

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Agenda

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

LEG Committee

F. Jung, Chair
A. Kassakhian, Vice Chair
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 and Communications Committee - Final - Revised 2

Meeting with Board of Directors *

April 8, 2024

11:30 a.m.

Agendas, live streaming, meeting schedules, and other board materials are available here: <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. If you have technical difficulties with the live streaming page, a listen-only phone line is available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 873 4767 0235. 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: 876 9484 9772 or click <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87694849772?pwd=V3dGZGRYUjJ3allqdUxXTIJRM044Zz09>

**Monday, April 8, 2024
Meeting Schedule**

**09:00 a.m. EOT
11:30 a.m. Leg
01:00 p.m. Break
01:30 p.m. OWS**

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

Teleconference Locations:

1368 Highland Oaks • Drive Arcadia, CA 91006

Douglas/Hicks Law • 5120 W. Goldleaf Circle, #140 • Los Angeles, CA 90056

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

525 Via La Selva • Redondo Beach, CA 90277

1545 Victory Blvd., 2nd Floor • Glendale, CA 91201

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

* The Metropolitan Water District's meeting of this Committee is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee may participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee will not vote on matters before this Committee.

- 1. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))**

**** CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION ****

- 2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

- A. Approval of the minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for March 11, 2024 (copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions) [21-3231](#)

Attachments: [04082024 LEG 2A \(03112024\) Minutes](#)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

- 7-6 Express support for broadening Metropolitan’s board priorities to include funding for Delta levee maintenance in the State of California’s climate resiliency bond proposals, AB 1567 (Garcia-D) and SB 867 (Allen-D); the General Manager has determined that the action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA. [BL # CHANGED 4/2/24] [SUBJECT UPDATED 4/5/24] [21-3194](#)

Attachments: [04092024 LEG 7-6 B-L](#)
[04092024 LEG 7-6 Presentation](#)

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

NONE

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

NONE

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Quarterly State and Federal Regulatory Matrices [21-3235](#)

Attachments: [04082024 LEG 6a Quarterly Federal Regulatory Matrix](#)
[04082024 LEG 6a Quarterly State Regulatory Matrix](#)

- b. Update on activities for the 50th anniversary of the Water Quality program [21-3236](#)

Attachments: [04082024 LEG 6b Presentation](#)

- c. Report on Activities from Sacramento [21-3233](#)

Attachments: [04082024 LEG 6c State Legislative Matrix](#)
[04082024 LEG 6c Presentation](#)

- d. Report on Activities from Washington, D.C. [21-3234](#)

Attachments: [04082024 LEG 6d Federal Legislative Matrix](#)
[04092024 LEG 6d Report on Activities from Washington, D.C](#)

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. External Affairs activities [21-3232](#)

Attachments: [04082024 LEG 7a EA Monthly Activities Report](#)
[04082024 LEG 7a Presentation](#)

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: This committee reviews items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors. Final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Committee agendas may be obtained on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. This committee will not take any final action that is binding on the Board, even when a quorum of the Board is present.

Writings relating to open session agenda items distributed to Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting are available for public inspection at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building and on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Requests for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Board Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

March 11, 2024

Vice Chair Abdo called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt (AB 2449 “just cause”), Fellow, Garza, Gray (entered after consent vote), Jung (teleconference posted location), McMillan, and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Kassakhian, Luna, Phan, Pressman and Ramos.

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

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

Director Dennstedt stated that she was attending the meeting under AB 2449 just cause due to illness and that she was alone in the room.

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

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communications and Legislation Committee held January 11, 2024.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

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

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Gray, Kassakhian, Luna, Phan, Pressman and Ramos.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 6 absent

Director Dennstedt stated that she was alone in the room

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

Director Gray entered the meeting room

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Regional Survey on Water Conservation; Presented by Adam Probolsky - President of Probolsky Research

Presented by: Adam Probolsky, President of Probolsky Research

Mr. Probolsky provided an update on a recent Regional Survey on Water Conservation and the survey's results.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Garza
- 2.) Dennstedt
- 3.) Jung
- 4.) Smith
- 5.) Fellow
- 6.) Ackerman
- 7.) Gray
- 8.) Morris
- 9.) Fong-Sakai

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 federal appropriations, Congressional hearings on microplastics, and the Water Resource Development Act bill.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Fellow
- 2.) Dennstedt

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 the state budget, Sacramento legislative calendar, Surface Mining and Reclamation Act legislative proposal, Prop 218 issues, legislation on flood flow streamlining, and the proposed climate bonds.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Gray
- 2.) Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

8. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs Management Announcements and Highlights

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on the event to launch Metropolitan's new tree rebate program; the updated Leadership Today Water Tomorrow brochure; Pure Water outreach, tours and a Spectrum News interview on the project; the wildflower trail at Diamond Valley Lake; and the introduction of Eduardo Garcia as a new inspection trip manager.

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Abdo



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

4/9/2024 Board Meeting

7-6

Subject

Express support for broadening Metropolitan’s board priorities to include funding for Delta levee maintenance in the State of California’s climate resiliency bond proposals, AB 1567 (Garcia-D) and SB 867 (Allen-D); the General Manager has determined that the action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

As part of an ongoing collaborative effort, the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) requested Metropolitan’s support for \$250 million for the Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions Program (Subventions Program) in the State of California climate resiliency bond this session. Staff supports this recommendation, as it is consistent with Metropolitan’s existing board policies regarding the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

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

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Express support for broadening Metropolitan’s Board priorities to include funding for Delta levee maintenance in the State of California’s climate resiliency bond proposals, AB 1567 (Garcia-D) and SB 867 (Allen-D).

Fiscal Impact: Not applicable

Business Analysis: Supporting this request would authorize Metropolitan staff to work with the climate bond authors, stakeholders, and statewide associations to obtain desired amendments that will ensure available funding includes allocations for levee maintenance and repair.

Option #2

Take no action. Do not incorporate the Subventions Program funding in Metropolitan’s Board priorities.

Fiscal Impact: Not applicable

Business Analysis: Funding for levee maintenance and repair may not be included in the proposed climate bond, leaving inadequate funding for needed levee maintenance to protect State Water Project supplies and Metropolitan’s Delta islands.

Applicable Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

By Minute Item 53500, dated January 9, 2024, the Board adopted the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024 with the revisions by staff and the committee members.

By Minute Item 53288, dated June 13, 2023, the Board agreed to express support, if amended, on two legislative bond proposals, 21-2292 Assembly Bill 1567 (Garcia) and Senate Bill 867 (Allen), to provide funding for water projects to address climate change impacts.

