promote safe working environments
- F. Innovation

V. Infrastructure

- Include power infrastructure throughout
 - A. Funding and financing tools
 - B. Equitable cost-sharing
 - C. Expansion of funding; expedite approvals & reporting
 - D. Funding for public share of costs
 - E. Support infrastructure that complements existing water supplies and operations to ensure reliability for Metropolitan & MAs

VI. System Resiliency

A. Climate Resiliency

- Combine bullets 1, 6

B. Emergency Preparedness

- Add hazard mitigation throughout

C. Physical and Cyber Security

No major changes

B. Chemical Security

No major changes

Legislative Priorities & Principles for 2025

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Legislation and Communications Committee

Report on Inspection Trip Program

Item 6a

November 19, 2024

Report on Inspection Trip Program

Subject

Provide an update on the Inspection Trip Program

Purpose

Discuss status of the program for 2024-25

Program Overview

Authorization and Purpose

- Admin Code Sections 2610 - 2615
- Inform and educate on water issues and MWD's operations, programs and objectives
- Visual inspection of District and related facilities



Program Overview

Trips for Directors

- Directors may take two trips – an overnight and a one-day per fiscal year
- Overnight trips are either to SWP or Colorado River
- One-day trips focus on infrastructure, local resources, environmental projects and/or DVL



Managing Costs

Budget Review

- Current budget of \$700,000 for this year and next
- Travel costs have increased significantly
 - Airfare: varying rates with dynamic pricing
 - Bus transportation: rates are up 30-40%
 - Meals: food costs up 10-25%
- Board motion to restore budget if funding becomes available.

Managing Costs

Budget Review

- Controlling costs through following measures
 - No shuttle buses
 - On-time registration to allow timely booking of air travel
 - Meals served buffet-style at Gene Camp
- Information shared with MA Trip Coordinators during meeting in August

2024-25 Inspection Trip Program



Expecting 19 overnight trips

- 17 Director trips confirmed
- Two Director trips to be booked

Expecting nine one-day trips

- Five Director trips confirmed
- Four trips to be booked

To restore full program requires:

- Additional funds for travel
- New inspection trip mgr. position
- Additional staff at Gene Camp





Legislation & Communications Committee

Report on Solar Cup Program

Item 6b
November 19, 2024

Report on Solar Cup Program

Subject

Report on Solar Cup TM Program

Purpose

To provide update on Solar Cup TM Program

Solar Cup Program Overview

- Solar Cup™ Program ran 2002-2019 in person (2020-2022 online)
- 16 Member Agencies participated in 2019 with 40 schools and 800 students
- Introduction to water and technical careers



Program Elements & Resources

- Year-long program and workshops culminating in three-day competition event at Lake Skinner
- Required one full-time and two part-time staff; weekly meetings with core team; contract with technical consultant



- Significant in-kind and volunteer services were needed for event:
 - Three Valleys MWD
 - Member Agencies
 - Southern California Edison Foundation

Budget Reductions for External Affairs

FY 2017: \$10,615,000
FY 2018: \$9,163,000
FY 2019: \$10,332,000
FY 2020: \$9,074,000
FY 2021: \$8,520,000
FY 2022: \$8,771,000
FY 2023: \$7,350,000
FY 2024: \$6,725,000
FY 2025: \$6,934,000



External Affairs' non-labor budget has **decreased 35%** in recent years while workload demands on the group have increased

Budget Reductions

- Solar Cup™ – no funding, no staff positions
- Director Inspection Trips (50% reduction beginning in 2023)
- Sponsorship budget cut 50% that typically supports NGOs, other community organizations
- Closed DVL Visitors Center
- Research and polling – no funding in 2024, 2025
- Significant cuts for advertising and outreach, and reduction in travel, professional services

Primary Activities and Workload for External Affairs

Legislative activities, advocacy and community leader briefings; monitor key business/community orgs, member agency and local govt. meetings (60 to 70/month)

Inspection trips (~40/year), facilitate foreign delegation visits

Community outreach for shutdowns, emergencies, CIP, repairs and in-Delta/Palo Verde

Sustainability initiatives – CAMP4W, Pure Water

Press Office (160 interviews, 2,200 news stories generated)

Graphic design, speechwriting, video, animation and exhibit design services



Primary Activities and Workload for External Affairs (cont)

Education programming for K-college students

Creation of multilanguage, multimedia conservation advertising campaign strategy and assets

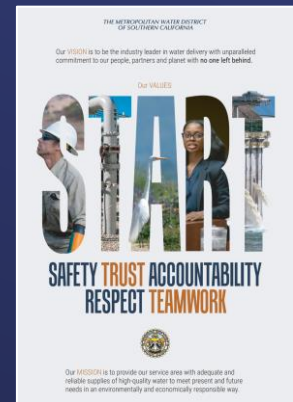
Management, content creation for social media and websites

Production of special events.

Organize member agency meetings for managers, PIOs, legislative, education coordinators (50+ mtgs/year)

Manage & negotiate benefits for 120 sponsorships, 100 organizational memberships

Support all areas of the organization with reports, talking points, presentations, branding, training & safety materials



Looking Forward



Solar Cup® Partnering Opportunity




Teamwork



Hands-on learning



Meeting Goals

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is seeking funding partners for its acclaimed Solar Cup® program. High school students throughout Southern California put their teamwork, leadership and communication skills to the test along with the application of academic concepts at the nation's largest solar powered boat racing competition. Throughout the year, students learn real world skills of budgeting, research, design and construction, with technical training in electrical systems and boat construction. The integration of science, technology, engineering and math in a hands-on competition has created a very popular program with waiting lists each year.

Solar Cup® began in 2002 with eight teams and about 100 students. In the 20 years since, more than 10,000 young men and women have participated in Solar Cup® competitions, learning about water resource management, alternative energy development and sustainability. Many have been inspired to pursue careers in math, physics, engineering and environmental science.

Estimated annual program budget\$1 Million
Partner funding needed\$750,000 per Year
Target date to restart program Fall 2024
In-person event Spring 2025

Inquiries: Carolyn Schaffer, Section Manager for Member Services and Public Outreach
cschaffer@mwdh2o.com (213) 217-6833

- In 2023, MWD staff reached out to other agencies, businesses, organizations
- Cal Poly Pomona Capstone Project

Current Programming

Metropolitan's Education Program

- Classroom visits and field trips, online learning
- Curriculum collaborations with organizations
- Partnerships with colleges and universities on sustainability initiatives
- Summer internships
- Calendar program featuring student art
- Water Engineering 4 Good online STEM competition for middle and high school students

WATER ENGINEERING 4 GOOD

Legislation & Communications Committee

Water Engineering 4 Good



Thank You Teachers



In 2024, Venice High School sponsored 16 teams for **Water Engineering 4 Good**, under the leadership of teacher Stanley Johnson.

