

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.

LRA&C Committee

F. Jung, Chair
A. Kassakhian, Vice Chair
J. Abdo
L. Ackerman
B. Dennstedt
A. Fellow
J. Garza
G. Gray
M. Luna
J. McMillan
T. Phan
B. Pressman
M. Ramos
T. Smith

Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and Communications Committee - Final - Revised 1

Meeting with Board of Directors *

November 14, 2023

1:00 p.m.

Agendas, live streaming, meeting schedules, and other board materials are available here: <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. A listen-only phone line is available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 891 1613 4145. 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 click <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81520664276pwd=a1RTQWh6V3h3ckFhNmdsUWpKR1c2Zz09>

**Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Meeting Schedule**

**08:30 a.m. LC
10:30 a.m. FAIRP
12:30 p.m. Break
01:00 p.m. LRAC
03:00 p.m. BOD**

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

Teleconference Locations:

Cedars Sinai Medical Center • 8700 Beverly Blvd • Los Angeles, CA 90048

3008 W. 82nd Place • Inglewood, CA 90305

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

* 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, Regulatory Actions, and Communications Committee for August 14, 2023 (copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions) [21-2804](#)

Attachments: [11142023 LRAC 2A \(08142023\) Minutes](#)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

- 7-14 Approve Metropolitan’s annual membership in the Center for Energy Advancement through Technological Innovation and annual dues payment of \$82,000 for three interest groups, Transmission Planning and Operations, Asset Management, and Dam Safety; the General Manager determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA. [DEFERRED 11/1/23] [21-2776](#)

- 7-15 Authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date to allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-2703](#)

Attachments: [11142023 LRAC 7-15 B-L](#)
[11142023 LRAC 7-15 Presentation](#)

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

NONE

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

- 9-2 Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024 [21-2748](#)

Attachments: [11142023 LRAC 9-2 B-L](#)
[11142023 LRAC 9-2 Presentation](#)

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Vista del Lago Water Education Center Upgrades [21-2705](#)

Attachments: [11142023 LRAC 6a Presentation](#)

- b. Federal and State Regulatory Tracking Matrices [21-2706](#)

Attachments: [11142023 LRAC 6b State Regulatory Matrix](#)
[11142023 LRAC 6b Federal Regulatory Matrix](#)
[11142023 LRAC 6b Presentation](#)

- c. Report on Activities from Washington, D.C. [21-2517](#)

Attachments: [11142023 LRAC 6c Federal Legislative Matrix](#)
[11142023 LRAC 6c Presentation](#)

- d. Report on Activities from Sacramento [21-2518](#)

Attachments: [11142023 LRAC 6d State Legislative Matrix](#)
[11142023 LRAC 6d Presentation](#)

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. External Affairs activities [21-2805](#)

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT AND DISCUSSION

- a. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Public Affairs Engagement [21-2806](#)

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. 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, REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

August 14, 2023

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 11:41 a.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, McMillan (entered after roll call), Pressman (teleconference posted location), and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Gray, Phan, and Ramos.

Other Board Members present: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho, Cordero, De Jesus, Dick, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, McCoy, Miller, Morris, and Ortega.

Committee Staff present: Hagekhalil, Zinke, Stites, Sims, and Novoa.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S JURISDICTION

None

Director McMillan entered the meeting.

2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

a. Report from Subcommittee on Public Affairs Engagement

Director Fellow reported on the Public Affairs Engagement Subcommittee meeting on July 25th, including results of the Probolosky focus groups research for Metropolitan, staff presentations to build on current research, the EMC public attitudes survey and an update on the Climate Adaptation Master Plan.

b. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Public Affairs Engagement.

Vice Chair Camacho reported on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Facilities Naming to ask the board to approve the nomination and renaming of Metropolitan’s Pure Water Southern California Demonstration Plant as the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and Communications Committee held July 10, 2023.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Garza to approve item 3a.

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Jung, Kassakhian, McMillan, Pressman, and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: Luna

Absent: Directors Gray, Phan and Ramos

The motion passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention, and 3 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Update on Water Conservation Outreach, Advertising and Messaging.

Presented by: Sue Sims, Group Manager-External Affairs

Ms. Sims presented an update on water conservation outreach, advertising and messaging. It included: campaign goals and measurements of success, television commercials, influencer campaigns, research-based messaging, three year media buy, and next steps.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Fellow
- 2.) Dick
- 3.) Smith
- 4.) Kassakhian
- 5.) Fong-Sakai
- 6.) Bryant
- 7.) Ackerman
- 8.) Faessel

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- b. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on the congressional calendar, fiscal year 2024 appropriations, Bureau of Reclamation appropriations, Senate hearings and a PFAS update.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Smith

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

c. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on legislative deadlines, Metropolitan's \$50 million budget request for projects to provide more resiliency for SWP dependent areas, and Assembly and Senate bills of interest to Metropolitan.

8. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

a. Subject: External Affairs Management Report

Presented by: Sue Sims, Group Manager-External Affairs

Ms. Sims provided an update on upcoming events, social media campaigns, and outreach.

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Chair Jung



● **Board of Directors**
Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and Communications Committee

11/14/2023 Board Meeting

7-15

Subject

Authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date to allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

Authorization is requested to seek legislation to remove the January 1, 2026 “sunset date” as provided in Assembly Bill (AB) 442 (Mayes; Chapter 166, Statutes of 2021) that allowed Metropolitan to prepare a master reclamation plan under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). Removing the sunset date will allow Metropolitan to continue coordinating directly with the State Mining and Geology Board instead of individual counties for SMARA-related activities, including the development of reclamation plans and associated CEQA documents, regulatory and mining permitting, and annual inspections.

Timing and Urgency

The timing is urgent as existing law is set to sunset on January 1, 2026.

Details

Background

In 1932, Congress granted Metropolitan the right to acquire lands for the construction and operations of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) and to use all stone, gravel, and sand (collectively, aggregate) on the lands to construct and to operate the project. Metropolitan acquired these lands over time beginning in 1932. When Metropolitan completed construction of the CRA and began operation in 1941, it retained ownership of the land beneath and adjacent to the CRA, including the aggregate. Metropolitan uses those materials on an ongoing basis to restore, repair, protect, and maintain berms, access roads, and pipelines.

Metropolitan currently utilizes approximately 20 sites on its land to obtain aggregate materials for repairs and maintenance of the CRA and other infrastructure. Most of the materials at these sites are spoils from the construction of the CRA. In 2017, San Bernardino and Riverside counties informed Metropolitan they believed the district must comply with SMARA because some sites involved the removal of native materials, which it alleged constituted mining activity under SMARA and, thus, required a reclamation plan. Metropolitan agreed to voluntarily adopt reclamation plans to avoid any disputes with the counties. In response, Metropolitan worked with both counties to identify sites that are subject to SMARA, and in 2020, Metropolitan began preparation of reclamation plans for the sites in each county. Metropolitan realized that working with multiple counties on its reclamation plans could lead to conflicting directions, unnecessary duplication, delays in operational repairs, and extra costs and ratepayer resources. At the recommendation of San Bernardino County staff, Metropolitan pursued legislation to address these concerns.

In 2021, Metropolitan sponsored AB 442 that contained the following key provisions:

- Exempted Metropolitan from the requirements of SMARA for emergency excavations or grading conducted by Metropolitan for its own operations and infrastructure for the purpose of averting, alleviating, repairing, or restoring damage to property due to imminent or recent floods, disasters, or other emergencies; this is similar to an exemption for emergency operations for the California Department of Water Resources.
- Authorized until January 1, 2026:
 - Metropolitan to prepare a master reclamation plan for its operations within the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, or Ventura. This provision specified that, unless otherwise provided, all SMARA laws and rules apply, as well as all related reporting and fees. Metropolitan is not required to secure approval of a reclamation plan from any city or county or to obtain a use permit from any city or county under SMARA to conduct the operations under the approved master reclamation plan.
 - Designated the State Mining and Geology Board as the lead agency overseeing Metropolitan's activities under SMARA and Metropolitan as the lead CEQA agency.
 - Authorized the State Mining and Geology Board to conduct inspections once every two calendar years and collect reasonable inspection and administration fees.

AB 442 passed through both Assembly and Senate committees unopposed and was signed into law.

Proposed Legislation

Since the 2021 passage of AB 442, Metropolitan has worked diligently with the State Mining and Geology Board to prepare and complete its master reclamation plan in compliance with the new law. In February 2023, this Board approved Metropolitan's master reclamation plan and supporting mitigation negative declaration. In March 2023, the State Mining Board approved Metropolitan's master reclamation plan. Metropolitan has no intention to cease use of its aggregate sites or close them for at least the next 100 years. Under SMARA, the obligation to reclaim mines only arises when the site is closed. Metropolitan expects its current master reclamation plan will stay in place for at least the next 100 years, and Metropolitan will not need to reclaim any sites until that occurs. In the interim, the State Mining and Geology Board will do biannual inspections to ensure the sites comply with the plan.

Metropolitan staff proposes to seek legislation to remove the January 1, 2026 sunset date to allow continued operation under the approved master reclamation plan. No other changes are proposed. Metropolitan has demonstrated that it can operate properly under existing law. Repealing it would disrupt its operations and possibly the reliable delivery of drinking water supplies. Amending SMARA to eliminate that sunset date would allow Metropolitan to continue coordinating directly with the State Mining and Geology Board instead of specified individual counties for financial assurances, reclamation plans, implementation, monitoring, and reporting activities subject to SMARA.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

By Minute Item 51763, the Board authorized the General Manager to seek legislation to amend SMARA to provide Metropolitan with lead agency status as set forth in Agenda Item 8-5 board letter (October 8, 2019).

By Minute Item 53051, the Board approved 2023 Metropolitan Legislative Priorities and Principles, Section V.D.1.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21065, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(1)) because it involves legislative proposals which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may have a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

CEQA determination for Option #2 :

None required

Board Options

Option #1

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

Fiscal Impact: The costs associated with sponsoring this bill in the state legislature will be absorbed within existing staffing and program budgets. If the proposed legislation is enacted into law, the preparation of one reclamation plan and one CEQA document will reduce administrative fees, staff time, and consulting costs.