By Minute Item 53012, dated October 11, 2022, the Board adopted the Revision and Restatement of Bay-Delta Policies.

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

By Minute Item 53500, dated January 9, 2024, the Board adopted the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024 with the revisions by staff and the committee members.

By Minute Item 53288, dated June 13, 2023, the Board agreed to express support, if amended, on two legislative bond proposals, 21-2292 Assembly Bill 1567 (Garcia) and Senate Bill 867 (Allen), to provide funding for water projects to address climate change impacts.

By Minute Item 53012, dated October 11, 2022, the Board adopted the Revision and Restatement of Bay-Delta Policies.

Summary of Outreach Completed

Metropolitan held a series of meetings with the DCC, including providing an educational tour to improve collaboration on issues relating to the Delta.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21065; State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4).)

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

Two State of California climate resiliency bond proposals introduced in 2023, AB 1567 (Garcia-D) and SB 867 (Allen-D), proposed \$15.995 billion and \$15.5 billion, respectively, to fund a wide variety of climate-related investments, including water projects and programs.

In June 2023, Metropolitan's Board of Directors approved four priority areas for advocacy on the climate bonds. These areas are: (1) recycled water, (2) regional and interregional conveyance, (3) dam safety, and (4) conservation. During the fall recess, Metropolitan and DCC initiated discussions which led to a special Metropolitan Board meeting with DCC representatives on January 17 to exchange ideas and identify areas of common interest in Delta water management and risk mitigation. In follow-up meetings, the Subventions Program was identified as a vital source of funding to protect and maintain levees that protect lives, property, and important infrastructure, and control river and estuarine habitat.

Of particular interest to Metropolitan is the ability to restore a "fresh water pathway" to move water through the Delta in the event of an earthquake or other major levee breach. Previous modeling has shown a severe earthquake in the Delta region could lead to multiple levee failures and draw in saltwater to the Delta from the San Francisco Bay, contaminating fresh water supplies. Metropolitan has long supported emergency preparations by the Department of Water Resources to restore a freshwater pathway within six months of such a failure to facilitate the continued delivery of State Water Project supplies to contractors, like Metropolitan. In addition, Metropolitan has supported ongoing funding for levee maintenance and improvements as a preventative measure.

Metropolitan owns four islands in the Delta along the SWP supply route from the Sacramento River to its pumping facilities in the south Delta. Maintaining levees is also important to protecting Metropolitan's properties.

DCC is requesting that Metropolitan support funding in the climate bonds for the Subventions Program. The Subventions Program is a cost-shared program managed by the Department of Water Resources that reimburses local maintenance agencies and reclamation districts for eligible maintenance and repair of the existing system of levees. Currently, DWR allocates an average of \$10 million a year in reimbursements, of which Metropolitan receives an average of \$500,000 a year from this program.

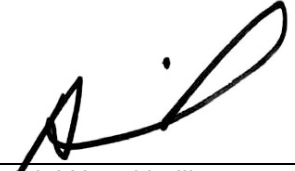
Climate Bond Status

The Legislature has until June 27 to pass a bond measure to qualify for the November 2024 ballot. Stakeholders are waiting for a clear signal from Governor Newsom and the Legislature on whether a climate bond will move forward this year. In the meantime, stakeholders are continuing to weigh in on priorities to shape the final possible outcome. Staff recommends incorporating the \$250 million request for the Subventions Program into Metropolitan’s climate bond priorities.



Susan B. Sims
Group Manager, External Affairs

4/5/2024
Date



Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

4/5/2024
Date

Ref# ea12700273

Legislation and Communications Committee



Broadening Metropolitan's board priorities to include funding for Delta levee maintenance in the State of California's climate resiliency bond proposals

Item 7-6

April 8, 2024

Subject

Express support for broadening Metropolitan's board priorities to include funding for Delta levee maintenance in the State of California's climate resiliency bond proposals, AB 1567 (Garcia-D) and SB 867 (Allen-D); the General Manager has determined that the action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Purpose

To seek committee approval for advancing support of the Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions Program

Budgeted

Current Climate Bond Priorities

- \$1.8 Billion for Recycled Water
- \$500 Million for Regional Conveyance
- \$250 Million for Urban Conservation
- \$850 Million for Dam Safety

Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions Program

- \$250 Million Request
- \$10 Million Allocated Annually by DWR
- \$500,000 Received Annually by Metropolitan

Option #1

- Express support for broadening Metropolitan's board priorities to include funding for Delta levee maintenance in the State of California's climate resiliency bond proposals, AB 1567 (Garcia-D) and SB 867 (Allen-D)

Option #2

- Take no action. Do not incorporate the Subventions Program funding in Metropolitan's board priorities.

Recommendation

- Option #1



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

April 9, 2024 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	<u>Asbestos and Chlorine</u>	On March 18, 2024, EPA published its final rule under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) that bans the production, importation, and distribution of chrysotile asbestos, the only known form of asbestos that is currently imported into the United States. To date, there are still eight chlor-alkali plants (about one-third of the production capacity) in the United States that still use asbestos diaphragms for the manufacture of chlorine and caustic soda.	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.	The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the rule on March 11, 2024, allowing EPA to finalize the rule at any time. The ban goes 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 Spring 2024.
EPA	<u>Maximum Contaminant Levels for Perchlorate</u>	On January 5, 2024, per a Consent Decree in the <i>NRDC v. EPA</i> case, the court announced that EPA will be required to propose a maximum contaminant level goal (“MCLG”) and a national primary drinking water regulation (“NPDWR”) for perchlorate by November 21, 2025 and publish the final MCLG and NPDWR by May 21, 2027.	Previously, staff have commented in support of EPA promulgating a federal perchlorate standard to protect public health and help with long-term remediation of perchlorate contamination in the Colorado River Basin.	Rulemaking expected to start in 2025.

ACWA – Association of Clean Water Administrators
 AMWA – Association of Metropolitan water Agencies
 AWWA – American Water Works Association
 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

April 9, 2024 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
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 at 0 ppt. Lastly, EPA proposed regulating PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX as a mixture using a unitless Hazard Index of 1.0.	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 in Spring 2024 with a three-year compliance timeline from the rule's effective date.
EPA	<u>National Cybersecurity Strategy</u>	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	<u>PFAS and CERCLA Part I</u>	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 in Spring 2024.