Stanley Johnson, math & engineering teacher
Venice High School

Estimated Annual Expenditures

MWD Labor - program, administrative, event staffing. Would need funding and authorization for new position	\$ 573,000
Professional Services (Occidental College served this function previously)	\$ 80,000
Equipment and Supplies	\$ 300,000 in first year \$ 80,000 in future years
Competition Weekend and Workshops (rental costs, food for participants, clean-up, staff lodging and travel and security)	\$ 260,000
Total for First Year to Restart Program	\$ 1,213,000

Member Agency Survey

10 Agencies want to bring back the Solar Cup™ program

Eight are willing to pay the \$3-\$5K per team participation fee (2 are not)

None of the Agencies are willing to pay \$50K or more to share program costs

Three Valleys is willing to host the boat building workshop and other events; MWDOC directors want to see the program sponsored by outside entities



Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Assistance for Disadvantaged Communities	H.R. 8032 (Sorenson, D-IL) S. 3830 (Padilla, D-CA)	4/16/24: Referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure. 2/28/24: Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.	Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act Establishes a permanent, nationwide water assistance program to help low-income households with their water and wastewater bills.	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This bill makes permanent the temporary low-income household water assistance program established at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sustained federal assistance to help low-income household afford their water and wastewater bills would help residents in Metropolitan’s service area and its member agencies.
Conservation	H.R. 3490 (Gallego, D-AZ)	5/19/23: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.	Water Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2023 Authorizes a new grant program to help wastewater and drinking water systems detect leaks and reduce water loss.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill directly benefits Metropolitan and its member agencies by creating a grant program to help cover the costs for conveyance leak detection and reduce supplier-side water loss. Funds could be used for a variety of investments including smart water network technologies, real-time sensing technologies, real-time decision support, and advanced metering infrastructure.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Conservation	S. 2166 (Padilla, D-CA)	7/19/23: Hearing held before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.	Voluntary Agricultural Land Repurposing Act Authorizes a grant program at the Bureau of Reclamation to provide states and Indian Tribes with funding to establish programs to voluntarily repurpose agricultural land to reduce consumptive water use.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This new program would provide federal funding to support California’s Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program. The funding would help agriculture lands transition out of production and instead be used for habitat restoration, renewable energy projects, or other purposes. The program would support Metropolitan’s work in the Central Valley and along the Colorado River.
Conservation	H.R. 5016 (Levin, D-CA) S. 2654 (Padilla, D-CA)	7/27/23: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. 7/27/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.	Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2023 Creates new US EPA grant programs for water efficiency and conservation measures, water loss control programs, and water efficient plumbing code adoption.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill directly benefits Metropolitan and its member agencies by creating new grant programs to help both water agencies and consumers reduce water loss. The new programs will supplement on-going work by Metropolitan and its member agencies and promote water conservation throughout Metropolitan’s service area.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Endangered Species Act Oversight	H.R. 9515 (Calvert, R-CA) S. 5012 (Padilla, D-CA)	9/10/24: Referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. 9/11/24: Hearing held before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.	Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024 Establishes an interest-bearing account for the non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP).	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This innovative 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.
Endangered Species Act Oversight	H.R. 872 (Calvert, R-CA)	2/21/23: Referred to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries.	Federally Integrated Species Health Act or the “FISH Act” Transfers the authority to oversee ESA-related responsibilities for anadromous fish from the Secretary of Commerce to the Secretary of the Interior.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This would simplify ESA consultations by consolidating those functions/authorities to one federal agency (US Fish and Wildlife Service) rather than two under the current law (the second being National Marine Fisheries Service). This would directly benefit Metropolitan's interests in the Delta related to SWP operations and facilities, as well as Delta islands activities.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 1837 (Kustoff, R-TN) S. 1453 (Wicker, R-MS)	3/28/23: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. 5/4/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.	House Title: Investing in Our Communities Act Senate Title: Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure Act or the LOCAL Infrastructure Act Both bills amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The ability to advance refund bonds on a tax-exempt basis would benefit Metropolitan and its member agencies by allowing municipal issuers to lower borrowing costs to take advantage of favorable interest rates.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	S. 2162 (Feinstein, D-CA)	7/19/23: Hearing held before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.	<p>Support To Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities Act” or the “STREAM Act”</p> <p>Authorizes funding for a variety of Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure investments including storage, water recycling, desalination, and ecosystem restoration projects for 5 years. It also authorizes a new assistance program to provide drinking water to disadvantaged communities and creates a new low interest loan program to help finance Western water projects.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>This bill would benefit Metropolitan and its member agencies by providing more funding for water infrastructure projects and ecosystem restoration projects. For example, the bill would accelerate the development of local water recycling projects by authorizing \$300 million for the Title XVI- WIIN Water Reuse Grants Program and raising the per-project funding cap from \$20 million to \$50 million. Additionally, the bill authorizes \$250 million for environmental restoration projects, including helping imperiled species adapt to climate change. This new program could support Metropolitan’s science projects in the Delta.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 7776 (Lee, D-NV) S. 4016 (Sinema, I-AZ)	6/12/24: Reported out favorably by the House Natural Resources Committee. 9/11/24: Hearing held before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.	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 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	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.
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 7990 (Napolitano, D-CA)	4/15/24: Referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.	Large Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization and Investment Act of 2024 Extends Reclamation’s large-scale recycled water program for six years, increases the cost threshold for large-scale projects from \$500M to \$1 B, and authorizes \$1B for the program.	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This bill would benefit Metropolitan and our member agencies by re-authorizing Reclamation’s large-scale recycled water program. This program provides federal assistance for large regional recycled water projects.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 8030 (Peters, D-CA) S. 4134 (Padilla, D-CA)	04/16/24: Referred to the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce. 04/16/24: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.	Drought Relief Obtained Using Government Help Today Act of 2024 (DROUGHT Act) Increases the maximum WIFIA loan a project can receive from 49% to 90% of the total cost if it is being built in either a state that has experienced D2 level droughts for 4 weeks in the past 3 years, a county for which a Governor has declared a drought emergency during the last 3 years or serves a historically disadvantaged community.	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This legislation would benefit Metropolitan and our member agencies by increasing the cap on WIFIA loans from 49% of a total project’s costs to 90% under some circumstances. WIFIA is an EPA program that provides low interests loans for water projects that cost over \$20 million.
Source Water Protection	H.R. 1181 (Garamendi, D-CA)	2/27/23: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment	Federal Water Pollution Control Permitting Terms Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) with respect to permitting terms.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	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.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 3439 (Panetta, D-CA) S. 1715 (Feinstein, D-CA)	6/23/23: Referred to the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and Workforce, Energy and Commerce and Natural Resources. 5/18/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.	Wildfire Emergency Act of 2023 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 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	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.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 1236 (Crow, D-CO) S. 540 (Bennet, D-CO)	3/22/23: Referred to the House Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources. 2/28/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.	Protect the West Act of 2023 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 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	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.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 7872 (Curtis, R-UT) S. 2514 (Bennett, D-CO)	6/12/24: Reported out favorably by the House Natural Resources Committee. 7/26/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.	Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act Amends the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The bill directly benefits Metropolitan and its member agencies by ensuring continued federal funding for salinity control projects along the Colorado River. This bill increases the federal cost share for projects to reduce the salt load in the Colorado River. States have insufficient funds to meet the current cost share requirements because project costs are increasing, and the state contribution is funded by hydropower power revenue which is declining. The cost share change is needed to maintain the current program.
Water Project Authorizations	H.R. 924 (Harder, D-CA)	2/10/23: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment.	Stop the Tunnels Act Prohibits the Corps of Engineers from issuing a permit for the Delta Conveyance Project.	OPPOSE Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	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.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water Project Authorizations	H.R. 2419 (Costa, D-CA) S. 2161 (Feinstein, D-CA)	5/8/23: Referred to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Oceans. 7/19/23: Hearing held before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.	Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Act This bill authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to provide financial assistance to mitigate the impacts of subsidence on California’s water delivery system.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This legislation would authorize repairs to the Friant-Kern Canal, Delta-Mendota Canal, and California Aqueduct to restore conveyance capacity lost due to subsidence.
Water Science	S. 466 (Peters, D-MI)	2/16/23: Referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Federal PFAS Research Evaluation Act Directs the National Academy of Sciences to study and report on a federal research agenda to advance the understanding of PFAS.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	Metropolitan supports research studies to understand the occurrence of PFAS in the environment. This bill directs the National Academy of Sciences to conduct studies to determine the research efforts needed to further the understanding of human exposure to, and toxicity of PFAS, as well as treatment of PFAS contamination in the environment, and the development of safe alternatives to PFAS.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water Science	<p>H.R. 2429 (Lee, D-NV)</p> <p>S. 1118 (Cortez-Mastro, D-NV)</p>	<p>5/8/23: Referred to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Oceans.</p> <p>12/14/23: Reported out favorably by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.</p>	<p>Open Access Evapotranspiration Data Act</p> <p>Establishes the Open Access Evapotranspiration (OpenET) Data Program to provide satellite-based evapotranspiration data from across the Western U.S. to federal agencies, states, and Indian Tribes. Authorizes \$23 million per year for five years for this program.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>The OpenET platform is currently supported by NASA and private philanthropy. Dedicated federal funding and support will improve the quantification of evaporation and consumptive water use and help provide data users with field-scale estimates of evapotranspiration over user-defined time periods. This information will help Metropolitan measure consumptive water use in Palo Verde and throughout the Colorado River basin, including areas where there is currently little data available.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water Science	H.R. 3027 (Porter, D-CA)	6/14/23: Hearing held before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries.	Reclamation Climate Change and Water Program Reauthorization Act of 2023 Extends the authorization for Reclamation’s basin studies program for ten years.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The Basin studies bring together technical experts, state and local water managers, conservation groups, and other stakeholders to assess water supply and demand imbalances at the river basin level. This benefits Metropolitan and its member agencies by ensuring consistent operations using science and awareness of the. In addition to the Colorado River basin, Reclamation has conducted these studies in other watersheds across the West including the Los Angeles and Santa Ana basins in Metropolitan’s service area and the Sacramento-San Joaquin system.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 4, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water System Security	H.R. 1367 (Schakowsky, D-IL) S. 660 (Markey, D-MA)	3/6/23: Referred to the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. 3/6/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.	Water System Threat Preparedness and Resilience Act of 2023 Establishes a new EPA grant program to increase drinking water and wastewater system threat preparedness and resilience, by helping cover the dues to join the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC).	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The WaterISAC is a source of information and best practices for water systems to protect against, mitigate, and respond to natural hazards, as well as physical and cyber security threats. Metropolitan, and many of its member agencies, are members of WaterISAC. This new program could help cover our dues or be used to help smaller agencies who lack access to WaterISAC participate in the program.