Business Analysis: If successful, legislation authorizing the revision of SMARA would allow for consistent management and enforcement of SMARA regulations across Metropolitan’s service area.

Option #2

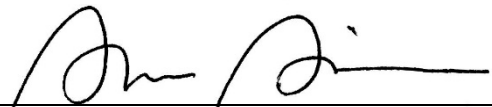
Do not authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date to allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan at this time.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown. Costs could include staff time, consultant costs, and fees associated with the preparation of multiple reclamation plans and CEQA documents for each county, as well as potential administrative and permitting fees for each county.

Business Analysis: Absent legislation, Metropolitan would revert to the requirements of multiple county jurisdictions where Metropolitan owns and operates its facilities, which is likely to disrupt operations.

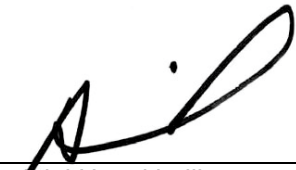
Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Susan Sims
Manager, External Affairs

10/19/2023
Date



Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

10/25/2023
Date

Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and
Communications Committee



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

Item # 7-15
November 14, 2023

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

Subject

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

Purpose

Sponsor legislation

Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation

Budgeted

Background

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



Borrow pit along the CRA

Background

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

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

Previous
Metropolitan
Sponsored
Legislation

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

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

Proposed Action

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

Board Options

Option #1

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

Option #2

Do not authorize.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1

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





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

11/14/2023 Board Meeting

9-2

Subject

Updated Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024

Executive Summary

This letter presents the 2024 legislative priorities and principles recommended by staff for the Board of Directors' consideration and discussion.

Details

This board letter presents the 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles as recommended by staff for the Board's consideration. It lays out an integrated "One Water" collaborative approach on legislatively active issues related to managing Southern California's watersheds, water resources, and water infrastructure to ensure long-term resilience and reliability for communities and ecosystems. Once adopted, staff uses 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 2023 version was adopted in December 2022 (**Attachment 1**). Final, board-approved annual legislative priorities and principles are publicly available on the Metropolitan Legislative Services website.

For the coming year, which is year two of the two-year state and federal legislative cycles, staff 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 new Board-led planning effort on the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water. The draft 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles was presented to the Member Agency Legislative Coordinators Annual Planning Meeting on November 2, 2023, and to the Member Agency Managers' Meeting on November 3, 2023.

Recommended updates to the language can be seen in the attached redline of the 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles (**Attachment 2**). This board action letter presents a clean version of the legislative priorities and principles for 2024 with staff's recommended revisions, incorporating technical and policy input received. The Board will be considering a new bill proposal for 2024 regarding an amendment to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act; that item is included as a priority, although sponsorship of a bill is contingent on receiving the necessary Board authorization.

The 2024 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 January 2024 for adoption by the Board.

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND PRINCIPLES

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:

- I. Top Legislative Priorities
 - A. Continue support for imported water supply resiliency and reliability, including progress on the Delta Conveyance Project, Sites Reservoir Project, Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements), and development of near-term and post-2026 Colorado River operating guidelines.
 - B. 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.
 - C. Advance Pure Water Southern California and other water recycling projects and long-term supply reliability improvements.
 - D. Support funding for regional conveyance improvements to ensure the region's water storage is equitably accessible to all member agencies.
 - E. Protect drinking water quality and ensure access to safe and reliable drinking water for all Californians, including upholding the polluter pays principle and ensuring the continued cleanup of sites along the Colorado River.
 - F. 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.
 - G. Improve water affordability throughout the region at both the individual and water system level without burdening existing ratepayers.
- II. Metropolitan-Sponsored State Bill (contingent upon separate board authorization)
 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 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 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 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 at both the individual and the water system level, especially for disadvantaged communities, without burdening existing ratepayers.
 3. Support funding to help water systems provide low-income ratepayer assistance programs.
 4. Support administrative/legislative actions 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 that provide local agencies flexibility in determining fees for service and assessment amounts.
 6. Support administrative/legislative actions 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 federal/state 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); and potential impacts to wastewater operations and recycled water projects.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and federal/state 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 and federal/state funding for the long-term conversion of NFT in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes and ban installation of NFT in new construction.

B. Desalination & Groundwater Remediation

1. Support administrative/legislative actions, funding, and partnerships 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 actions to advance and secure funding for the Pure Water Southern California Program and related projects.
2. Support efforts to improve flexibility of the State's water recycling grant program.
3. Support 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 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 that maximize voluntary use of recycled water.

D. Local Supply Development

1. Support administrative/legislative actions that protect and advance local flexibility and responsiveness in developing locally appropriate, climate-resilient, diverse resource portfolios.
2. Continue to support and 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 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 groundwater storage and/or recovery programs with member agencies.

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 that help advance implementation of watershed management plans, including watershed research and multi-benefit forestry management projects.
3. Support 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.

- 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 State Water Project (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 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. Continue support 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 to consolidate review and oversight of anadromous species protection under the U.S. Department of the Interior.
 5. Support administrative/legislative actions 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 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 Aqueduct.
 2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to ensure that sufficient water is stored and delivered from Lake Mead to meet human health and safety needs.
 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). Support actions to stabilize the financial position of the Program.
 5. Support efforts to maintain and enhance the operation of the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Paradox Valley Unit salinity control project at a safe level while

working to develop a viable alternative that provides long-term reductions in salt loads to the Colorado River.

6. Support legislative efforts to revise the salinity standard for Colorado River water delivered under the U.S. treaty with Mexico to increase water conservation.
 7. Support legislative action to include water conservation as a criterion for selecting salinity control projects in the upper Colorado River Basin.
 8. Secure funding and support administrative/legislative actions 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.
 9. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that advance binational water conservation programs that benefit Colorado River supply augmentation and habitat restoration objectives.
 10. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to update and apply reasonable and beneficial use determinations.
- 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 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 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 State Water Project 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 that remove barriers and encourage energy sector investments in water conservation and energy management programs.
3. Support administrative/legislative or regulatory activities 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 efforts 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 that provide state 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 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 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. Work to ensure that administrative/legislative actions seeking 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 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 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, funding, and partnerships 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 fish 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 to initiate, expedite, and secure funding to 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 efforts 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 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 pursue funding opportunities 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 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 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 additional 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 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 that would provide funding or reimbursement 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 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

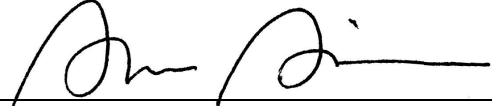
- 1. Support administrative/legislative actions to improve supply chain reliability, achieve tax-exempt status for water treatment chemicals, and ensure access to water treatment chemicals.
- 2. Support administrative/legislative actions to ensure the continued use of gaseous chlorine to protect public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

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

Fiscal Impact

No direct fiscal impact.



 Susan Sims
 Group Manager, External Affairs

10/25/2023
Date



 Adel Hagekhalil
 General Manager

10/26/2023
Date

Attachment 1 – 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles

Attachment 2 – Final Redline of 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles v October 18, 2023

Ref# ea12698566



2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND PRINCIPLES

The 2023 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 funding.

Adopted December 13, 2022



2023 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 funding for the following priorities in 2023:

A. Top Legislative Priorities:

1. Continue support for imported water supply resiliency and reliability, including progress on the Delta Conveyance Project, Sites Reservoir Project, Voluntary Agreements, and protecting critical elevations in Lake Powell and Lake Mead.
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. Protect drinking water quality and ensure access to safe and reliable drinking water for all Californians, including upholding the polluter pays principle and ensuring the continued cleanup of sites along the Colorado River.
5. 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.
6. Implement Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan to reduce Metropolitan's greenhouse gas emissions and reach carbon neutrality by 2045.
7. Support administrative/legislative actions that meaningfully improve water affordability throughout the region at both the individual and the water system level without burdening existing ratepayers.

B. Metropolitan-Sponsored State Bill (contingent upon separate board authorization)

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the long-term conversion of non-functional turf (NFT) in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) existing landscapes and ban the installation of NFT in new construction.



2023 Legislative Policy Principles

The 2023 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 described below holistically address seven strategic areas of policy that inform Metropolitan’s One Water Vision: (1) drought response; (2) drinking water; (3) regional water resource management; (4) imported water supply; (5) sustainability, resiliency, innovation; (6) infrastructure; and (7) system resiliency.

- I. Drought Response –Southern California’s two main sources of imported water are currently in severe drought conditions. Investments in additional conservation and local supplies are necessary as drought conditions continue or worsen and the impacts of climate change are accelerating.
 - A. Support legislative/administrative actions and funding for local and regional drought resiliency projects and to improve system flexibility.
 - B. Support legislative/administrative actions and funding to accelerate new local supply development, including but not limited to recycled water, stormwater, groundwater remediation, water loss detection and repair, long-term conversion of non-functional turf, and other water conservation measures.
 - C. 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 extended drought conditions.
 - D. Support administrative/legislative actions and pursue funding opportunities that recognize and help mitigate the significant differences in the capability and needs of communities and regions to withstand the impacts of ongoing drought.
 - E. 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.
- II. 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 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 administrative/legislative actions, consistent with Board direction, to identify, evaluate, and prioritize constituents of emerging concern in drinking water.
 3. Support application of the “polluter pays” principle such that parties responsible for introducing contaminants 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.
4. 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.
 5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to protect source water quality, reduce threats from invasive species, and mitigate harmful algal blooms.
- B. Water Governance and Funding: Metropolitan supports statewide efforts to provide access to safe and affordable drinking water to all residents.
1. Support administrative/legislative actions that prioritize providing safe and affordable drinking water to disadvantaged communities.
 2. Support administrative/legislative actions that meaningfully improve water affordability throughout the region at both the individual and the water system level without burdening existing ratepayers.
 3. Support funding to help water systems provide low-income ratepayer assistance programs.
 4. Support administrative/legislative actions that improve governance and long-term sustainability of non-compliant water systems and provide assistance for 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 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.
- III. Regional Water Resource Management – Metropolitan’s One Water Vision promotes 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. Continue to support and promote integrated water resources development by advocating for clear, concise, and expedited regulations/policies that are easily understandable by the regulated community and public.
 - B. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to expedite the development of new local resources (including recycled water and direct potable reuse, groundwater, stormwater, and desalination projects) without compromising the operational, financial, water quality, regulatory, environmental, and customer interests of Metropolitan and other water and wastewater agencies.
 - C. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and assist local agencies in



maintaining long-term groundwater supply reliability, while upholding Metropolitan's investments in groundwater banking partnerships.