ACWA – Association of Clean Water Administrators
 AMWA – Association of Metropolitan water Agencies
 AWWA – American Water Works Association
 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

April 9, 2024 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	<u>PFAS and CERCLA Part II</u>	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.
EPA	<u>Analytical Methods for CCL 5 and UCMR 6</u>	On February 8, 2024, EPA requested public input on drinking water analytical methods for emerging contaminants in drinking water, particularly those listed on the agency’s Fifth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 5) which includes PFAS, that might support monitoring under the sixth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 6) and/or other future cycles of the UCMR program Monitoring Rule.	EPA’s notice invites comments on drinking water analytical methods and is directed to those interested in or involved with developing analytical methods for unregulated contaminants in drinking water. It may also be of particular interest to laboratories that conduct chemical or microbiological testing for drinking water contaminants, including testing in support of the UCMR program. AMWA intends to submit comments.	Comments are due April 8, 2024.
EPA	<u>PFAS and RCRA</u>	On February 8, 2024, EPA released two new proposed rules related to regulating PFAS under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The first rule proposes to list nine PFAS (PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, HFPO-DA, PFNA, PFHxS, PFDA, PFHxA, and PFBA) and their salts and isomers as “hazardous constituents” under RCRA. The second rule revises the definition of “hazardous waste” applicable to corrective actions for treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.	A hazardous constituent listing is the first step toward a potential “hazardous waste” listing. If these nine PFAS were to be classified as hazardous wastes under RCRA, then they would automatically be classified as hazardous substances under CERCLA. This could potentially trigger CERCLA liability for water agencies. Staff are preparing comments on both rules.	Comments on first rule are due April 8, 2024 and comments on the second rule were due March 26, 2024.

ACWA – Association of Clean Water Administrators
 AMWA – Association of Metropolitan water Agencies
 AWWA – American Water Works Association
 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

April 9, 2024 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	Risk Management Plan (RMP) Rule	On March 11, 2024, EPA released its final revisions to the Risk Management Plan (RMP) rule. Changes to the RMP include adding natural hazards (including climate change) and loss of power to the hazards that must be addressed; requiring a formal root cause analysis incident investigation when facilities have had an RMP-reportable accident; and other administrative changes.	The RMP applies to approximately 2,000 drinking water and wastewater utilities using chlorine gas or anhydrous ammonia above certain amounts. Utilities will have approximately three years to make changes to their existing RMP plan to address new requirements. Staff worked with AWWA on comments to the proposed rule in 2022 and have taken steps to comply with the rule’s new requirements.	The rule goes into effect May 10, 2024.
EPA	"Waters of the United States" (WOTUS)	On September 8, 2023, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers published the final rule revising the January 2023 definition of WOTUS to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court ruling in <i>Sackett v. EPA</i>. The revised rule eliminates the significant nexus standard from the definitions of all navigable water types and clarifies that the CWA only applies to wetlands that have a “continuous surface connection” to another WOTUS. Furthermore, the CWA no longer applies to ephemeral streams—a common feature in the arid Southwest.	As California law covers all water types previously covered by WOTUS, Metropolitan will likely need to obtain state permits for activities that were previously covered by the CWA. The narrow scope of waters covered could also negatively impact source water quality in the Colorado River Basin.	Rule effective on September 8, 2023. No further comments will be taken.

ACWA – Association of Clean Water Administrators
 AMWA – Association of Metropolitan water Agencies
 AWWA – American Water Works Association
 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

April 9, 2024 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
EPA	<u>Lead and Copper Rule Improvements</u>	On December 6, 2023, EPA published its proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements. The proposed rule focuses on identifying and replacing lead service lines within 10 years; lowering the lead action level from 0.015 to 0.010 milligrams per liter (mg/L); removing the lead trigger level; improving tap sampling procedures; and improving public education and outreach materials to include renters and individuals with limited English proficiency.	Staff are reviewing the proposal to determine potential impacts on Metropolitan and its member agencies, and partnered with trade associations to provide comments.	Comments were due February 5, 2024. Awaiting final rule.
EPA	<u>County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund Guidance</u>	On November 20, 2023, EPA released its second version of draft guidance on how to apply the “functional equivalency” test found in the <i>County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund</i> decision. In the <i>Maui</i> decision, the Supreme Court set forth seven factors to help determine if a NPDES permit is required when a point source pollutant discharged to groundwater has the same “functional equivalency” as a direct discharge to a navigable water.	On December 21, 2023, Metropolitan submitted comments expressing support for the draft guidance. Metropolitan operations are not expected to be impacted by the new guidance, but the guidance is expected to help protect source water quality throughout the Colorado River Basin. Discharges by Metropolitan to groundwater in California are already covered by state permitting requirements, and the new guidance is not expected to trigger any additional permitting requirements for Pure Water Southern California and Delta operations.	Awaiting final guidance.

ACWA – Association of Clean Water Administrators
 AMWA – Association of Metropolitan water Agencies
 AWWA – American Water Works Association
 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

April 9, 2024 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
FWS	<u>Endangered Species Act Final Rule</u>	<p>On March 28, 2024, FWS and NMFS issued three final rules revising Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations implementing ESA sections 7 and 4 titled Regulations for Interagency Cooperation, Listing and Designating Critical Habitat, and FWS’s Regulations Pertaining to Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. The rules reverse some of the changes made during the Trump administration while adding some new provisions regarding minimization of impacts in incidental take permits and statements. The new regulations include (1) refinements of the ESA section 7 consultation process; (2) changes to the ESA section 4 procedures and criteria for listing, reclassifying or delisting species and the criteria for designating critical habitat; and (3) reinstatement of FWS’s “blanket” ESA section 4(d) rule (repealed in 2019) that extends the ESA section 9 prohibition of unpermitted take to all species FWS lists as threatened absent a species-specific rule. FWS and NMFS also announced they will provide further guidance in an updated ESA Section 7 Consultation Handbook that will be subject to public comment.</p>	<p>Notably, the new rule authorizing FWS and NMFS to require ESA permittees to implement reasonable and prudent measures (RPMs), including offsite measures, to fully “offset”—not minimize—the impacts of any authorized incidental take could increase mitigation and associated costs on CRA and SWP operations, as well as any other Metropolitan actions requiring ESA section 7 consultation. Metropolitan, along with numerous others, commented on that aspect of the regulation in 2023 as it exceeds the ESA authorization to impose RPMs that “minimize” the impacts of incidental take and supersedes section 7 guidance in place since 1997. In addition, FWS and NFMS will consider the future effects of an ongoing discretionary action to be outside the environmental baseline, even if operations are not changed in any way.</p> <p>Reinstatement of the FWS’s “blanket” 4(d) rule likely will have no impact because it reinstates a rule in effect until 2019, and since 2019, FWS usually issued species-specific 4(d) rules prohibiting unpermitted take of newly-listed threatened species.</p> <p>These rules are highly controversial and will likely be challenged in court..</p>	<p>Final rule issued in pre-print on March 28, 2024; anticipated for publication in the Federal Register on April 5, 2024; becomes effective 30 days after publication</p>