Water System Security	H.R. 7944 (Curtis, R-UT) S.1430 (Lummis, R-WY)	4/11/24: Referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure. 5/3/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.	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 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	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.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
November 19, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 400 B. Rubio (D – Baldwin Park) Sponsors: California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities	Chaptered Signed by Governor Chapter 201, Statutes of 2023	Local agency design-build projects: authorization. This measure would extend the existing sunset date to January 1, 2031, for the use of design-build as a delivery method for public works contracts.	Support Based on October 2021 Board Action	Metropolitan’s current authority to use design-build under AB 1845 (Calderon, CH. 275, 2022) will sunset on January 1, 2028. The provisions of this bill allow Metropolitan to use design-build for future projects through January 1, 2031.
AB 460 Bauer-Kahan (D – Orinda)	Chaptered Signed by Governor, Chapter 342, Statutes of 2024	State Water Resources Control Board: water rights and usage: civil penalties. This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board to adjust for inflation, by January 1 of each year, beginning in 2025, the amounts of civil and administrative liabilities or penalties imposed by the board in water right actions, as specified.	Support Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration, adopted April 2023	The bill now will provide for enhanced civil penalties for violations of any State Board regulation or curtailment order.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
November 19, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1337 Wicks (D – Oakland)	Amended 5/18/23 Dead	State Water Resources Control Board: water diversion curtailment. This bill would authorize SWRCB to adopt regulations for various water conservation purposes and implement these regulations through orders curtailing the diversion or use of water under any claim of right.	Oppose Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration, adopted April 2023	Regardless of whether there is a drought emergency, this bill would allow the State Board, by regulation, to permanently reduce permit rights (including SWP, Colorado River pre-1914 rights, or Delta Island license, pre-1914 or riparian right diversions) upon a finding that current diversions result in a waste or unreasonable use of water or that they harm public trust (fish and wildlife) resources. This would be a new broad power to the State Board that could permanently reallocate any water rights under any water year conditions without the protection or process of individual adjudications.
AB 1567 Garcia (D-Coachella)	Amended 5/26/2023 Two-year bill Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee Dead	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Clean Energy, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024. This measure would authorize a \$15.995 billion general obligation bond for the March 5, 2024, ballot to fund a broad range of resource-based programs that will assist California to improve its climate resiliency.	Support, if Amended Based on June 2023 Board Action	This measure is consistent with Metropolitan’s current policy priorities and supports the objectives of Metropolitan’s Climate Adaptation Master Plan. Metropolitan is seeking amendments to increase funding for recycled water, dam safety, regional conveyance, drought and conservation projects.
AB 1572 Friedman (D - Glendale) Co-sponsors: Metropolitan, Heal the Bay, National Resources Defense Council	Chaptered Signed by Governor Chapter 849, Statutes of 2023	Potable water: nonfunctional turf. This measure prohibits the use of potable water for the irrigation of non-functional turf located on commercial, industrial, institutional. This measure provides the State Water Resources Control Board with the authority to postpone compliance dates as prescribed.	Co-sponsor Based on April 2023 Board action	Based on input from the Board and member agencies, Metropolitan secured amendments to exclude multi-family residential buildings and protect the authority and local control of public water systems. Metropolitan is a co-sponsor of this measure.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
November 19, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>AB 1573 Friedman (D - Glendale)</p> <p>Sponsor: Earth Advocacy and California Native Plant Society</p>	<p>Amended 9/1/2023</p> <p>Two Year Bill</p> <p>Senate Floor – Inactive File</p> <p>Dead</p>	<p>Water conservation: landscape design: model ordinance.</p> <p>This measure would update the model water efficient landscape ordinance for new or renovated nonresidential areas to require at least 25% local native plants beginning January 1, 2026. This measure would also prohibit the use of nonfunctional turf in nonresidential landscape projects after January 1, 2026.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>This measure is consistent with Metropolitan’s effort to reduce nonfunctional turf within its service area Metropolitan staff further solicited input from member agencies and worked with the author’s office to develop amendments for an alternative NFT proposal, consistent with existing legislative policy principles, which was not adopted due to time constraints with end of session.</p>
<p>AB 1581 A. Kalra (D – San Jose)</p>	<p>Amended 8/23/2024</p> <p>Pending Governor’s Signature</p>	<p>Conservation: Restoration Management Permit Act and California State Safe Harbor Agreement Program Act</p> <p>This bill would authorize the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to (1) issue a restoration management permit to authorize the take, possession, import, or export of any species or subspecies of fish, wildlife, or plants in association with a management or propagation project that, among other things, has the primary purpose of restoring native fish, wildlife, plants, or their habitat and (2) authorize any impacts to fish and wildlife resources as a result of activities otherwise subject to the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program, as provided. The bill would exempt these management or restoration projects from various legal requirements, including, among others, the above-described prohibitions regarding the take or possession of fully protected fish, as specified.</p>	<p>Support, if Amended</p>	<p>This bill proposes a one-stop-shop permitting process that would maximize its benefit to the environment by including environmental mitigation. The author’s office negotiated language that would limit the scope to only include voluntary restoration projects, or projects that go beyond required mitigation. Metropolitan requested amendments that would allow projects undertaken as mitigation for regulatory compliance to be a “qualifying restoration project” under this proposed streamlining authority.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
November 19, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1648 Bains (D - Bakersfield)	Amended 3/16/2023 Dead	Water: Colorado River Conservation This measure would specifically prohibit Metropolitan and LADWP to offset federally required reductions on Colorado River resources with increased water deliveries from other regions of California, including the Delta, retroactively as of January 1, 2023.	Oppose Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This measure would impair Metropolitan’s flexibility with its entire water portfolio, including the Integrated Water Resources Plan and the Annual Operating Plan. Metropolitan’s reliability and its ability to meet demands would also be impaired by restrictions on partnerships with its State Water Project and Colorado River Basin stakeholders.
AB 1827 D. Papan (D – San Mateo)	Chaptered Signed by Governor, Chapter 359, Statutes of 2024	Local government: fees and charges: water: higher-consumptive water parcels. The Legislature passed the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act in 1997 to provide guidance for implementation of the new constitutional provisions. AB 1827 (Papan) proposes to add Government Code section 53750.6 to the Act to clarify that the costs that may be recovered through retail water service fees may include the incrementally higher costs of water service due to (1) the higher water usage demand of parcels, (2) the maximum potential water use of parcels, or (3) projected peak water usage.	Support Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024.	Metropolitan’s wholesale water service rates to its co-op members are not subject to Proposition 218 and therefore, the bill does not have an effect on Metropolitan. It will, however, provide clearer guidance for its member agencies that provide retail water service and any retail water service provider within Metropolitan service area.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2060 E. Soria (D – Fresno)	Amended 8/15/2024 Senate Inactive File Dead	<p>Lake and streambed alteration agreements: exemptions.</p> <p>This bill would exempt qualifying temporary permit diversions of water from streams at or near flood stage to groundwater storage from the requirements of Fish & Game Code section 1602. Section 1602 requires anyone proposing to substantially alter the bed, banks or natural flows of a stream, river or lake to notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If CDFW determines the proposed activity may have a significant adverse impact on fish or wildlife, it will require a Lake or Stream Alteration Agreement (LSAA) that functions as a permit for the activity, and which always requires mitigation, monitoring and reporting to CDFW. AB 2060 would exempt qualifying diversions from this requirement. The only “mitigation” required to qualify is installation of basic fish screens, with no requirement that they meet any standards, including those adopted by CDFW and the federal fish services.</p>	<p>Support if Amended</p> <p>Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration 2023 Water Rights Principles, adopted April 2023 and 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024</p>	<p>This bill was amended to ensure the temporary permit authorization is consistent with existing law on diversion authorizations for current water rights holders. Metropolitan was seeking additional amendments to ensure the inclusion of fish screens on all intakes, not just “temporary pump” intakes, and that the screens minimize both entrainment <i>and</i> impingement.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2257 L. Wilson (D – Suisun City)	Amended 8/5/2024 Pending Governor’s Signature	<p>Local government: property-related water and sewer fees and assessments: remedies.</p> <p>AB 2257 establishes a process for objections to be submitted by any party objecting to the proposed fee or assessment, notice to the public of the requirements, and prerequisites for suing an agency on the basis of the validity of the fee or assessment. The bill requires exhaustion of the administrative procedures provided therein before a plaintiff may file suit and it limits the administrative record that may be reviewed in that litigation to evidence presented to or available to the agency prior to the adoption of the fee or assessment.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024</p>	<p>Metropolitan does not currently collect any fee or assessment on properties within its service area that is subject to Article XIII D. It does, however, have the authority to do so. Should it decide to adopt such a fee or assessment, it would be required to follow these proposed additional procedural requirements. Any litigation challenging such a fee or assessment would also be subject to the administrative remedy exhaustion and evidence limitation provided for by AB2257.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
November 19, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>AB 2610 E. Garcia (D – Coachella)</p>	<p>Amended 4/10/2024</p> <p>Dead</p>	<p>Protected species: authorized take: Salton Sea Management Program: System Conservation Implementation Agreement.</p> <p>Current law authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife, if certain conditions are fulfilled, to authorize the take of species, including fully protected species, resulting from impacts attributable to implementation of the Quantification Settlement Agreement on specified lands and bodies of water, including the Salton Sea. This bill would additionally authorize the department, if certain conditions are fulfilled, to authorize the take of species resulting from impacts attributable to the implementation of the Salton Sea Management Program or implementation of any System Conservation Implementation Agreement between the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the Imperial Irrigation District to implement the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program, as provided, on the specified lands and bodies of water.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024</p>	<p>This bill will help to advance conservation agreements and collective conservation goals related to reducing reliance of the Colorado River in order to account for changes in climate and low water supplies by allowing IID to advance their short-term conservation goals between 2024 – 2026.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
November 19, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 122 Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 51, Statutes of 2023	Flood Flow Streamlining Provisions in this trailer bill provide that diversion of flood flows for groundwater recharge do not require an appropriative water right if specified conditions regarding the diversion are met. These provisions exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) specified actions related to the implementation of Colorado River water conservation agreements with the US Bureau of Reclamation.	Seek Amendments Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration 2023 Water Rights Principles, adopted April 2023	The no-permit authorization poses a significant concern to Metropolitan’s State Water Project supplies. There is no protest process, no requirement that diverters avoid harm to other legal water users with water rights senior to the flood flow diverter, and no protection of SWP and CVP rights to divert “excess flows” when they exist in the system up to the full capacity of the projects. Metropolitan will work with the Administration to address these issues as the program is implemented.
SB 124 Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 53, Statutes of 2023	Green Financing Programs for Federal IRA Funding This measure contains various provisions to implement the 2023 State Budget Act, which includes authorizing the State Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to access and utilize federal funding in the Inflation Reduction Act to finance projects that reduce greenhouse emissions.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	For the State Water Project, DWR’s direct investment in qualifying projects could lower its capital costs, which would ultimately be passed on to Metropolitan and other SWP contractors.