D. Conservation

1. Support tax exemptions and/or credits for water conservation or efficiency incentives, including but not limited to long-term conversion of 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); 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 and funding for the long-term conversion of NFT in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes and ban installation of NFT in new construction.

E. Desalination & Groundwater Remediation

1. Support administrative/legislative actions, funding and partnerships for brackish groundwater and seawater desalination projects, consistent with the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio and Water Supply Strategy and Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan.
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 that advance Metropolitan's groundwater storage and/or recovery programs with member agencies.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for desalination research and technology development projects, and initiatives that encourage stakeholder coordination on these investments, such as with the National Alliance for Water Innovation.



F. Recycled Water

1. Support actions to advance and secure funding for the Pure Water Southern California Program and related projects.
2. Support efforts to improve flexibility of the State's water recycling grant program.
3. Support 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 that facilitate the adoption of practical uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse through raw water augmentation by December 31, 2023. These actions include but are not limited to funding: (a) for the planning, development, and implementation of local and regional potable reuse projects; and (b) initiatives to fill research gaps and advance the science to promote the further development of potable reuse.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions 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 that maximize voluntary use of recycled water.

G. Stormwater Capture

1. Support administrative/legislative actions 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.

H. 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 that help advance implementation of watershed management plans, including watershed research and multi-benefit forestry management projects.
3. Support 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.



- IV. 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.
- 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 State Water Project (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 Delta Reform Act.
1. Support administrative/legislative actions 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. Continue support for implementation of state policies adopted as part of the 2009 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 to consolidate review and oversight of anadromous species protection under the U.S. Department of the Interior.
 5. Support administrative/legislative actions that protect water quality for beneficial uses and that are implemented consistent with water rights priorities.
 6. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to advance the Delta Freshwater Pathway, levee improvements, and secure flood-fighting materials and stockpiles.
 7. Support administrative/legislative actions in the Delta watershed to account for and administer the water rights system, including protecting stored water releases.
 8. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to advance Sites Reservoir and the 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 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 that reduces the risk of Lake Mead and Lake Powell falling below critical elevations.
 2. 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.
 3. Promote continued coordination between states for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. Support efforts to maintain and enhance the operation of the United States Bureau of Reclamation’s Paradox Valley salinity control project at a safe level while working to develop a viable alternative that can provide long-term reductions in salt loads to the Colorado River.
 4. Secure funding and support administrative/legislative actions 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.
 5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that advance binational water conservation programs that benefit Colorado River supply augmentation and habitat restoration objectives.
- 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 new or expanded water infrastructure or programs that complement the SWP.
 3. Support funding for joint state and federal facility repairs, rehabilitation, and improvements, and ensure funding is equitably distributed between partners while maintaining SWP supply reliability.
 4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the cleanup of contaminated groundwater storage basins used for Metropolitan water banking programs along the California Aqueduct.



5. Support funding for the public share of costs, including recreation, flood protection, mitigation, environmental enhancement, and rehabilitation for multi-purpose SWP facilities.
- V. 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. Climate Action and Adaptation
 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 to reach carbon neutrality 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 research into the potential water resource and quality effects of climate change.
 5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that facilitate the integration of existing and planned local water supply, distribution systems, and regional water facilities.
 - 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 that remove barriers and encourage energy sector investments in water conservation and energy management programs.
 3. Support administrative/legislative or regulatory activities 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 efforts 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 that provide state 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 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 that define hydropower generation as renewable energy irrespective of a facility's nameplate generating capacity and includes the provision of renewable energy credits for hydroelectric generation.
 2. Work to ensure that administrative/legislative actions seeking 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 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 for environmental compliance to improve clarity and workability of the requirements and promote consistency and reduce regulatory duplication, while protective of 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.
 4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that assists public agencies in the transition to zero-emission fleets and equipment.
- 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, funding, and partnerships 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 fish 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.
- VI. 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 to initiate, expedite and secure funding to 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 efforts 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 funding for the public share of costs, including mitigation, rehabilitation, and recreation, for multi-purpose water infrastructure.
- VII. 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. Resiliency ensures the water supply and delivery system is strong, can return to service quickly, and is prepared to address future challenges.
- A. Emergency Preparedness
 1. Support administrative/legislative actions that assist the water industry to prepare for, respond to, and recover 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 to secure and disburse funding to help public water systems defray the costs associated with COVID-19 (e.g., loss of revenue, deferred infrastructure maintenance, personal protective equipment, workplace health and safety improvements, and on-site testing) and for direct financial relief to low-income households facing substantial utility bill arrearages post COVID-19.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions that assist the water industry to address the effects of wildfires and power outages, including the impacts of public safety power shutoff events.
4. Support additional 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.

B. 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 administrative/legislative actions that would provide funding or reimbursement 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 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.

C. Chemical Security

1. Support administrative/legislative actions 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 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES **AND** **&** 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.



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 progress on the Delta Conveyance Project, Sites Reservoir Project, Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements, and protecting critical elevations in Lake Powell), and Lake Mead 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 improvements to ensure the region's water storage is equitably accessible to all member agencies.
- 4-5. Protect drinking water quality and ensure access to safe and reliable drinking water for all Californians, including upholding the polluter pays principle and ensuring the continued cleanup of sites along the Colorado River.
- 5-6. 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.
6. ~~Implement Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan to reduce Metropolitan's greenhouse gas emissions and reach carbon neutrality by 2045.~~
7. ~~Support administrative/legislative actions that meaningfully~~ Improve water affordability throughout the region at both the individual and ~~the~~ water system level without burdening existing ratepayers.

B. Metropolitan-Sponsored State Bill (contingent upon separate board authorization)

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for to amend the long term conversion of non-functional turf (NFT) in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date to allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing landscapes and ban the installation of NFT in new construction master reclamation plan.



~~2023~~2024 Legislative Policy Principles

The ~~2023~~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 ~~described below~~ holistically address ~~sevensix~~ 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) ~~drought response~~; (2) drinking water; (3) regional water resource management; (4) imported water supply; (5) sustainability, resiliency, and innovation; (6) ~~5~~ infrastructure; and (7) ~~6~~ system resiliency.

~~I. Drought Response – Southern California's two main sources of imported water are currently in severe drought conditions. Investments in additional conservation and local supplies are necessary as drought conditions continue or worsen and the impacts of climate change are accelerating.~~

~~A. Support legislative/administrative actions and funding for local and regional drought resiliency projects and to improve system flexibility.~~

~~B. Support legislative/administrative actions and funding to accelerate new local supply development, including but not limited to recycled water, stormwater, groundwater remediation, water loss detection and repair, long-term conversion of non-functional turf, and other water conservation measures.~~

~~C. 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 extended drought conditions.~~

~~D. Support administrative/legislative actions and pursue funding opportunities that recognize and help mitigate the significant differences in the capability and needs of communities and regions to withstand the impacts of ongoing drought.~~

~~I. 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.~~

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 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.



- ~~1. Support administrative/legislative actions, consistent with Board direction, to identify, evaluate, and prioritize constituents of emerging concern in drinking water.~~
 2. Support application of the “polluter pays” principle such that parties responsible for introducing contaminants 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 ~~statewide~~ efforts to provide access to safe, reliable and affordable drinking water to all residents.
1. Support administrative/legislative actions that prioritize providing safe, reliable and affordable drinking water to disadvantaged communities.
 2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that ~~meaningfully~~ improve water affordability throughout the region at both the individual and the water system level, especially for disadvantaged communities, without burdening existing ratepayers.
 3. Support funding to help water systems provide low-income ratepayer assistance programs.
 4. Support administrative/legislative actions 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 that provide local agencies flexibility in determining fees for service and assessment amounts.
 - ~~5-6.~~ Support administrative/legislative actions 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 ~~promotes 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.

~~1. Continue to support and promote integrated water resources development by advocating for clear, concise, and expedited regulations/policies that are easily understandable by the regulated community and public.~~

~~B. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to expedite the development of new local resources (including recycled water and direct potable reuse, groundwater, stormwater, and desalination projects) without compromising the operational, financial, water quality, regulatory, environmental, and customer interests of Metropolitan and other water and wastewater agencies.~~

~~C. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and assist local agencies in maintaining long-term groundwater supply reliability, while upholding Metropolitan’s investments in groundwater banking partnerships.~~

B.A. Conservation

1. Support tax exemptions and/or credits for water conservation or efficiency incentives, including but not limited to long-term conversion of ~~NFT, 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 federal/state 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); and potential impacts to wastewater operations and recycled water projects.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and federal/state 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 and federal/state funding for the long-term conversion of NFT in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes and ban installation of NFT in new construction.



C.B. Desalination & Groundwater Remediation

1. Support administrative/legislative actions, funding, and partnerships for brackish groundwater and seawater desalination projects, consistent with the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio and 2022 Water Supply Strategy and Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan/CAMP4W goals.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for salinity control projects, including but not limited to source control, treatment, and concentrate management.
- ~~3.1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that advance Metropolitan's groundwater storage and/or recovery programs with member agencies.~~
- 4.3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for desalination research and technology development projects, and initiatives that, pilot tests, and demonstration studies to encourage ~~stakeholder coordination on these investments, such as with the National Alliance for Water Innovation~~ development of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient desalination technologies.