ACWA – Association of Clean Water Administrators
 AMWA – Association of Metropolitan water Agencies
 AWWA – American Water Works Association
 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

April 9, 2024 – Federal Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Issue	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
FWS and NMFS	<u>Regulations for Interagency Cooperation</u>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Awaiting final rule.</p>

ACWA – Association of Clean Water Administrators
 AMWA – Association of Metropolitan water Agencies
 AWWA – American Water Works Association
 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 April 9, 2024– 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. Of note, the California Department of Finance withdrew its approval at the last minute due to the standard’s potential cost impact on the state.	Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (OSHSB) voted to adopt the standard on March 21, 2024.
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 eight-hour time-weighted average 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.	Adopted February 15, 2024 with a January 1, 2025 effective date.
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 (any lift capacity) and Class V forklifts (lifting capacity up to 12,000 lbs.) 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	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. Metropolitan staff submitted comments addressing concerns with provisions in the latest rulemaking package.	CARB released 45-day rulemaking draft Nov 2023 with final adoption tentative for Summer 2024.

ACWA – Association of California Water Agencies
 Cal/OSHA – California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 CARB – California Air Resources Board
 CCEEB – California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance
 CMUA – California Municipal Utilities Association

CUWA – California Urban Water Agencies
 DDW – Division of Drinking Water
 OEHHA – Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
 PRR – Phylmar Regulatory Roundtable
 SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California April 9, 2024– State Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Regulation	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
		purchase used 2025 MY or older forklifts so long as the MY has not been phased out.		
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.
SWRCB	<u>California Ocean Plan Amendments for Seawater Desalination</u>	The SWRCB will update the Ocean Plan to include new seawater desalination siting criteria and assorted changes to the regulations. Preliminary meetings are expected to start in 2024.	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 March 12, 2024, SWRCB released a second draft of its Making Conservation a California Way of Life regulations in response to AB 1668 and SB 606. The major updates to the regulation text include 1) a delay and extension of the ramp-down of the outdoor standards, 2) extending the allowance of 20% additional irrigated land for suppliers unable to meet their overall objective, 3) delaying compliance with the objective until 2027, and 4) making alternative compliance pathways more accessible for certain suppliers facing larger reductions.	The regulatory framework affects retail water suppliers. Since 2021, Metropolitan has submitted seven comment letters addressing technical components of the regulation and compliance matters. Metropolitan’s latest comment letter, dated March 26, 2024, addressed support for the extension of the ramp-down of the outdoor residential water use standard, support for modifications increasing flexibility for suppliers in CII best management practices, requested an expansion to the temporary provision of water use for climate ready trees and landscapes, and requested clarification to the	The SWRCB has indicated that the proposed regulation will be considered for adoption in Summer 2024. If adopted, the rule becomes effective January 1, 2025 with the compliance deadline extended to 2027. Urban water retailer suppliers submitted

ACWA – Association of California Water Agencies
 Cal/OSHA – California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 CARB – California Air Resources Board
 CCEEB – California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance
 CMUA – California Municipal Utilities Association

CUWA – California Urban Water Agencies
 DDW – Division of Drinking Water
 OEHHA – Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
 PRR – Phylmar Regulatory Roundtable
 SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California April 9, 2024– State Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Regulation	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
			enforcement timeline due to the delays in the rulemaking process.	their first Annual Water Use on January 1, 2024.
SWRCB	<u>Direct Potable Reuse Regulations</u>	On December 19, 2023, the SWRCB adopted its proposed Direct Potable Reuse regulations. 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.	Metropolitan collaborated with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts on both written and oral comments on the proposed regulations, advocating for flexibility to accommodate diverse project partnerships and governance structures, ensuring that DPR initiatives can effectively serve a broad range of agencies and communities while complying with regulatory requirements.	Adopted December 19, 2023. Subject to further review by the Office of Administrative Law with an estimated effective date of April 1, 2024.
SWRCB	<u>Drought and Conservation Reporting Order</u>	On January 1, 2024, DDW issued a new annual reporting Order titled the <i>Clearinhouse Annual Inventory Report (CAIR)</i> that consolidates section 6 of the <i>Electronic Annual Report (eAR)</i> and the <i>2023 Drought and Conservation Reporting Order</i> into a centralized location. The Order requires Metropolitan and its member agencies to provide volumetric flow and groundwater and/or lake elevation data for each source water on a quarterly basis using monthly data.	On December 22, 2023 Metropolitan submitted comments requesting the removal of three Metropolitan small water systems from the drought reporting requirements under the CAIR 2024 Order and offered technical fixes to help streamline data reporting.	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.

ACWA – Association of California Water Agencies
 Cal/OSHA – California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 CARB – California Air Resources Board
 CCEEB – California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance
 CMUA – California Municipal Utilities Association

CUWA – California Urban Water Agencies
 DDW – Division of Drinking Water
 OEHHA – Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
 PRR – Phylmar Regulatory Roundtable
 SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California April 9, 2024– 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 a 10 micrograms per liter (µg/L) MCL for hexavalent chromium 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 November 22, 2023, DDW proposed amendments that kept the MCL at 10 µg/L, but modified the requirements for the Hexavalent Chromium MCL Compliance Plan and added that water systems must give public notice of exceedances of the MCL prior to the applicable compliance deadline.	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 adopting the rule on April 17, 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 OEHHA 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, as a MCL must be set as close to the PHG as is technologically and economically feasible. On August 6, 2020, Metropolitan submitted comments that a DLR of 1 µg/L was premature and that DDW should hold off until such time that adequate laboratory capacity is determined and perchlorate occurrence data at the 2 µg/L DLR are collected and evaluated. More reportable perchlorate detections are anticipated with the lower DLR of 1 µg/L, including for Metropolitan and member agencies. Perchlorate over 1 µg/L was detected in 14 of 182 samples (8%) in Metropolitan’s treatment plant effluent samples over the last 10 years. While perchlorate will be reported more frequently with the lower DLR, public water systems will remain in compliance as long as	The DLR of 1 µg/L went into effect January 1, 2024. Awaiting further action by DDW on revising the MCL.