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State Legislative Matrix
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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 146 Gonzalez (D-Long Beach)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 58, Statutes of 2023	Public resources: infrastructure: contracting. This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and authorizes DWR to use the progressive design-build (PDB) project delivery method for up to eight public works projects that exceed \$25 million. The Delta conveyance facilities and seawater desalination are expressly prohibited under this measure.	Support Based on October 2021 Board Action	By utilizing PDB and awarding a project contract prior to the completion of all design work, DWR can potentially reduce overall costs and execute shorter project delivery schedules. This could lead to reduced costs for SWP-related projects resulting in cost savings being passed on to Metropolitan.
SB 147 Ashby (D- Sacramento)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 59, Statutes of 2023	Fully protected species: California Endangered Species Act: authorized take This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and authorizes the take of fully protected species for certain infrastructure projects if specified conditions are met. Eligible projects include the maintenance, repair and improvement of the State Water Project, as well as critical regional and local water infrastructure.	Support and Amend Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	While this alternative may have benefits over current FPS regulations, the requirements are extensive and may make permit terms infeasible or cost prohibitive and could create other litigation risks for permittees.
SB 149 Caballero (D- Merced)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 60, Statutes of 2023	California Environmental Quality Act: administrative and judicial procedures: record of proceedings: judicial streamlining. This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and makes various changes to CEQA. This bill provides clarification for what is considered as part of the administrative record, as well as allowing a public agency to deny a request to prepare the record of proceedings. This bill also provides for expedited judicial review for specified energy and transportation projects.	Support and Amend Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	Administrative Records Streamlining: Overall, the provisions would be beneficial to Metropolitan as they could lower CEQA litigation costs and shorten litigation timelines. Expedited Judicial Review: The process for preparing the administrative record for any governor-certified infrastructure project must follow certain extensive and potentially costly specifications. While expedited judicial review is beneficial in concept, unless amended, the prerequisites may be infeasible or costly to implement.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 150 Durazo (D-Los Angeles)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 61, Statutes of 2023	Construction: workforce development: public contracts. This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and focuses on strengthening the state’s workforce and community benefits with infrastructure investments through California’s share of federal funds.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill is intended to help develop procurement models to enhance the state’s training and access pipeline for jobs while ensuring community benefits on infrastructure and manufacturing investments. This bill is consistent with Metropolitan’s policy and practice and could benefit the district by helping build the next generation of the state’s construction workforce.
SB 366 Caballero (D - Merced) Sponsors: California Municipal Utilities Association, California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance, California State Association of Counties	Amended 8/22/2024 Pending Governor’s Signature	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets. This measure would revise the California Water Plan to require the DWR to update the California Water Plan by December 31, 2028, and every five years after, to include a long-term water supply target for 2050 and discussion on the development of specified water supply sources to meet demand.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The intent of this bill is to help modernize California’s water management practices and provide long-term reliable supplies in response to the current climate challenges. Metropolitan has taken a support position following the adoption of several amendments to address concerns, including the removal of language that would require the CWP to make recommendations for the Delta Reform Act and inclusion of language to ensure that the CWP does not impose on local and regional planning efforts.