D.C. Recycled Water

1. Support actions to advance and secure funding for the Pure Water Southern California Program and related projects.
2. Support efforts to improve flexibility of the State's water recycling grant program.
3. Support 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 ~~practical uniform water recycling criteria for~~ direct potable reuse ~~through raw water augmentation regulations~~ by December 31, 2023. These actions include but are not limited to ~~funding: (a) for the~~ planning, development, and implementation of local and regional potable reuse projects; and ~~(b)~~ initiatives to fill research gaps and advance the science to promote the further development of potable reuse.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions 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 that maximize voluntary use of



recycled water.

~~D. Stormwater Capture~~

D. Local Supply Development

1. Support administrative/legislative actions that protect and advance local flexibility and responsiveness in developing locally appropriate, climate-resilient diverse resource portfolios.
2. Continue to support and 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.
- 7.4. Support administrative/legislative actions 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 groundwater storage and/or recovery programs with member agencies.

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 that help advance implementation of watershed management plans, including watershed research and multi-benefit forestry management projects.
3. Support 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.

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 State Water Project (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 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. Continue support for implementation of state policies adopted as part of the 2009 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 to consolidate review and oversight of anadromous species protection under the U.S. Department of the Interior.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions 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, ~~and secure~~ (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 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 that reduces the risk of Lake Mead and Lake Powell falling below critical elevations~~Aqueduct.
 2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to ensure that sufficient water is stored and delivered from Lake Mead to meet human health and safety needs.
 - ~~2-3.~~ 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 ~~for~~and federal agencies to further the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program— (Program). Support actions to stabilize the financial position of the Program.
 - ~~3-5.~~ Support efforts to maintain and enhance the operation of the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Paradox Valley Unit salinity control project at a safe level while working to develop a viable alternative that ~~can provide~~provides long-term reductions in salt loads to the Colorado River.
 6. Support legislative efforts to revise the salinity standard for Colorado River water delivered under the U.S. treaty with Mexico to increase water conservation.
 7. Support legislative action to include water conservation as a criterion for selecting salinity control projects in the upper Colorado River Basin.



~~4.8.~~ Secure funding and support administrative/legislative actions 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.

~~5.9.~~ Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that advance binational water conservation programs that benefit Colorado River supply augmentation and habitat restoration objectives.

~~10. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to update and apply 43 C.F.R. Part 417 reasonable and beneficial use determinations.~~

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.

~~9. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for new or expanded water infrastructure or programs that complement the SWP.~~

2. Support 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 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.

~~E. Climate Action and Adaptation~~

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 ~~to reach~~ in reaching carbon neutrality for the State Water Project 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.
- ~~1. Support research into the potential water resource and quality effects of climate change.~~
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that assists public agencies in the transition to zero-emission fleets and equipment.
- ~~1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that facilitate the integration of existing and planned local water supply, distribution systems, and regional water facilities.~~

A.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 that remove barriers and encourage energy sector investments in water conservation and energy management programs.
3. Support administrative/legislative or regulatory activities 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 efforts 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 that provide state 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 that maintain Board authority over energy-related matters (e.g., system reserve margin or resource adequacy requirements).

B.C. Renewable Energy

1. Support administrative/legislative actions that define hydropower generation as renewable energy irrespective of a facility's nameplate generating capacity and ~~includes~~include the provision of renewable energy credits for hydroelectric generation.
2. Work to ensure that administrative/legislative actions seeking 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 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.

C.D. Environmental Stewardship

1. Support administrative/legislative actions for environmental compliance to improve clarity and workability of the requirements and promote consistency and reduce regulatory duplication, while ~~protective of~~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.

~~D.E. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that assists public agencies in the transition to zero emission fleets and equipment.~~ 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, funding, and partnerships 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.

E.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 fish 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 to initiate, expedite, and secure funding to 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 efforts 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 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 pursue funding opportunities that recognize and help mitigate the significant differences in the capability and needs of communities and regions to withstand the impacts of climate change.
- 2.5. 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 that assist the water industry ~~to prepare~~in preparing for, ~~respond~~responding to, and ~~recover~~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 to secure and disburse funding to help public water systems defray the costs associated with COVID-19 (e.g., loss of revenue, deferred infrastructure maintenance, personal protective equipment,~~



~~workplace health and safety improvements, and on-site testing) and for direct financial relief to low-income households facing substantial utility bill arrearages post COVID-19.~~

2. Support administrative/legislative actions 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 additional 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 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 that would provide funding or reimbursement 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 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 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.

Legislation, Regulatory Affairs and Communication
Committee



Legislative Priorities & Principles for 2024

Item 9-2

November 14, 2023

Item 9-2 Legislative Priorities & Principles for 2024

Subject

Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024

Purpose

Annual review of updates

Next Steps

- Receive & review input from Member Agencies and other communities of interest
- Action item for Board consideration and adoption in January 2024

Purpose & Process

- Annual process
- Timely, relevant, topical
- Board guidance and direction
- Subject matter expert input
- 7 MWD and regional priorities
- 1 possible Metropolitan-sponsored legislative initiative
- 6 overarching policy areas

Current Actions & Next Steps

- Present to Member Agency Legislative Coordinators (Nov 1)
- Board Information Item Posted (Nov 1)
- Present to Member Agency General Managers (Nov 3)
- Information Item to Board (Nov 14)
- Action Item to Board (Jan 2024)

Summary of High-Level Changes

- Delete one priority (CAP); Add two new priorities
- Update MWD-sponsored bill concept
- Consolidate seven policy areas into six
- Revise WQ bullet to support SB 230 Implementation
- Add bullet protecting local flexibility re: cost of use and fee assessments (AB 755)

Summary of High-Level Changes

- Rename “Stormwater Capture” --> “Local Supply Development
- Updated Colorado River Resources
 - Provide for human health and safety deliveries
 - Stabilize the financial position of the salinity control program,
 - Initiate regulatory updates to and implementation of reasonable and beneficial use determinations

Summary of High-Level Changes

- Renamed section: Carbon Neutrality
- Update in Infrastructure: expanded to support water infrastructure that complements existing water supplies to ensure reliability for all MAs (*formerly SWP focus*)
- Climate Resiliency section
- Emergency Preparedness

Top Legislative Priorities

- A. Imported water supply resiliency & reliability
- B. Demand management and water use efficiency
- C. Pure Water Southern California & long-term supply reliability improvements
- D. **Support funding for regional conveyance**
- E. Drinking water quality & access to safe and reliable water for all Californians; **polluter pays** principle
- F. Ecosystem restorations accounting for evolving climate and risk analyses
- G. **Improve water affordability** without burdening existing ratepayers/customers
- H. ~~Implement MWD Climate Action Plan~~

Possible MWD- sponsored Initiative

- 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.

Note: bill sponsorship contingent on explicit 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

- Revised bullet (5) to support implementation of SB 230 (Portantino) goals

B. Water Governance, Affordability & Funding

- New bullet (5) regarding ensuring local agency flexibility in determining fees for service and assessments

II. Regional Water Resource Management

A. Conservation

- minor clarifying updates

B. Desalination and Groundwater Remediation

- conforming changes

C. Recycled Water

D. Local Supply Development

- formerly Stormwater Capture section
- includes bullets from former Drought section

A. Watershed Management

III.

Imported Water Supply

- A. Bay Delta Initiatives
 - clarifying updates
- B. Colorado River Resources
 - Provide for human health and safety deliveries
 - Stabilize the financial position of the salinity control program,
 - Initiate regulatory updates to and implementation of reasonable and beneficial use determinations
- C. State Water Project
 - moved and expanded bullet to Infrastructure

IV. Sustainability, Resiliency, & Innovation

- A. Renamed: Carbon Neutrality (formerly Climate Action and Adaptation)
 - Bullet (4) moved from Environmental Stewardship to support public agency transition to ZE fleet
- A. Water/Energy Nexus
- B. Renewable Energy
- C. Environmental Stewardship
- D. Workforce Development
- E. Innovation

V. Infrastructure

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

VI. System Resiliency

- A. New: Climate Resiliency section (former Drought section)
- B. Emergency Preparedness
 - delete COVID-19 bullet
- A. Physical and Cyber Security
- B. Chemical Security

Member Agency Legislative Coordinators Annual
Planning Meeting

Legislative Priorities & Principles for 2024

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Legislation, Regulatory Affairs & Communications
Committee

Proposal to Upgrade Metropolitan Room at Vista del Lago Water Education Center

Item 6a

November 14, 2023

Item 6a
Vista del Lago
Water
Education
Center
Upgrades

Subject

Vista del Lago Water Education
Center Upgrades

Purpose

Provide information on Metropolitan's
room at the Vista del Lago Visitor Center
and present an opportunity to update the
information and exhibits