ACWA – Association of California Water Agencies
 Cal/OSHA – California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 CARB – California Air Resources Board
 CCEEB – California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance
 CMUA – California Municipal Utilities Association

CUWA – California Urban Water Agencies
 DDW – Division of Drinking Water
 OEHHA – Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
 PRR – Phylmar Regulatory Roundtable
 SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California April 9, 2024– State Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Regulation	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
			perchlorate concentrations do not exceed the current MCL of 6 µg/L.	
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.
SWRCB	<u>Seawater Desalination Siting and Streamlining Report to Expedite Permitting</u>	On December 19, 2023, the SWRCB, in conjunction with the California Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission, finalized its seawater desalination (desal) siting and streamlining criteria. The criteria are designed to expedite permitting of desal facilities and 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 useloading 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.	Guidelines finalized in December 2023.

ACWA – Association of California Water Agencies
 Cal/OSHA – California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 CARB – California Air Resources Board
 CCEEB – California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance
 CMUA – California Municipal Utilities Association

CUWA – California Urban Water Agencies
 DDW – Division of Drinking Water
 OEHHA – Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
 PRR – Phylmar Regulatory Roundtable
 SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
April 9, 2024– State Regulatory Matrix

Agency	Regulation	Summary	Potential Impacts	Regulatory Status
SWRCB	<u>Water Quality Control Plan</u>	In September 2023, SWRCB release a draft Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document for Phase 2 of the Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. The WQCP establishes the water quality objectives and proposed flow regime of the estuary, and water rights decisions for the Bay-Delta.	On January 19, 2024. Metropolitan provided comments individually and through the State Water Contractors on Phase 2 of the WQCP. The Draft Staff Report’s Proposed Action flow objective is predicted to result in an annual average reduction of 446,000 acre-feet for southern California municipal supplies. SWRCB has encouraged all stakeholders to work together to reach one or more Voluntary Agreements for consideration by the SWRCB that could implement the proposed amendments to the WQCP through a variety of tools, including non-flow habitat restoration for sensitive salmon and smelt species, while seeking to protect water supply reliability. Metropolitan is participating in the Phase 2 proceedings and Voluntary Agreement negotiations.	The SWRCB staff will consider public comments and finalize the Staff Report in Spring 2024.

ACWA – Association of California Water Agencies
 Cal/OSHA – California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 CARB – California Air Resources Board
 CCEEB – California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance
 CMUA – California Municipal Utilities Association

CUWA – California Urban Water Agencies
 DDW – Division of Drinking Water
 OEHHA – Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
 PRR – Phylmar Regulatory Roundtable
 SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board

Legislation and Communications Committee



Update on Activities for the 50th Anniversary of the Water Quality Program

Item #6b
April 8, 2024

Celebrating
50
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
**WATER
QUALITY
LAB**
YEARS



**WQL50
CELEBRATION
EXHIBIT**
AT THE WATER
QUALITY LABORATORY



50 "HISTORICAL PHOTO SERIES"