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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>SB 659 Ashby (D – Sacramento)</p> <p>Sponsors: Sacramento Regional Water Authority</p>	<p>Chaptered</p> <p>Signed by the Governor Chapter 624, Statutes of 2023</p>	<p>California Water Supply Solutions Act of 2023.</p> <p>This bill would require DWR to develop a groundwater recharge plan by January 1, 2026, to create additional groundwater recharge capacity and include the plan as part of the 2028 update to the California Water Plan.</p>	<p>Support, if Amended</p> <p>Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles adopted December 2022.</p>	<p>This bill intends to elevate the importance of groundwater in the state’s planning efforts. Additional recharge capacities developed through implementation of this bill could potentially help in the successful implementation of projects such as Metropolitan’s Pure Water project, LADWP’s Operation Next project, and the Pure Water San Diego, potentially helping to maximize stormwater capture and increase sustainability of groundwater basins within Metropolitan’s service area.</p>
<p>SB 687 Eggman (D - Stockton)</p>	<p>Amended 5/2/2023</p> <p>Dead</p>	<p>Water Quality Control Plan: Delta Conveyance Project.</p> <p>This measure will require the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt a final update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan before the Board considers a change in the point of diversion or any other water rights permit or order for the Delta Conveyance Project.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>Metropolitan supports updating the Water Quality Control Plan to protect beneficial uses in the Delta. This bill would result in halting or delaying planning efforts on the Delta Conveyance Project and potentially prevent the project from operating if approved.</p>