Next Steps

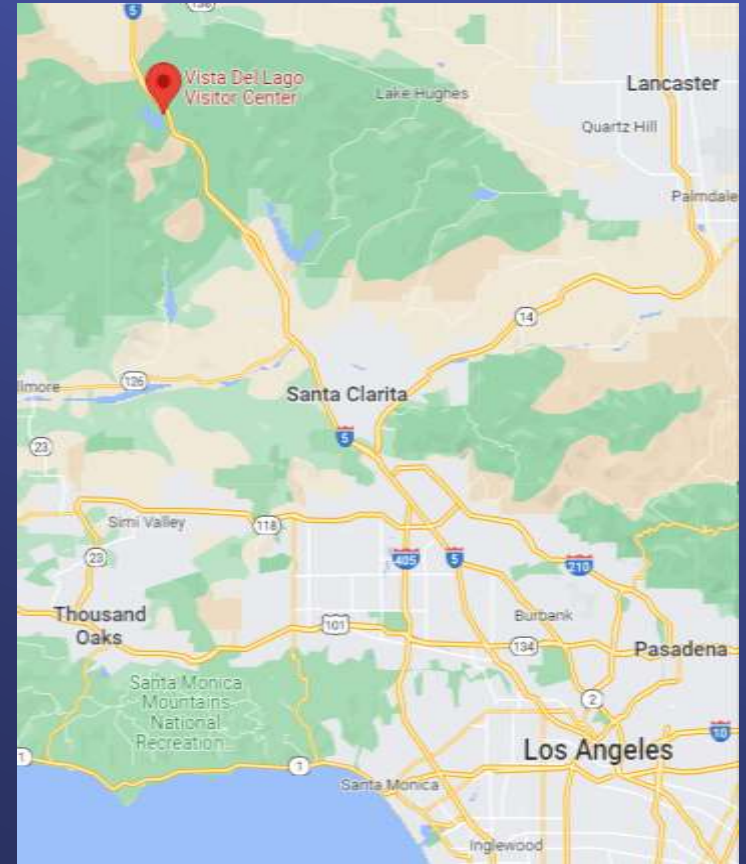
Provide direction to staff

Vista del Lago Visitor Center

Overview

Facts

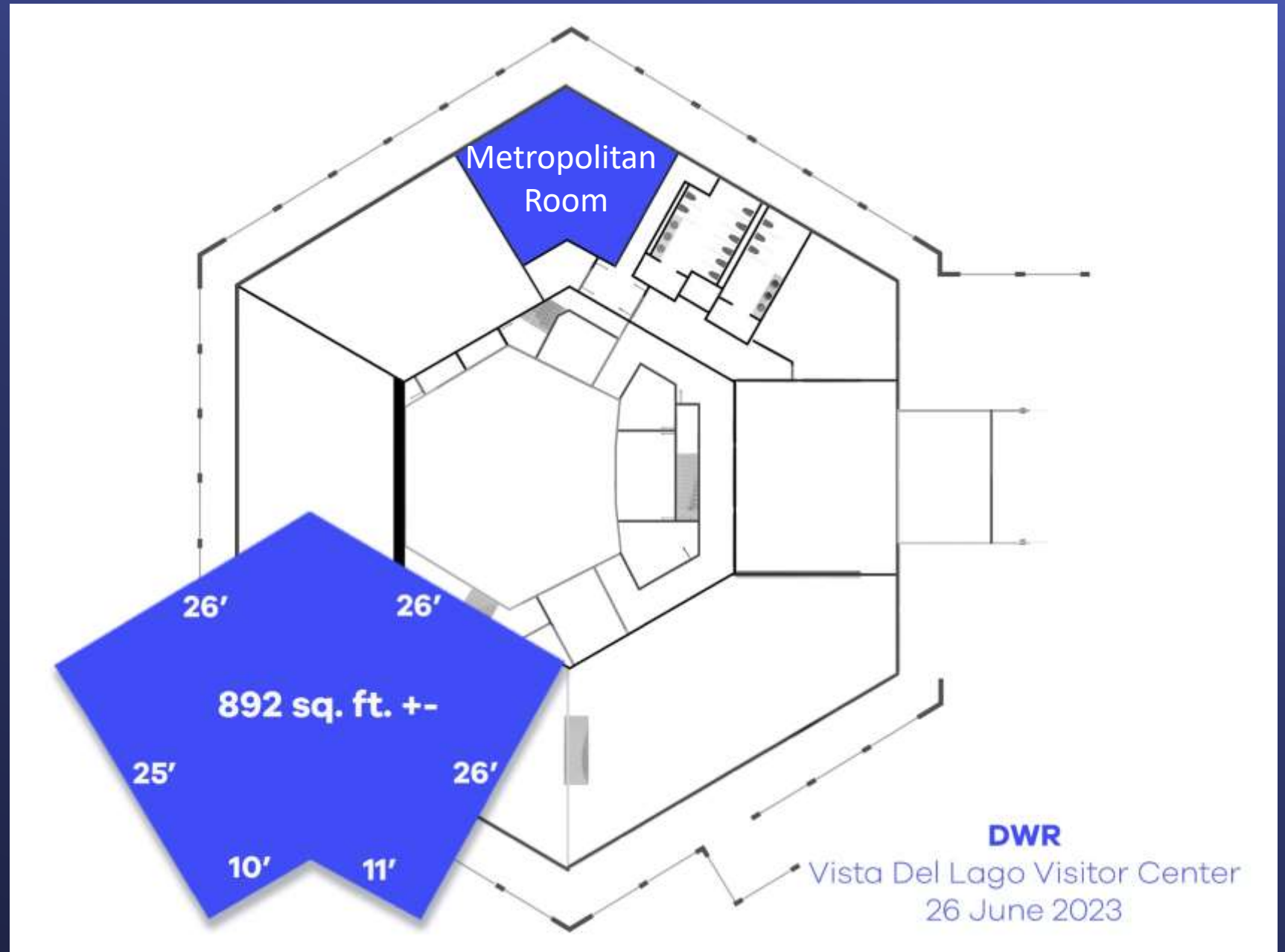
- State's largest water education facility (owned and operated by DWR)
- Constructed in 1993 at Pyramid Lake
- Features exhibits, theater, school program and tours
- Average of 150,000+ visitors annually



Water Education Displays, Exhibits



Metropolitan Room
Vista del Lago



Metropolitan Room

Vista del Lago

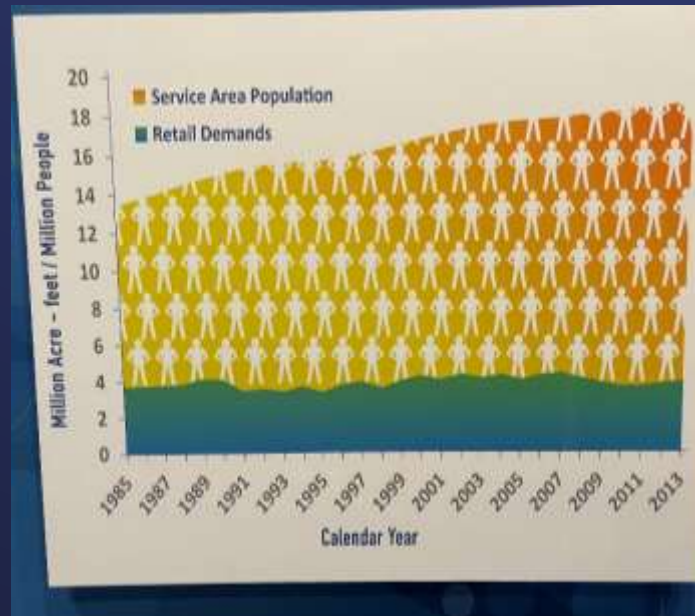
Metropolitan Room

- Metropolitan's only educational display center that is open to the general public
- Current displays in Metropolitan Room are many years old. Need updating to reflect GM/Board priorities



Vista del Lago

Metropolitan Room



DWR Plans to Upgrade the Center

DWR Upgrades

Vista del Lago

- Exhibits to be fabricated and installed 2025-2026
- Multi-million dollar investment of multimedia and interactive displays



Water Replenishment District's Albert Robles Center, Pico Rivera

Opportunities for Metropolitan

Use Vista del Lago to Share Messages



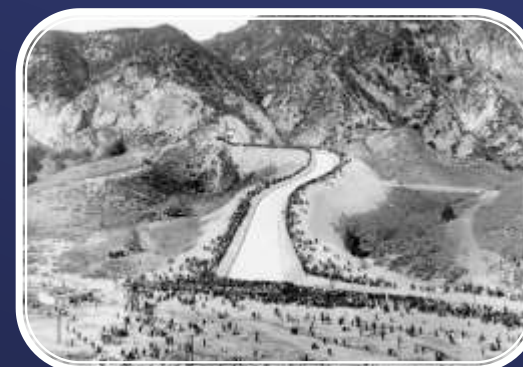
Climate adaptation



Pure Water Southern
California



Conservation and
water efficiency



Fourth Aqueduct



Call to Action

Future Opportunities to Integrate with other Educational Displays, Outreach

Exhibits
May Be
Replicated
Elsewhere

- Diamond Valley Lake
- Pure Water Southern California
- Field Trips and other Outreach



Learning Center at
Pure Water Southern California



Student Field Trips at DVL

Your Input Requested

Board Direction for Metropolitan Room

Options

1. Upgrade room to multimedia approach
 - consistent with DWR plans (\$1-1.2 m)
 - \$60,000 for pre-design
 - \$140,000 for design in early 2025
 - \$800,000-\$1 million for production/installation in FY 2025-26
 - Represents a 10+ year investment in education
2. Maintain low-cost investment
 - Use in-house resources to update photos and static exhibits

Metropolitan Room at
Vista del Lago

Next Steps

- With board direction, staff will continue planning efforts to upgrade Metropolitan Room and coordinate with DWR
- Return to Committee with updates and for approval to award contract consistent with the Board-approved budget