1974

1987

1997

2007

2017

2024

Celebrating

50

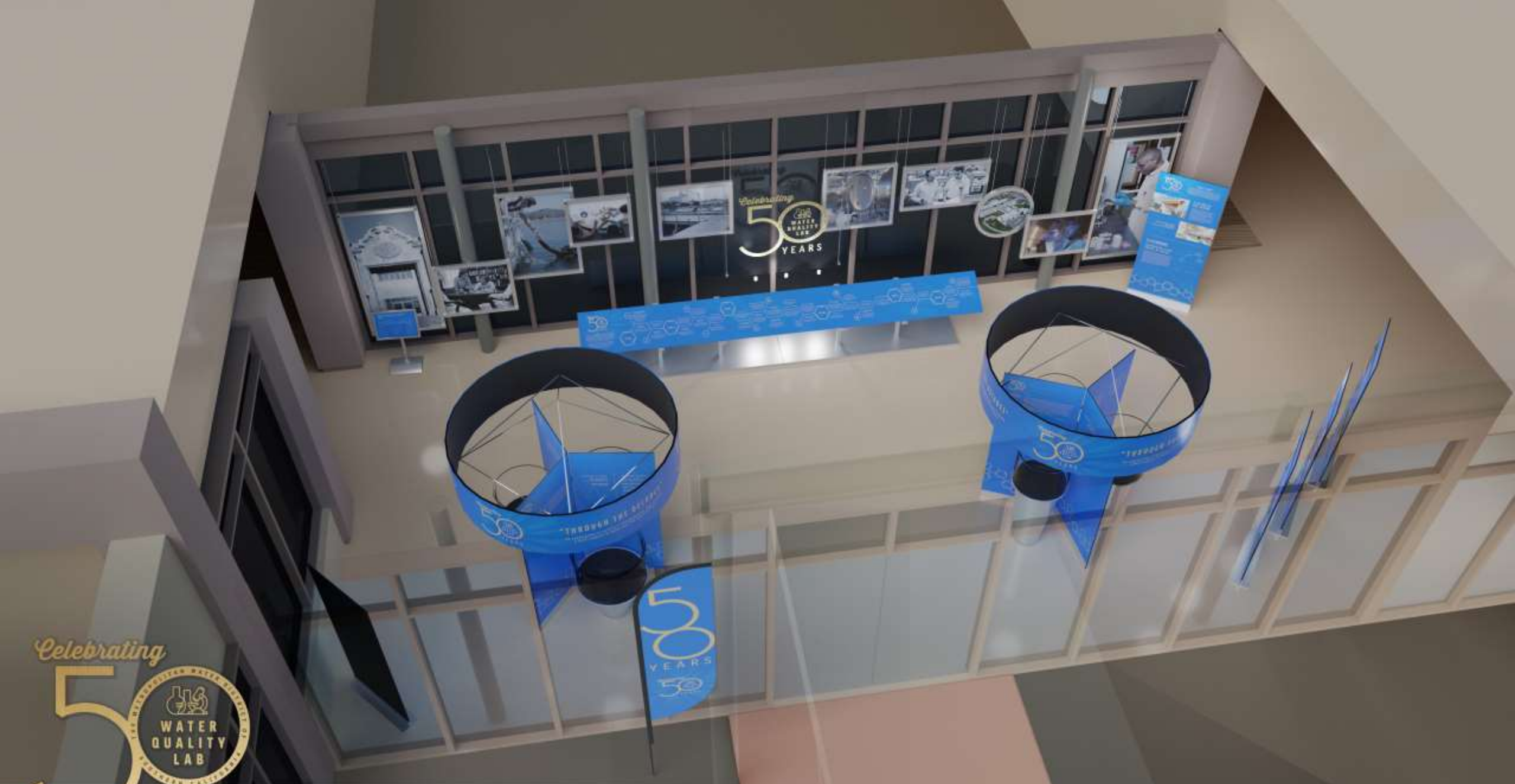
WATER QUALITY LAB

50 YEARS

WATER QUALITY LABORATORY LOBBY

April 8, 2024

Legislation and Communications Committee



DISPLAY & EXHIBIT OVERVIEW

April 8, 2024

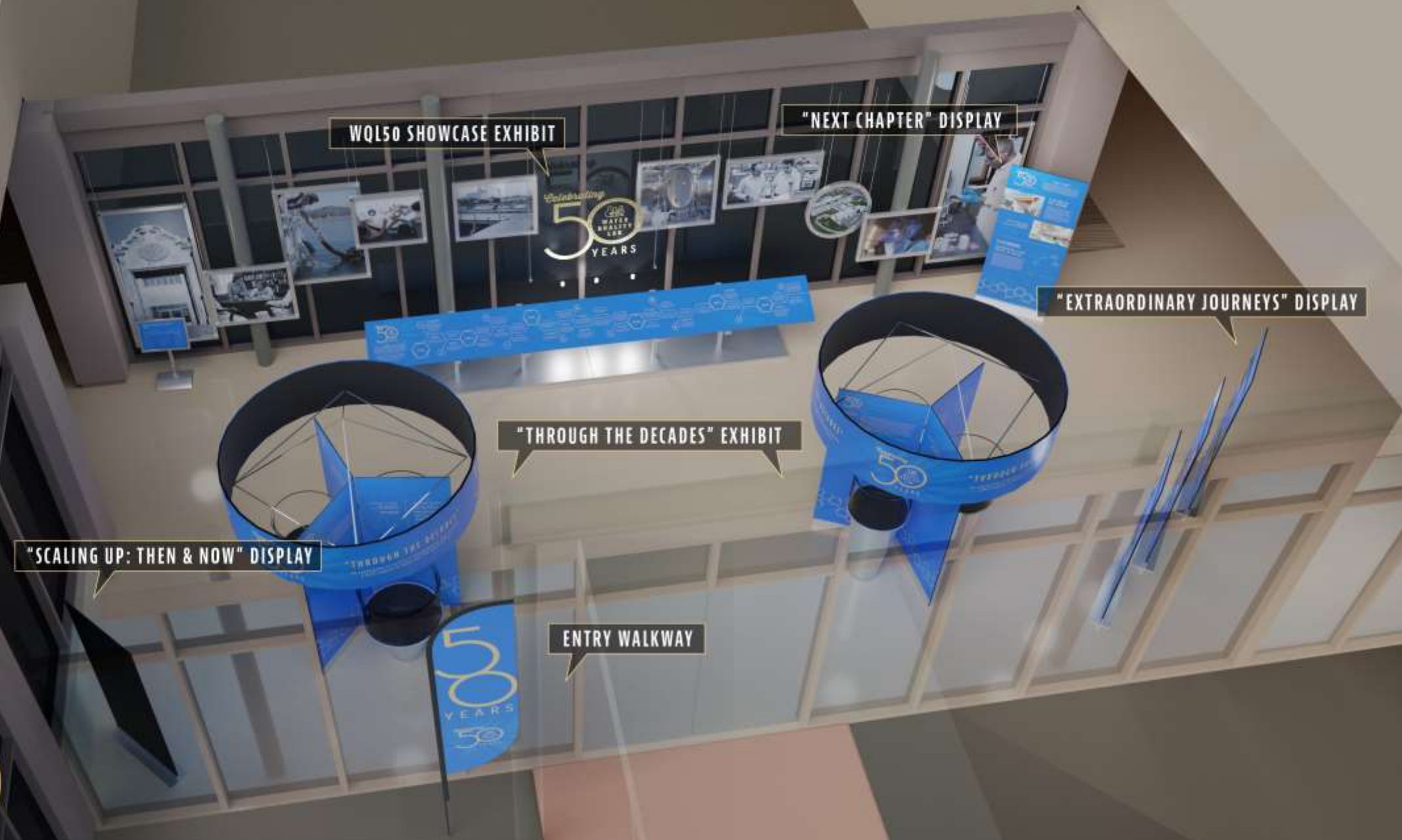
Legislation and Communications Committee



April 8, 2024

DISPLAY & EXHIBIT OVERVIEW

Legislation and Communications Committee





Celebrating
50
YEARS
WATER QUALITY LAB





"THROUGH THE DECADES" EXHIBIT

April 8, 2024

Legislation and Communications Committee

Celebrating 50 YEARS "EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS"



JOHN W. PEELER
 Director, Laboratory of Water Quality, 1967-1972

John W. Peeler, a chemist by training, joined the Laboratory of Water Quality in 1967. He was instrumental in the development of the Laboratory's reputation for excellence in water quality research and analysis. He served as the Laboratory's Director from 1967 to 1972, during which time he oversaw the Laboratory's expansion and the development of many of its key research programs.



INDUSTRIAL & MUNICIPAL WASTE TREATMENT, 1967-1972



WATER QUALITY STANDARDS, 1967-1972



THE SAN FRANCISCO CHANNEL CASE, 1967-1972

Celebrating 50 YEARS "EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS"

LOUIS A. GILMAN
 Director, Laboratory of Water Quality, 1972-1980



Louis A. Gilman, a chemist by training, joined the Laboratory of Water Quality in 1972. He was instrumental in the development of the Laboratory's reputation for excellence in water quality research and analysis. He served as the Laboratory's Director from 1972 to 1980, during which time he oversaw the Laboratory's expansion and the development of many of its key research programs.

NEW WASTE REGULATIONS, 1972-1980



10 YEARS OF SERVICE, 1972-1980



LAB OFFICES, 1972-1980

Celebrating 50 YEARS "EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS"



WILLIAM W. AULTMAN
 Director, Laboratory of Water Quality, 1980-1988

William W. Aultman, a chemist by training, joined the Laboratory of Water Quality in 1980. He was instrumental in the development of the Laboratory's reputation for excellence in water quality research and analysis. He served as the Laboratory's Director from 1980 to 1988, during which time he oversaw the Laboratory's expansion and the development of many of its key research programs.