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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>SB 706 Caballero (D-Merced)</p> <p>Sponsors: CA State Association of Counties; County of San Diego; Design Build Institute of America Western Pacific Chapter; League of California Cities</p>	<p>Chaptered</p> <p>Signed by the Governor Chapter 500, Statutes of 2023</p>	<p>Public contracts: progressive design-build: local agencies.</p> <p>This bill would provide additional authority, until January 1, 2023, for cities, counties, and special districts to use progressive design-build (PDB) authority for up to 10 public works projects that are in excess of \$5 million. In addition, any local agency that uses this authorized progressive-design build process must submit a report to the Legislature.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>Currently, PDB-eligible projects are limited to wastewater treatment facilities, park and recreational facilities, solid waste management facilities and water recycling facilities. This bill now authorizes cities, counties and special districts, including Metropolitan, to use PDB for public works projects. This supports Metropolitan’s priority of ensuring reliable water supply deliveries throughout its service area.</p>
<p>SB 867 Allen (D-Santa Monica)</p>	<p>Chaptered</p> <p>Signed by the Governor, Chapter 83, Statutes of 2024</p>	<p>Drought, Flood and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, Park Creation and Outdoor Access, and Clean Energy Bond Act of 2024.</p> <p>This measure would authorize a \$15.5 billion general obligation bond for a range of resource-based programs that will improve California’s climate resiliency. If approved, this measure would be on the March 5, 2024, statewide ballot.</p>	<p>Support, if Amended</p> <p>Based on June 2023 Board Action</p>	<p>This measure is consistent with Metropolitan’s current policy priorities and supports the objectives of Metropolitan’s Climate Adaptation Master Plan.</p> <p>Metropolitan is seeking amendments to increase funding for recycled water, dam safety, regional conveyance, drought, and conservation projects.</p>

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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 903 N. Skinner (D – Berkeley)	Amended 4/11/2024 Dead	<p>Environmental health: product safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.</p> <p>Starting January 1, 2025, certain substances called perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) will be prohibited in new textiles, cosmetics, food packaging, and juvenile products in the state. This means that manufacturers and sellers cannot add PFAS to these products. A new bill, starting January 1, 2032, will also require the Department of Toxic Substances Control to determine if using PFAS in a product is necessary and unavoidable before it can be offered for sale. The department will keep a list of these determinations on its website and use any penalties collected for administering and enforcing these laws. By January 1, 2027, the department will adopt regulations to carry out this bill, including setting an application fee and creating an appeal process for penalties and decisions made under this law. A PFAS Oversight Fund will be created from the application fees to cover the department's expenses for administering this act, with funds allocated by the legislature.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024</p>	<p>From a source water protection standpoint, the bill creates provisions to reduce PFAS contamination and enhance protection of water quality and public health. By limiting PFAS in consumer products, the bill indirectly aims to reduce PFAS contamination in water sources, potentially decreasing treatment costs and complexity for water providers. The bill encourages the development and adoption of PFAS alternatives, potentially impacting the types of materials and products used within the water industry and by consumers, promoting safer water handling and packaging materials.</p>

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<p>SB 1072 S. Padilla (D – San Diego)</p>	<p>Chaptered Signed by Governor, Chapter 323, Statutes of 2024</p>	<p>Local government: Proposition 218: remedies. The California Constitution has rules for imposing taxes at a local level. It excludes certain fees and assessments if they meet certain criteria, such as not exceeding the benefit given to a property or the cost of the service provided. There is also a law known as the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act that outlines how local agencies must comply with these requirements. This bill, if passed, would require local agencies to correct any fees or charges for property-related services that violate these constitutional provisions and credit the amount of the violation against the revenues needed for the service. This bill supports the purposes and intent of Proposition 218 and the Omnibus Implementation Act.</p>	<p>Support Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024</p>	<p>Metropolitan does not currently collect any revenue from any property related fees or assessments subject to Articles XIII C or D. However, Metropolitan does have statutory authority to collect such fees. If Metropolitan were to adopt such a fee or assessment in the future, the revenues from those fees or assessment would be subject to the limitation added by SB 1072.</p>
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**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
November 19, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 1147 A. Portantino (D – Glendale)	Amended 8/22/2024 Pending Governor’s Signature	Drinking water: bottled water: microplastics levels. SB 1147, introduced on February 14, 2024, would add Section 116376.2 to the Health and Safety Code and would require the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to study the health impacts of microplastics in drinking water, including bottled water, to evaluate and identify safe and unsafe levels of microplastics, and develop and deliver to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) public health standards and goals for safe microplastics levels in drinking water, including bottled water, by January 1, 2026. The bill would also require OEHHA to develop and deliver to the State Board definitions for the terms “safe level of microplastics” and “unsafe level of microplastics” by January 1, 2026.	Support Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	As originally proposed, this bill would circumvent the existing statutory and regulatory process by mandating a new process without ensuring a well-established scientific foundation, which is critical for developing, standardizing, and validating microplastics analytical methods and procedures. Amendments were adopted to address concerns about the appropriate bifurcation of responsibilities between the State Board and OEHHA for studying and setting standards for microplastics.

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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 1169 H. Stern (D – Los Angeles)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor, Chapter 77, Statutes of 2024	Los Angeles County Flood Control District: finances. This law, known as the Los Angeles County Flood Control Act, sets up a district responsible for managing and preserving flood and wastewaters in the county. It permits the district to borrow money from certain sources to fund flood control work and repay the loan within 20 years with a maximum interest rate of 4.25% annually. The district must also collect enough taxes from property owners each year to cover the loan payments. Currently, the district is limited to borrowing a maximum of \$4.5 million and issuing bonds up to the same amount. This proposed bill would extend the loan repayment period to 35 years with a maximum interest rate of 5.5% annually. It would also remove the borrowing and bond limits for the district. The bill justifies these changes by stating the need for a special law for the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.	Support Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	Support for this bill will help with Los Angeles County’s flood control program and is consistent with the Board’s policy to support development of local resources and conservation efforts.