The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California November 14, 2023 – State Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Regulation	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
Cal/OSHA	<u>Proposed Indoor Heat Illness Prevention Standard</u>	On March 31, 2023, Cal/OSHA proposed new indoor heat standards requiring employee access to water and cool down areas, as well as encouraged preventative cool-down breaks when the indoor temperature exceeds or equals 82°F. Employees must be trained on indoor heat illness prevention and employers should take additional steps to minimize the risk of heat illness. If the indoor temperature equals or exceeds 87°F, additional requirements are triggered.	The rule requires industry to develop written indoor heat illness prevention procedures, assess areas impacted by excessive heat, and determine appropriate control measures (e.g., provide cooling, breaks, and training). Staff provided input to PRR regarding the definition of indoor spaces and making the training consistent with outdoor heat illness prevention programs.	Awaiting final rule. Occupation Safety and Health (OSH) Board has until March 2024 to adopt final rule.
Cal/OSHA	<u>Proposed Updates on Lead Standards for General Industry and Construction</u>	On March 3, 2023, Cal/OSHA published new lead standards for general industrial and construction work areas. The proposal lowers the Permissible Exposure Level (PEL) for lead from 50 ug/m ³ to 10 ug/m ³ and lowers the Action Level (AL) from 30 to 2 ug/m ³ . The standard also increases the need for blood lead level (BLL) testing when an employee’s BLL is at or above 10 ug/dL, among other requirements.	The rule requires industry to conduct new lead exposure assessments and update written procedures, training, and potentially implement additional engineering controls (e.g., HEPA-equipped vacuum, containment, and ventilation). Staff provided input to through PRR over the feasibility of the proposed standards—namely the engineering controls.	Awaiting final rule. OSH Board has until March 2024 to adopt final rule.
CARB	<u>Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulation</u>	On April 28, 2023, CARB adopted the ACF that mandates 50% of medium to heavy-duty (MHD) vehicle (i.e., > 8,500 lbs) purchases be zero-emission (ZE) starting in 2024, and 100% by 2027. The Rule includes an optional milestone compliance pathway and exemptions for infrastructure construction or electrification delays and mutual aid designated vehicles.	The rule requires all public fleets, including Metropolitan and its member agencies, to develop a MHD vehicle replacement strategy. Metropolitan provided comments expressing concerns over the compliance timeline given the current lack of ZE vehicle availability and infrastructure, and higher unit costs—which may affect system reliability and emergency response in the interim. Metropolitan is implementing a transition plan for its fleet of 500 MHD vehicles.	Adopted April 28, 2023 with compliance starting on January 1, 2024.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California November 14, 2023 – State Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Regulation	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
CARB	<u>In-Use Off Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation</u>	Beginning January 1, 2024, the In-Use Off Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation mandates the phase-out of older Tier 0-2 engines, bans adding Tier 3 & Tier 4i engines, requires the use of R99 or R100 renewable diesel, and requires affected entities to only hire compliant fleets.	The rule affects all off-road construction equipment using diesel engines with 25 horsepower or more. The rule requires the removal of older, dirtier engines, and encourages—not requires, the adoption of zero-emission engines. The rule also requires industry to meet a fleet-average NOx emission target based on horsepower and model year of each engine. Staff are working on a clean-vehicle deployment schedule which includes a phase-out plan for Metropolitan’s 47 Tier 0-2 engines.	Adopted November 17, 2022 with compliance starting on January 1, 2024.
CARB	<u>Zero-Emission Forklift Rulemaking</u>	On March 20, 2023, CARB released revised regulatory language prohibiting fleet operators from purchasing new propane or gasoline-fueled Class IV and Class V forklifts with a Rated Capacity of up to 12,000 pounds starting in 2026. Fleets would need to phase-out 2018 model year (MY) and older forklifts starting in 2028. Fleet operators would be allowed to purchase used 2025 MY or older forklifts so long as the MY has not been phased out.	The rule requires industry, including Metropolitan and member agencies, to develop a forklift replacement strategy. Staff are working on a forklift replacement strategy for Metropolitan’s 17 propane- and one gas-powered forklifts.	CARB anticipates releasing a new 45-day rulemaking draft in late 2023 with final adoption in May 2024.
DTSC	<u>Generator Improvements Rule</u>	On March 24, 2023, DTSC released its revised Generator Improvements Rule (GIR) for public comment. The new rule aligns the state with federal requirements.	By aligning with federal standards, the new GIR may clarify and simplify hazardous waste/material handling procedures. Staff will need to update standard operating procedures to correctly cross-reference the renumbered rule sections. Staff commented through CCEEB to help streamline rule compliance (e.g., how best to submit Contingency Plans and associated quick reference guides?).	Phase I adopted. Staff are awaiting Phase II of GIR rulemaking.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California November 14, 2023 – State Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Regulation	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
SWRCB	<u>California Ocean Plan Amendments for Seawater Desalination</u>	The SWRCB will update the Ocean Plan to include new seawater siting criteria. Preliminary meetings are related studies are expected to start in Q4 2023.	Changes to the Ocean Plan could impact existing and planned member agency seawater desalination projects, as well as any future Metropolitan partnerships on desalination.	Rulemaking expected to start in 2024.
SWRCB	<u>Conservation as a California Way of Life</u>	On August 18, 2023, SWRCB released rulemaking text in response to AB 1668 and SB 606--Making Conservation a California Way of Life. The regulation establishes standards for components of the urban water use objective for urban water retailers. These components include residential indoor and outdoor water use, commercial-industrial-institutional (CII) landscapes with dedicated irrigation meters, as well as for retail water loss, variances for unique water uses (e.g., seasonal populations, etc.), and a bonus incentive for potable reuse.	The regulatory framework affects retail water suppliers. Since 2021, Metropolitan has submitted six comment letters addressing technical components of the regulation and compliance matters. The latest comment letter, dated October 16, 2023, addressed the outdoor residential water use standard, special landscape areas irrigated with recycled water, CII best management practices, variances, and funding sources for disadvantaged communities.	If adopted, the rule becomes effective on Oct. 1, 2024. Urban water retailer Annual Water Use reporting starts January 1, 2024.
SWRCB	<u>Direct Potable Reuse Regulations</u>	On July 21, 2023, SWRCB released its proposed Direct Potable Reuse regulations. The revised rule language was released on October 19, 2023. The regulations provide the regulatory framework by which highly treated recycled water can be introduced either immediately upstream of a water treatment plant or directly into a public water system..	On September 9, 2023 and November 6, 2023, Metropolitan submitted joint comments with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts on the proposed regulations. Some of the September 9, 2023 comments (e.g., flexibility in achieving pathogen log-removal credits) were incorporated. However, the November comments reiterated the previous requests to establish a Science Advisory Panel for constituents of emerging concern, standardize the on-line monitoring requirements, and provide enhanced flexibility for the governance structure of DPR projects.	Final regulations expected to be adopted by SWRCB by December 31, 2023 with an estimated effective date of April 1, 2024.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California November 14, 2023 – State Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Regulation	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
SWRCB	<u>Draft Seawater Desalination Siting and Streamlining Report</u>	On July 12, 2023, the SWRCB, in conjunction with the California Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission, released draft siting and streamlining criteria for seawater desalination (desal) facilities. The criteria cover siting, intakes, outfalls, monitoring and mitigation requirements.	The guidelines could impact existing and planned member agency seawater desal projects, as well as any future Metropolitan partnerships on desal. Metropolitan submitted comments supporting concurrent state agency review for all seawater desal projects and the ability of water agencies to determine the need for a project. Metropolitan also commented that the criteria should not use loading orders to prioritize project type but should accommodate alternative projects such as offshore desal. Metropolitan supported CalDesal’s letter on the same issues, among others.	The guidelines will be finalized in Fall 2023.
SWRCB	<u>Drought and Conservation Reporting Order</u>	On January 1, 2023, DDW issued a Drought and Conservation Technical Reporting Order requiring all community water systems and non-transient non-community schools to prepare drought and conservation reports beginning January 2023.	Order requires Metropolitan and its member agencies to provide volumetric flow and lake elevation data for each source water on a quarterly basis using monthly data. Metropolitan provided both written and oral comments that the Order is inappropriate for Metropolitan’s systems based on the district’s size and complexity.	Order is final, but DDW is open to revisions.
SWRCB	<u>Manganese Notification and Response Levels</u>	On February 16, 2023, DDW proposed new notification and response levels (NL and RL) for manganese at 20 parts per billion (ppb) and 200 ppb, respectfully.	The proposed NL and RL are significantly lower than the current NL and RL (0.5 parts per million (ppm) and 5.0 ppm, respectively). Thus, water agencies may need to report more instances of NL and RL exceedances in their Consumer Confidence Reports and/or make operational changes.	Awaiting further action by DDW. DDW may adopt these NL and RL at any time.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California November 14, 2023 – State Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Regulation	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
SWRCB	<u>Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Hexavalent Chromium</u>	On June 16, 2023, DDW proposed an MCL for hexavalent chromium of 10 micrograms per liter (µg/L) and a detection limit for purposes of reporting (DLR) of 0.1 µg/L. Compliance timelines vary from 2-4 yrs. depending on system size.	On August 15, 2023, Metropolitan provided comments in support of the 10 µg/L MCL, compliance timelines, and the use of stannous chloride as a best available technology. Metropolitan also expressed concerns over the cost of compliance and asked for additional funding to help offset treatment costs.	DDW anticipates finalizing the rule in February 2024 with implementation starting in July 2024.
SWRCB	<u>MCL for Perchlorate</u>	In 2017, DDW announced it would review the MCL established in 2007 for perchlorate at 6 µg/L. On October 6, 2020, DDW lowered the DLR from 4 µg/L to 2 µg/L starting in January 2021, and decreasing to 1 µg/L in January 2024. These actions were in response to OEHAA lowering the public health goal (PHG) for perchlorate from 6 µg/L to 1 µg/L in February 2015.	DDW’s perchlorate MCL review and changes to the DLR could result in the MCL being lowered in the near future, as a MCL must be set as close to the PHG as is technologically and economically feasible. Metropolitan submitted comment letters supporting DDW’s review and a DLR of 2 µg/L. On August 6, 2020, Metropolitan submitted comments expressing concerns that a DLR of 1 µg/L was premature and that DDW should hold off implementing the lower DLR until such time that adequate laboratory capacity is determined and perchlorate occurrence data at the 2 µg/L DLR are collected and evaluated.	The DLR of 1 µg/L goes into effect January 1, 2024. Awaiting further action by DDW on revising the MCL.
SWRCB	<u>MCLs for Perfluoro-octanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluoro-octane sulfonic acid (PFOS)</u>	On July 22, 2021, OEHHA released draft PHGs for two PFAS: 0.007 ppt for PFOA and 1 ppt for PFOS—the first step towards DDW proposing MCLs for these compounds. DDW also requested OEHHA to evaluate whether PFAS can be grouped together for regulatory purposes based on specific characteristics or features. On July 14, 2023, OEHHA released additional supporting documentation for the proposed PHGs for PFOA and PFOS.	Once announced, staff will evaluate impacts and potential comments.	Awaiting official release of regulation.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California November 14, 2023 – State Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Regulation	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
SWRCB	<u>Statewide General Permit for Drinking Water System Discharges</u>	Provides a categorical exception to water purveyors for short-term or seasonal planned and emergency (unplanned) discharges resulting from essential operations and maintenance activities undertaken to comply with the federal and state drinking water regulations.	Metropolitan uses this permit for its dewatering operations. Staff would like to expand coverage to include “on-spec” highly treated tertiary water (i.e., post advanced water treatment water prior to either spreading/injection or another drinking water facility. Early talks indicate SWRCB is amenable to this change.	Permit renewal in about 2 years.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California November 14, 2023 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	<u>Asbestos and Chlorine</u>	On April 12, 2022, EPA proposed a rule under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to ban the production, importation, and distribution of chrysotile asbestos, the only known form of asbestos that is currently imported into the United States. On March 16, 2023, EPA released additional data concerning chrysotile asbestos diaphragms used in the chlor-alkali industry, among other asbestos-containing products. EPA may use these data in developing its final rule.	While the chlor-alkali industry has committed to stop the importation of asbestos and phase out the use of asbestos-diaphragms, this action could potentially increase the costs of chlorine and caustic soda used for water and wastewater treatment.	EPA hopes to finalize the regulation by early 2024 with the ban going into effect 180 days thereafter.
EPA	<u>Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs)</u>	On April 5, 2023, EPA published proposed revisions to the Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs). When finalized, EPA’s proposal would require public water systems serving over 10,000 people to deliver CCRs twice a year, encourage modern electronic delivery options, clarify information regarding lead in drinking water, and provide translation for customers with limited English proficiency.	The biennial requirement is only for community water systems that exceed a maximum contaminant level (MCL), health advisory (HA), notification level (NL), or response level (RL). It is unclear how the second CCR requirement would be met given sampling schedules and compliance with running annual averages. As a wholesaler, Metropolitan is not required to do a CCR, but will be required to provide water quality data to our member agencies twice per year. Staff worked with AMWA, AWWA and CMUA on comments.	Final rule due by March 15, 2024.
EPA	<u>Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFAS</u>	On March 29, 2023, EPA published draft maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFAS at 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for each compound-- the detection limit of EPA's test method. The proposed rule also set maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs) for both PFOA and PFOS to 0 ppt. Lastly, EPA proposed regulating PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX as a mixture.	Metropolitan submitted comments on May 30, 2023 in support of regulating PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. However, staff commented that regulating the remaining PFAS is premature as these compounds did not follow the full regulatory process and may have unintended economic impacts.	EPA hopes to finalize the regulation by early 2024 with a three-year compliance timeline from the rule's effective date.