WATER QUALITY STANDARDS, 1980-1988



10 YEARS OF SERVICE, 1980-1988



- WATER QUALITY FACTS**
1. IN 1967, THE LABORATORY OF WATER QUALITY WAS ESTABLISHED AS A DIVISION OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES.
 2. THE LABORATORY OF WATER QUALITY WAS THE FIRST LABORATORY IN THE UNITED STATES TO BE ACCREDITED BY THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS (NBS).
 3. THE LABORATORY OF WATER QUALITY WAS THE FIRST LABORATORY IN THE UNITED STATES TO BE ACCREDITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO).
 4. THE LABORATORY OF WATER QUALITY WAS THE FIRST LABORATORY IN THE UNITED STATES TO BE ACCREDITED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY (NIST).
 5. THE LABORATORY OF WATER QUALITY WAS THE FIRST LABORATORY IN THE UNITED STATES TO BE ACCREDITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION CONFERENCE (ILAC).
 6. THE LABORATORY OF WATER QUALITY WAS THE FIRST LABORATORY IN THE UNITED STATES TO BE ACCREDITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF METROLOGICAL BUREAUX (BIPM).
 7. THE LABORATORY OF WATER QUALITY WAS THE FIRST LABORATORY IN THE UNITED STATES TO BE ACCREDITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF LABORATORY STANDARDS (IOLAS).
 8. THE LABORATORY OF WATER QUALITY WAS THE FIRST LABORATORY IN THE UNITED STATES TO BE ACCREDITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF LABORATORY STANDARDS (IOLAS).
 9. THE LABORATORY OF WATER QUALITY WAS THE FIRST LABORATORY IN THE UNITED STATES TO BE ACCREDITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF LABORATORY STANDARDS (IOLAS).
 10. THE LABORATORY OF WATER QUALITY WAS THE FIRST LABORATORY IN THE UNITED STATES TO BE ACCREDITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF LABORATORY STANDARDS (IOLAS).



2010 & BEYOND

The Laboratory of Water Quality has achieved significant milestones in water quality research and analysis. We have been instrumental in the development of many of the key research programs that have shaped the Laboratory's reputation for excellence in water quality research and analysis.

CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN
 POLY- &
 PERFLUOROALKYLE
 SUBSTANCES (PFAS)
 NANOMATERIALS



"EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS" DISPLAYS



50 YEARS
CELEBRATING THE WATER QUALITY LAB

"NEXT STEPS"
A series of studies on the Water Quality Lab in the early 2000s led to a major renovation and expansion project. The project included modernizing laboratory equipment, upgrading ventilation systems, and creating a more open and collaborative work environment. The new Water Quality Lab is a state-of-the-art facility that will support the lab's mission for the next 50 years.

A VISION OF THE FUTURE
The Water Quality Lab is a state-of-the-art facility that will support the lab's mission for the next 50 years. The new Water Quality Lab is a state-of-the-art facility that will support the lab's mission for the next 50 years.

ARCHITECTURE BEHINDING AT THE WATER QUALITY LABORATORY

PUREWATER
SUPPORTING A NEW SOURCE OF WATER

The Water Quality Lab is a state-of-the-art facility that will support the lab's mission for the next 50 years. The new Water Quality Lab is a state-of-the-art facility that will support the lab's mission for the next 50 years.

38



"NEXT CHAPTER" DISPLAY

April 8, 2024



50 YEARS
WATER QUALITY LAB

"SCALING UP: THEN & NOW"

BACK THEN...

1974

1974 was the year that the CRA was first opened to the public. At that time, the CRA was a simple aqueduct that simply transported water from the Colorado River to the Inland Empire. The CRA was not designed to provide water treatment services. The CRA was designed to provide water to the Inland Empire. The CRA was designed to provide water to the Inland Empire.

1976

1976 was the year that the CRA was first opened to the public. At that time, the CRA was a simple aqueduct that simply transported water from the Colorado River to the Inland Empire. The CRA was not designed to provide water treatment services. The CRA was designed to provide water to the Inland Empire. The CRA was designed to provide water to the Inland Empire.

1978

1978 was the year that the CRA was first opened to the public. At that time, the CRA was a simple aqueduct that simply transported water from the Colorado River to the Inland Empire. The CRA was not designed to provide water treatment services. The CRA was designed to provide water to the Inland Empire. The CRA was designed to provide water to the Inland Empire.

PRESENT DAY

2024

Today, the CRA is a complex system that provides water to the Inland Empire. The CRA is designed to provide water to the Inland Empire. The CRA is designed to provide water to the Inland Empire.

1984

1984 was the year that the CRA was first opened to the public. At that time, the CRA was a simple aqueduct that simply transported water from the Colorado River to the Inland Empire. The CRA was not designed to provide water treatment services. The CRA was designed to provide water to the Inland Empire. The CRA was designed to provide water to the Inland Empire.

1986

1986 was the year that the CRA was first opened to the public. At that time, the CRA was a simple aqueduct that simply transported water from the Colorado River to the Inland Empire. The CRA was not designed to provide water treatment services. The CRA was designed to provide water to the Inland Empire. The CRA was designed to provide water to the Inland Empire.

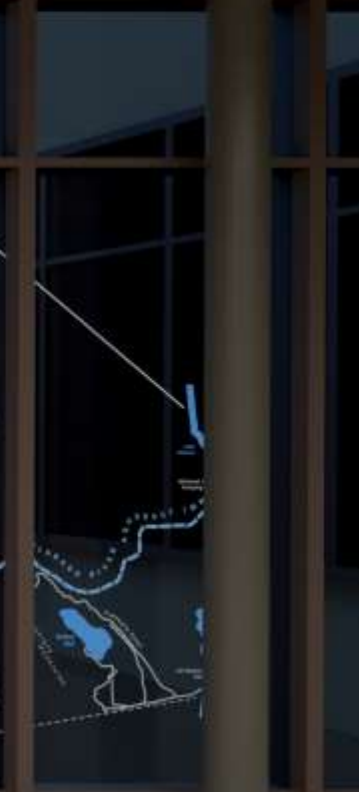
1988

1988 was the year that the CRA was first opened to the public. At that time, the CRA was a simple aqueduct that simply transported water from the Colorado River to the Inland Empire. The CRA was not designed to provide water treatment services. The CRA was designed to provide water to the Inland Empire. The CRA was designed to provide water to the Inland Empire.

"SCALING UP: THEN & NOW" DISPLAY

**WATER QUALITY LAB
FASCINATING
FACTS**

1. The Metropolitan Water Quality Control Board (MWWQCB) is the largest water quality control agency in the United States.
2. The MWWQCB is responsible for protecting the water quality of the San Joaquin Hills, San Gabriel, San Luis, and San Joaquin River watersheds.
3. The MWWQCB is a member of the National Sanitation Foundation for the Environment.
4. The MWWQCB is a member of the National Sanitation Foundation for the Environment.
5. The MWWQCB is a member of the National Sanitation Foundation for the Environment.
6. The MWWQCB is a member of the National Sanitation Foundation for the Environment.
7. The MWWQCB is a member of the National Sanitation Foundation for the Environment.
8. The MWWQCB is a member of the National Sanitation Foundation for the Environment.
9. The MWWQCB is a member of the National Sanitation Foundation for the Environment.
10. The MWWQCB is a member of the National Sanitation Foundation for the Environment.