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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 1390 A. Caballero (D – Merced)	Amended 8/22/2024 Dead	Groundwater recharge: floodflows: diversion. Under current law, all water in the state belongs to the people, but individuals can gain the right to use it through a legal process. This process requires the water to be used for a purpose that is helpful or beneficial. However, if certain conditions are met, using floodwater for groundwater recharge does not require a specific legal right. These conditions include receiving notice from a local or regional agency that there is a risk of flooding, and filing a report with the State Water Resources Control Board once the diversion is finished. This applies to diversions that began before January 1, 2029. This bill would extend these requirements to diversions that began before June 1, 2032. It would also add additional conditions that must be met for the diversion to be allowed, such as the local agency declaring that the diversion is in line with specific plans or emergency operations plans. The diversion must also stop within 90 days unless it is renewed, and the final report must include information about the methods used to predict and prevent flooding. Finally, the diversion must not harm any prior water rights holders in the area.	Support Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration 2023 Water Rights Principles, adopted April 2023 and 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	SB 1390 has been amended to clarify which agencies may make the declaration that flood flow conditions exist and when they are required to declare they no longer exist. The amendments include language to protect Metropolitan’s SWP supplies, which also supports our operations to maintain water quality standards in the Delta. .



External Affairs Group

- External Affairs Monthly Activities Report for October 2024

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Highlights

Directors Erdman and Dennstedt accepted Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference’s (WEFTEC’s) Utility of the Future award for Metropolitan, recognizing the district’s commitment to local resource development, conservation and community partnering programs. (October 8)

Chair Ortega and Director Dennstedt attended the Hispanic Coalition for Small Business event honoring Metropolitan engineer Johanna Clemens with the Latinícima Rumbo a La Cima Award. (October 16)

Director Quinn and SRI Officer Crosson represented Metropolitan at LA Waterkeepers Making the Waves event (October 18)

Chair Ortega received the LEGADO Award for Community Commitment from the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA), underscoring his dedication to water issues and the importance of water in the story of Southern California as told through art. (October 19)

Metropolitan sponsored and staffed a booth promoting conservation and workforce development at the Taste of Soul annual street festival. (October 19)



Directors Erdman and Dennstedt receive the “Utility of the Future” awarded at WEFTEC conference; Senator Padilla, Chair Ortega and Las Virgenes GM Pedersen at the Museum of Latin American Art event; Chair Ortega and Director Dennstedt with honoree Johanna Clemens at the Hispanic Coalition of Small Business Latinicima event.

GM Monthly Report October 2024

Five decades of commitment to preserving the quality and safety of water were recognized at an event celebrating the 50th anniversary of Metropolitan's Water Quality Lab. State Water Board Chair Esquivel joined Chair Ortega, Directors Fellow, Garza and Seckel, and more than 100 staff and guests at the event. (October 24)



Officials gathered for the Water Quality Laboratory's 50th anniversary event.

Chair Ortega, Interim GM Upadhyay and SRI Officer Crosson spoke to the Torrance Water Commission to discuss regional and local community priorities, including water supply conditions and the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water. Director Lefevre was in attendance. (October 25)

Director McMillan and Metropolitan staff attended the Women in Non-Traditional Employment Roles (WINTER) event to celebrate the work to empower more women in the building and construction trades. (October 26)



Director McMillan and Metropolitan staff at the WINTER event

Metropolitan hosted a visit from members of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) for meetings and tours of Pure Water Southern California and other facilities. (October 28–29)

No Federal Report

State Activities

Assemblymember Wicks (D-Oakland) convened the Select Committee on Permit Reform to discuss opportunities relating to permits for projects that support resilience against climate change. This hearing was part of a series to address different aspects of permit reform. (October 16)

Local Activities

This month, Metropolitan staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 76 webinars, meetings, and events with community organizations and trade associations, board members and federal and state elected officials on Metropolitan activities, issues and other topics.

Metropolitan hosted a delegation from Singapore's national water agency. (October 2)

Metropolitan staff attended the Ventura Council of Governments Dinner and Reception. (October 10)



Metropolitan leaders met with officials from Singapore to discuss water supply issues and local resources development strategies.

GM Monthly Report October 2024

Metropolitan hosted a delegation from the city of Los Angeles for tours of the Jensen Water Treatment Plant and Pure Water Southern California. The delegation was led by Director Sutley and included representatives from Mayor Bass's office, the Board of Public Works, Board of Water and Power Commissioners, LADWP, and LA Sanitation & Environment. (October 4 and October 11)

Media and Communications

Coordinated interviews with Public Affairs Representatives Mendez (English) and Castillo (Spanish) regarding Pure Water Southern California for Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD's Conserve-a-palooza campaign.

Arranged an interview between LAist/KPCC reporter Erin Stone and Group Manager Chaudhuri on new DPR regulations and their potential role in Pure Water Southern California.

Coordinated an interview with LA Times reporter Ian James and Chair Ortega regarding GM investigation.

Provided a statement to LA Times reporter Ian James regarding long-term operations of State Water Project and Central Valley Project.

Issued the following press releases:

- Start of new water year and Metropolitan's supply outlook
- Re-election of board chair Ortega
- Extension of GM Hagekhalil's administrative leave as investigation into various personnel matters continues
- Metropolitan celebrating 50th anniversary of Water Quality Section
- Joint press release with Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts on agencies' expanded partnership to advance Pure Water Southern California
- Provided quote to WaterReuse California from Interim GM Upadhyay regarding new DPR regulations taking effect



Creative Design

Completed annual Project Labor Agreement report; prepared signage and collateral materials for Taste of Soul booth; designed new banners for the MetWorks program and new Delta Conveyance Project fact sheet; created an Ethics Office logo.

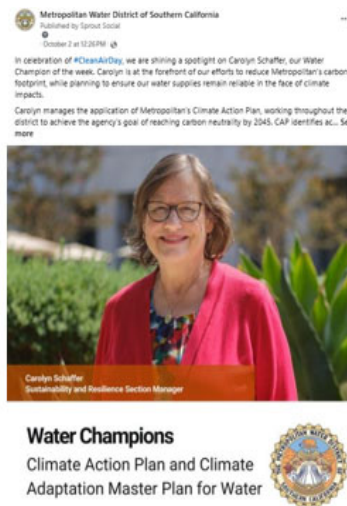
Provided video coverage for the Water Quality 50th Anniversary program, taping Chair Ortega for a Safe Drinking Water Act video, introduction by Interim GM Upadhyay for Civil & Inclusive Workplace training.

Social Media

Launched the 12-week Goodbye Grass conservation campaign series, running four different assets including a Spanish-language version until the end of the year. In the first three weeks, the campaign has generated more than 750,000 impressions and nearly 8,000 clicks to bewaterwise.com.