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 EPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency

FWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service
 NMFS -- United States National Marine Fisheries Service
 NRWA -- National Rural Water Association
 WUWC – Western Urban Water Coalition

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California November 14, 2023 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	National Cybersecurity Strategy	On March 3, 2023, EPA issued a memorandum directing Safe Drinking Water Act state primacy agencies to assess cybersecurity resilience of public water systems as part of either the sanitary survey process or other state programs. When a primacy agency identifies a significant cybersecurity deficiency, the agency is instructed to use its authority to require the public water system to address the deficiency. This directive was not subject to the rulemaking process.	The water industry is concerned that the Sanitary Survey Program is not the right tool to address cybersecurity vulnerabilities or deficiencies. Many state primacy agencies lack both the resources and technical expertise to evaluate and address cybersecurity issues and additionally lack the ability to secure sensitive information. AWWA and NRWA joined several states in challenging the rule. Staff worked with AWWA on alternative compliance pathways.	On October 12, 2023, EPA withdrew its cybersecurity memorandum and now asks states to “voluntarily” review public water system cybersecurity programs.
EPA	PFAS and CERCLA Part I	On September 6, 2022, EPA proposed to list perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).	Metropolitan submitted comments on November 7, 2022 that the rulemaking will greatly increase the potential liability under CERCLA for water treatment residuals. Staff also worked with ACWA, AMWA, AWWA, and WUWC on comments seeking an exemption under CERCLA for the water industry.	EPA intends to finalize the rule by February 2024.
EPA	PFAS and CERCLA Part II	On April 13, 2023, EPA requested public “input and data” regarding whether to designate the precursors to PFOA and PFOS, as well as seven additional PFAS as hazardous substances under CERCLA. The seven additional PFAS are PFBS, PFHxS, PFNA, Gen X, PFBA, PFHxA, and PFDA. The notice also request input on regulating groups or categories of PFAS as hazardous substances.	Metropolitan submitted comments on August 3, 2023 that EPA should consider updated occurrence data and develop robust and reliable analytical methods before making any regulatory determination for the affected PFAS. In addition, staff requested that EPA explore other regulatory pathways for PFAS rather than CERCLA, as well as follow the "Polluter Pays" principle and make additional funding available for treatment and cleanup costs.	Awaiting EPA’s decision whether to propose regulating these PFAS as hazardous substances under CERCLA.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California November 14, 2023 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	<u>"Waters of the United States" (WOTUS)</u>	On September 8, 2023, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers published the final rule revising the January 2023 definition of WOTUS. The final rule incorporates the 2023 Supreme Court ruling in <i>Sackett v. EPA</i> which rejected the “significant nexus test” and concluded that WOTUS only encompasses “traditional” streams, oceans, rivers, and lakes. The ruling also limits Clean Water Act coverage for wetlands to only those wetlands that have a “continuous surface connection” to a “relatively permanent body of water connected to traditional interstate navigable waters.”	Metropolitan had previously commented in support of the January 2023 rule that put back into place the pre-2015 definition of WOTUS and codified the Supreme Court decisions from 2001 and 2006 (i.e., <i>Solid Waste Agency of N. Cook Cnty. v. U.S. Army Corps</i> and <i>Rapanos v. United States</i>). In addition to rejecting the significant nexus test found in <i>Rapanos v. United States</i> , the new rule no longer covers ephemeral streams—a common feature in the arid Southwest. Staff are reviewing the new WOTUS Rule to determine how it would impact source water protection and permitting activities.	Rule effective on September 8, 2023. No further comments will be taken.
FWS and NMFS	<u>Regulations for Interagency Cooperation</u>	On June 22, 2023, FWS and NMFS proposed to amend portions of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act to clarify and improve the interagency consultation processes, while continuing to provide for the conservation of listed species. The proposed rule would revise and expand the scope of reasonable and prudent measures that could be included as part of an incidental take statement in a biological opinion.	Metropolitan submitted comments on August 21, 2023 requesting that FWS and NMFS reconsider their revised interpretation of the use of reasonable and prudent measures to offset remaining impacts of an incidental take. This rule changes the standard by which applicants must mitigate an incidental take from only implementing avoidance and minimization measures to also include full mitigation of the impact.	Awaiting final rule.

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Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and
Communications Committee

Federal and State Regulatory Tracking Matrices

Item 6b
November 14, 2023

Item 6b Federal and State Regulatory Tracking Matrices

Subject

Federal and State Regulatory Tracking Matrices

Purpose

Introduce Federal and State regulatory tracking matrices

Next Steps

Matrices will be updated quarterly and posted on Metropolitan's website.

Key rules will be presented at their respective committees.

Federal and State Regulatory Matrices

High-Level Rulemaking Summaries & Impacts

- Both state and federal regulatory agencies
- Engagement with staff, member agencies, and associations

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
November 14, 2023 -- Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	Asbestos and Chlorine	On April 12, 2022, EPA proposed a rule under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to ban the production, importation, and distribution of chrysotile asbestos, the only known form of asbestos that is currently imported into the United States. On March 16, 2023, EPA released additional data concerning chrysotile asbestos diaphragms used in the chlor-alkali industry, among other asbestos-containing products. EPA may use these data in developing its final rule.	This action could disrupt approximately 30% of the manufacturing capacity of chlorine and caustic soda in the United States—two key chemicals used for water and wastewater treatment. Staff worked with AWWA and The Chlorine Institute to seek either an exemption from the ban or a sufficiently long period of time to implement alternative technologies (e.g., diaphragms or membranes that use per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—another problematic class of substances).	EPA hopes to finalize the regulation by early 2024 with the ban going into effect 180 days thereafter.
EPA	Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs)	On April 5, 2023, EPA published proposed revisions to the Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs). When finalized, EPA's proposal would require public water systems serving over 10,000 people to deliver CCRs twice a year, encourage modern electronic delivery options, clarify information regarding lead in drinking water, and provide translation for customers with limited English proficiency.	The biennial requirement is only for community water systems that exceed a maximum contaminant level (MCL), health advisory (HA), notification level (NL), or response level (RL). It is unclear how the second CCR requirement would be met given sampling schedules and compliance with running annual averages. As a wholesaler, Metropolitan is not required to do a CCR, but will be required to provide water quality data to our member agencies twice per year. Staff worked with AMWA, AWWA and CMUA on comments.	Final rule due by March 15, 2024.
EPA	Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFAS	On March 29, 2023, EPA published draft maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFAS at 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for each compound—the detection limit of EPA's test method. The proposed rule also set maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs) for both PFOA and PFOS to 0 ppt. Lastly, EPA proposed regulating PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX as a mixture.	Metropolitan submitted comments on May 30, 2023 in support of regulating PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. However, staff commented that regulating the remaining PFAS is premature as these compounds did not follow the full regulatory process and may have unintended economic impacts.	EPA hopes to finalize the regulation by early 2024 with a three-year compliance timeline from the rule's effective date.

ACWA – Association of Clean Water Administrators FWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service
 AMWA – Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies NMFS – United States National Marine Fisheries Service
 AWWA – American Water Works Association NRWA – National Rural Water Association
 EPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency WUWC – Western Urban Water Coalition

Recent Highlights

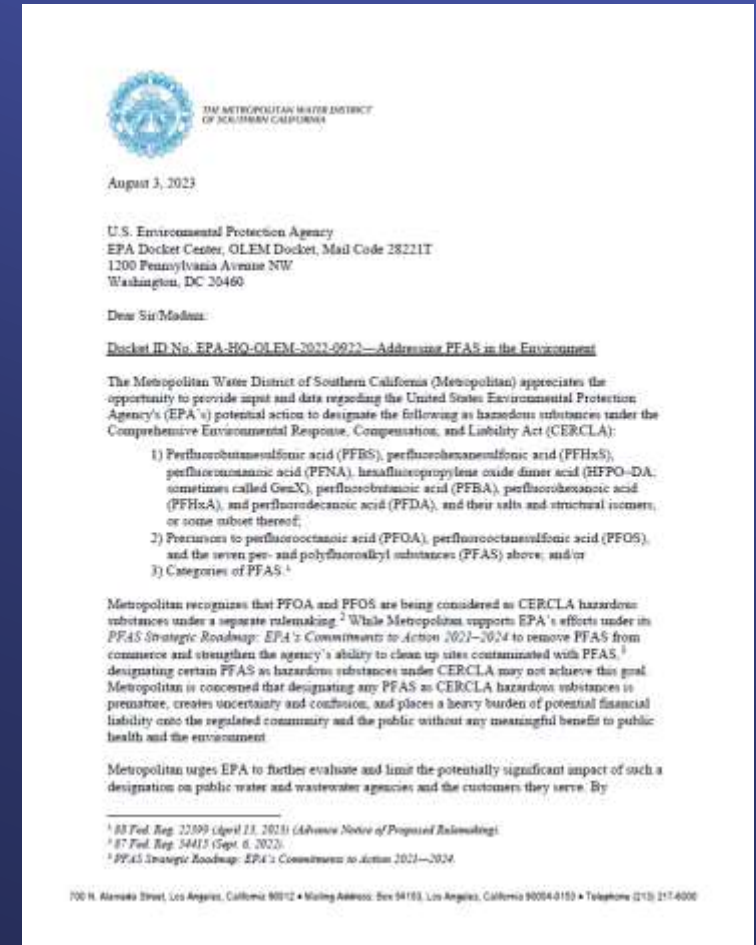
Comment Letters

Federal

- PFAS and CERCLA
- PFAS MCL

State

- Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation
- Direct Potable Reuse Regulations



Next Steps

- Updated quarterly and posted publicly on Metropolitan's Legislative Services webpage
- Key rules presented at their respective Board Committees



Federal and State Regulatory Tracking Matrices

Questions



**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 14, 2023 – 118th Congress, First Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
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. It 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.
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 Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program. It would provide funding to 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.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
November 14, 2023 – 118th Congress, First Session

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
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 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 territory
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 14, 2023 – 118th Congress, First 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 14, 2023 – 118th Congress, First 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 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 14, 2023 – 118th Congress, First Session

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
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.
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 14, 2023 – 118th Congress, First 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 14, 2023 – 118th Congress, First Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	S. 2514 (Bennett, D-CO)	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. The 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 14, 2023 – 118th Congress, First 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 14, 2023 – 118th Congress, First 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>7/19/23: Hearing held before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.</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 14, 2023 – 118th Congress, First 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 14, 2023 – 118th Congress, First 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 our 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	S.1430 (Lummis, R-WY)	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.



Legislation, Regulatory Affairs and Communications
Committee

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Item 6c
November 14, 2023

Item 6c
Report on
Activities from
Washington,
D.C.

Subject

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Purpose

To provide an update on Congressional and Administrative actions.

Speaker of the House.



Speaker
Mike
Johnson
(R-LA)

Appropriations Update.



Funding Ends Nov. 17



House passed 7/12 bills



Senate passed 3/12 bills

Other Legislation.



NDAA

- House and Senate passed different versions of the bill
- Goal enactment Dec.

Farm Bill

- Committees drafting legislation
- Goal enactment Dec.

Other Legislation.



PFAS

- Senate legislation TBD
- Definition and CERCLA issues need resolution

Water Assistance Program

- Funds expended by March 31
- No FY2024 funding
- Congress developing legislation

Senator
Laphonza
Butler.



Senate Committee Assignments.



Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)



- Energy and Natural Resources
- Budget
- Environment and Public Works
- Rules and Administration
- Judiciary

Senator Laphonza Butler (D-CA)



- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
- Rules and Administration
- Judiciary
- Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs



Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislation Matrix
November 14, 2023 – First 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	Amended 6/13/23 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 would allow Metropolitan to use design-build for future projects through January 1, 2031.
AB 1567 Garcia (D-Coachella)	Amended 5/26/2023 Two-year bill Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee	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	Amended 9/5/2023 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 sought amendments to exclude multi-family residential buildings and protect the authority and local control of public water systems. The June 19 version reflects these amendments and Metropolitan is a “Co-Sponsor” of this measure.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislation Matrix
November 14, 2023 – First Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1573 Friedman (D - Glendale) Sponsor: Earth Advocacy and California Native Plant Society	Amended on 9/1/2023 Two Year Bill Senator Floor – Inactive File	Water conservation: landscape design: model ordinance. 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.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This measure is consistent with Metropolitan’s effort to reduce nonfunctional turf within its service area. Metropolitan staff initially identified implementation challenges but were able to work with the author’s office to bring Metropolitan to a support position.
AB 1648 Bains (D - Bakersfield)	Amended 3/16/2023 Two Year Bill Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee	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 affects 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.
SB 122 Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review	Amended 6/26/2023 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 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 process for protesting, 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.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislation Matrix
November 14, 2023 – First Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 124 Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review	Amended 6/26/2023 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 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.
SB 146 Gonzalez (D-Long Beach)	Amended 6/26/2023 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 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)	Amended 6/26/2023 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 Amended 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. Combined, these aspects make it unlikely Metropolitan would seek to use this method.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislation Matrix
November 14, 2023 – First Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 149 Caballero (D-Merced)	Amended 6/28/2023 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.
SB 150 Durazo (D-Los Angeles)	Amended 6/26/2023 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 aligned with Metropolitan’s values and would benefit the district by building the next generation of the state’s construction workforce.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislation Matrix
November 14, 2023 – First Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>SB 366 Caballero (D - Merced)</p> <p>Sponsors: California Municipal Utilities Association, California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance, California State Association of Counties</p>	<p>Amended 6/29/2023</p> <p>Two-year bill</p> <p>Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee</p>	<p>The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Support, if amended</p> <p>Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>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 is seeking clarifying amendments to ensure the 2050 target reflects statewide, regional, and local planning efforts.</p> <p>Recent amendments related to the Delta environment are not consistent with the purpose of the California Water Plan.</p>
<p>SB 659 Ashby (D – Sacramento)</p> <p>Sponsors: Sacramento Regional Water Authority</p>	<p>Amended 9/1/2023</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 will further elevate the importance of groundwater in the state’s planning efforts.</p> <p>Metropolitan is requesting amendments to add clarifying language to the definition of stormwater capture and merge this plan into the development of the California Water Plan to remove duplication of effort and ensure more comprehensive planning.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislation Matrix
November 14, 2023 – First Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 687 Eggman (D - Stockton)	Amended 5/2/2023 Two-year bill Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File	Water Quality Control Plan: Delta Conveyance Project. 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.	Oppose Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	Metropolitan supports updating the Water Quality Control Plan to protect beneficial uses in the Delta. However, this bill would result in halting or delaying planning efforts on the Delta Conveyance Project and potentially prevent the project from operating if approved.
SB 706 Caballero (D-Merced) Sponsors: CA State Association of Counties; County of San Diego; Design Build Institute of America Western Pacific Chapter; League of California Cities	Amended 6/28/23 Signed by the Governor Chapter 500, Statutes of 2023	Public contracts: progressive design-build: local agencies. This bill would provide additional authority, until January 1, 2023, for cities, counties, and special districts to use progressive design-build 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.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	Currently, progressive design-build eligible projects are limited to wastewater treatment facilities, park and recreational facilities, solid waste management facilities and water recycling facilities. However, this bill will now authorize Metropolitan to address other physical structures and needs to further support Metropolitan’s operations for reliable water supply deliveries throughout its service area.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislation Matrix
November 14, 2023 – First Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 867 Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Amended 6/22/2023 Two-Year Bill Assembly Natural Resources Committee	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. 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.	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.



Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and
Communications Committee

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Item 6d

November 14, 2023

Item 6d Report on Activities from Sacramento

Subject

Report on Activities from Sacramento.

Purpose

To provide a legislative update on activities from 2023 and a look ahead on priorities for 2024.

Sacramento
Legislative
Highlights

Legislative Calendar

Jan 3, 2024 – Legislative Session Reconvenes

Feb 16, 2024 – Bill Introduction Deadline

Mar 5, 2024 – Presidential Primary Election

2023 Legislative Action

Non-Functional Turf

Signed by the Governor:

- AB 1572 (Friedman) Potable water:
nonfunctional turf

Senate Floor:

- AB 1573 (Friedman) Water conservation:
landscape design: model ordinance



2023 Legislative Action

Legislation Supported by Metropolitan

Signed by the Governor:

- AB 400 (Rubio) Local agency design-build projects: authorization
- SB 706 (Caballero) Public contracts: progressive design-build: local agencies.
- SB 124, 146, 147, 149, and 150: Infrastructure Package
- SB 659 (Ashby) California Water Supply Solutions Act of 2023

2023
Legislative
Action
(cont'd)

Legislation Supported by Metropolitan

In Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife
Committee:

- SB 366 (Caballero) The California Water Plan:
long-term supply targets

2023
Legislative
Action

Legislation Opposed by Metropolitan

In Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

- AB 1648 (Bains) Water: Colorado River Conservation



2023
Legislative
Action
(cont'd)

Legislation Opposed by Metropolitan

In Senate Appropriations Committee

- SB 687 (Eggman) Water Quality Control Plan: Delta Conveyance Project



2023
Legislative
Action

Water Rights

Signed by the Governor:

- SB 389 (Allen) Investigation of Water Rights

In Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee:

- AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan) Interim Relief Procedures
- AB 1337 (Wicks) Water Diversion and Curtailment

2024 Look Ahead

Climate Bonds

AB 1567 (Garcia):

- Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Clean Energy, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024



2024 Look Ahead (cont'd)

Climate Bonds

SB 867 (Allen):

- 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.



2024 Look Ahead

Science Advisory Panel Funding:

- SB 230 (Portantino, 2022): Constituents of Emerging Concern in Drinking Water Program

Flood Flow Streamlining:

- SB 122 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review): Public resources trailer bill



2024 Look Ahead

2024 Ballot Measures

ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry):

- Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval

ACA 13 (Ward):

- Voting thresholds