GM Monthly Report October 2024

Continued Water Champions employee series, featuring Carolyn Schaffer from Sustainability and Resilience; Noosha Razavian from Water Resource Management; Shannon Maceiko, who works on Pure Water Southern California; and Assistant Ethics Officer Kelli Shope.



Social media posts from October 2024

Celebrated Water Professionals Appreciation Week by featuring employees from Water Resource Management, Safety Security and Protection, Engineering Services, External Affairs, Conveyance and Distribution, and Water Quality in a fun “Of Course” reel that showcased employees in jobs that all help ensure the delivery of reliable drinking water to Southern California.

Supported Imagine a Day Without Water by featuring interviews with fourth grade students from a Hemet elementary school discussing what a day without water means to them.

Recognized the Great California Shakeout with an explainer on how Metropolitan is managing the risk of a major quake.

Shared information about the water new year with a video of Water Resource Management Manager Polyzos.

Website

Continued to remediate more than 2,000 electronic documents to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and migrating all IntraMet content to a newer server, which included quality checks of all pages and applications to ensure that links remained secure.

Recorded 58,000 visits to mwdh2o.com, with careers, job listings, and board pages generating the most visits beyond the home page. Generated just over 28,000 visits to bewaterwise.com, with Goodbye Grass, turf replacement, rebates, and California Friendly® Native Plants pages driving the most visits.

Community Outreach

Sponsored events in the month of October included:

- Pando Populus Pando Days 2024 at Cal Tech (October 1)
- City of Pomona—Wyland Mobile Water Education Experience (October 1)
- Environmental Nature Center Water Education at the Center (October 4)
- Nature Collective—Pollinator & Indigenous Plant School Waterwise Garden (October 7)
- California Greenworks Climate Justice Conference—Watershed Education (October 15)
- Weaving Earth Walks of Resilience (October 25)

GM Monthly Report October 2024

Ongoing coordination with City of LA Councilmember McOsker's office on the Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B-Phase 2 rehabilitation project.

Presentation to the Harbor Gateway South Neighborhood Council for Second Lower Feeder. (October 10)

Notices to residents and businesses for the Santa Monica Feeder shutdown and the San Diego shutdown; cities of Los Angeles and Torrance related to Second Lower Feeder project in Los Angeles, Torrance, and Orange County.

Other Metropolitan Events and Tours

Inspection trip to Hoover/CRA with Directors McMillan and Luna (October 1–3); and Directors Bryant and De Jesus (October 4–6).

SWP Inspection Trip with Directors Lefevre and Morris (October 1–3); Directors Cordero and Ramos (October 4–5); Directors Armstrong and Miller (October 17–18); Directors Dennstedt and Faessel (October 24–26).



Guests on State Water Project Inspection Trip with Eastern MWD Director Armstrong and San Diego County Water Authority Director Miller

Business Model Retreat with Member Agencies (October 10–11)

CAMP4W Member Agency Outreach Working Group (October 17)

Member Agency Managers Meeting (October 18)

Tour of DVL for Memorandum of Intent Committee (October 23); Tour of Weymouth/Water Quality Lab for Operators/Staff from Golden State Water Company (October 23)

Meeting with Metropolitan DEI, EA, and SRI Representatives and UC Berkeley Center for Humility (October 28)

Pure Water Southern California

Metropolitan staff provided tours for the Council for Watershed Health Water (R)evolution symposium (October 15); West Basin Municipal Water District (October 21); Colorado River Indian Tribes (October 29); Water Journeys CSULA students (October 29); staff from Azusa Light and Power (October 30).

Outreach Workgroup Meeting w/Member Agency PIOs (October 2); Meeting with San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to share public opinion research and outreach strategies (October 3); hosted a booth at West Basin Water Harvest (October 5); presentation to Raymond Basin Board (October 16); staffed a booth at MetWorks event on Thursday (October 17); meeting with Southern California Edison leadership (October 18); and presentation to Central Basin Board (October 28).

Education

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Interacted with over 2,000 teachers, students, and adults through in-person and online field trips, community events, and meetings.

Participated in meetings with Water Energy Education Alliance Leadership Roundtable, University of La Verne's Business Council, WRD's Water Industry Workforce Development, the California Environmental Safe Schools Conference, and the Compton Unified Academy of Tech and Innovation Advisory Council.

Participated in an Education Summit at Loyola Marymount University sponsored by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce to discuss career pathways for high growth industries and sustainable careers.

Staffed information tables at the Menifee Clean Air Day and at the Future Green Leaders' Summit, a STEM careers day event for City of Sylmar middle school students.

Displayed Being Water Wise Traveling Student Art Show at Padre Dam Municipal Water District and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District..

Held Water Engineering 4 Good teacher workshop and kickoff for six participating middle and high schools.



External Affairs' Public Affairs Representative Martz pictured with the traveling art display.



Legislation and Communications Committee

External Affairs Activities

Item 7a

November 19, 2024

Report on
Activities
from
External
Affairs

Subject

Report on Activities from External Affairs

Purpose

To provide management announcements and highlights for External Affairs

Rebates Messaging – Digital, Radio, Infographics

Legislation & Communications
Committee

Report on Activities from External Affairs



METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Transforming everyday efforts into incredible water savings

For 35 years, Metropolitan has invested in conservation rebate programs that have created a more sustainable, resilient and water-efficient region. Since 1990, estimated potable water use in the Southern California region has declined from 209 gallons per person per day to 114 gallons per person per day in 2023.

Turf Replacement Program

That's approximately **241,000 acre-feet of water**

More than **220 million square-feet** of grass removed and replaced with sustainable landscaping.

One acre-foot of water is equivalent to a football field filled with water one foot deep

78 Million gallons of water Enough to fill approximately **120,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools**

Tree Rebates

Nearly **1,000 trees** planted*

Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air and store it, helping mitigate the impacts of a changed climate.

A single mature tree can sequester about **48 pounds of CO2 per year**

*Based on addition of tree rebates to the Turf Replacement Program in March 2023.

Indoor Devices

Nearly **2.5 million acre-feet of water saved**

That's enough water to serve the needs of **7.5 million homes** for a year.

And enough to fill **3 Diamond Valley Lake-sized reservoirs.**

Outdoor Devices

That's enough to add **3 feet of water to Lake Mead**

And enough to irrigate approximately **58,000 acres** of farmland

Nearly **261,000 acre-feet of water saved**

Total conservation rebate program lifetime savings – **3 million acre-feet of water**

For more information on our conservation programs, visit bewaterwise.com

Visit to Eagle Mountain School

Legislation & Communications
Committee

Report on Activities from External Affairs



Community Partnering Program

Sponsored and supported
48 events and programs
throughout the service area,
including 19 located in
underserved communities.