EDUCATIONAL TOUR DISPLAYS: WATER QUALITY MONITOR MAP & SOURCES OF WATER

Legislation and Communications Committee

April 8, 2024



Celebrating
50 YEARS
WATER QUALITY LAB







"THROUGH THE DECADES"
A compilation of artifacts and mementos that defined
a half-century of water quality advancements.

Celebrating
50
YEARS
WATER QUALITY LAB

"THROUGH THE DECADES"
A compilation of artifacts and mementos that defined
a half-century of water quality advancements.

Celebrating
50
YEARS
WATER QUALITY LAB

50
YEARS
WATER QUALITY LAB
A VISION OF THE FUTURE
WATERWORKS

50
YEARS
WATER QUALITY LAB
1960s
1970s
1980s
1990s
2000s
2010s
2020s

50
YEARS
WATER QUALITY LAB
THE 1960s
ADMINISTRATIVE BY DESIGN
ORGANICS
SELECTED PROGRAMS
1967 (34)
1969 (36, 39, 44)
1985 (44)



50 YEARS

THE QUALITY LAB
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Celebrating 50 YEARS

WATER QUALITY LAB



50 YEARS

THE 1980s

The 1980s were a decade of challenge. It was in 1980, twenty-four hours, that water quality was regulated in 1981 with a goal of 95 percent compliance. Regulatory agencies issued standards, mandated what had never been done before, and water quality improved. The 1980s were a decade of challenge. It was in 1980, twenty-four hours, that water quality was regulated in 1981 with a goal of 95 percent compliance. Regulatory agencies issued standards, mandated what had never been done before, and water quality improved.

CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN

ORGANICS

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

1987 [34]

(1987 goal after amendments to Drinking Water Act)

1989 [36 FEDERAL]

[15 STATE]

(State - first year of implementation)



50 YEARS

"BOLD CHARGER"

A VISION OF THE FUTURE

PLUMWATER
SUPPORTING A NEW SOURCE OF WATER

50 YEARS

"EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS"

JOHN W. PEESER

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

50 YEARS

LOUIS A. GILMAN
Chairman, Technical Committee
1948-1952

RICK MOSE OPERATOR, 1981-1988

25 YEARS OF SERVICE
LANTONIAN, 1988-1988

LAN CHEMIST, CIRCA 1988

50 YEARS

WATER SOFTENING & FILTRATION PLANT, C

LETTER TO JOSEPH JENSEN, AUGUST 1951



Thank You



**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>AB 400 B. Rubio (D – Baldwin Park)</p> <p>Sponsors: California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities</p>	<p>Chaptered</p> <p>Signed by Governor Chapter 201, Statutes of 2023</p>	<p>Local agency design-build projects: authorization.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on October 2021 Board Action</p>	<p>Metropolitan’s current authority to use design-build under AB 1845 (Calderon, CH. 275, 2022) will sunset on January 1, 2028. The provisions of this bill allow Metropolitan to use design-build for future projects through January 1, 2031.</p>
<p>AB 460 Bauer-Kahan (D – Orinda)</p>	<p>Amended 5/18/23</p> <p>Two-year bill</p> <p>Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee</p>	<p>State Water Resources Control Board: water rights and usage: interim relief: procedures.</p> <p>This bill grants the State Water Resources Control Board authority to issue an interim relief order to enforce the reasonable use doctrine, water rights, water quality standards, and other provisions of water law.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>Based on 2023 Water Rights Principles, adopted April 2023</p>	<p>The stated intent of this bill is aimed at deterring unlawful diversions during a drought emergency with swift State Board action and stiff penalties for violations. This bill would give the State Board expansive new authority to assume control of the State Water Project, Metropolitan or its members’ use of imported or locally sourced water, Metropolitan’s diversion and use of water on the Delta Islands, and a number of other projects and Metropolitan operations. This bill would give the Water Board the authority to assert such control with very short or no prior notice or an opportunity to be heard. The State Board also would not require the use of the California Evidence Code, meaning these expedited decisions could be made based on testimony that is hearsay or by people not qualified to testify as experts on scientific or technical issues in court.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

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

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024 – Second 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.
AB 1648 Bains (D - Bakersfield)	Amended 3/16/2023 Dead	Water: Colorado River Conservation This measure would specifically prohibit Metropolitan and LADWP to offset federally required reductions on Colorado River resources with increased water deliveries from other regions of California, including the Delta, retroactively as of January 1, 2023.	Oppose Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This measure would impair Metropolitan’s flexibility with its entire water portfolio, including the Integrated Water Resources Plan and the Annual Operating Plan. Metropolitan’s reliability and its ability to meet demands would also be impaired by restrictions on partnerships with its State Water Project and Colorado River Basin stakeholders.
SB 122 Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 51, Statutes of 2023	Flood Flow Streamlining Provisions in this trailer bill provide that diversion of flood flows for groundwater recharge do not require an appropriative water right if specified conditions regarding the diversion are met. These provisions exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) specified actions related to the implementation of Colorado River water conservation agreements with the US Bureau of Reclamation.	Seek Amendments Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration 2023 Water Rights Principles, adopted April 2023	The no-permit authorization poses a significant concern to Metropolitan’s State Water Project supplies. There is no protest process, no requirement that diverters avoid harm to other legal water users with water rights senior to the flood flow diverter, and no protection of SWP and CVP rights to divert “excess flows” when they exist in the system up to the full capacity of the projects. Metropolitan will work with the Administration to address these issues as the program is implemented.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024 – Second 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	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 53, Statutes of 2023	Green Financing Programs for Federal IRA Funding This measure contains various provisions to implement the 2023 State Budget Act, which includes authorizing the State Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to access and utilize federal funding in the Inflation Reduction Act to finance projects that reduce greenhouse emissions.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	For the State Water Project, DWR’s direct investment in qualifying projects could lower its capital costs, which would ultimately be passed on to Metropolitan and other SWP contractors.
SB 146 Gonzalez (D-Long Beach)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 58, Statutes of 2023	Public resources: infrastructure: contracting. This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and authorizes DWR to use the progressive design-build (PDB) project delivery method for up to eight public works projects that exceed \$25 million. The Delta conveyance facilities and seawater desalination are expressly prohibited under this measure.	Support Based on October 2021 Board Action	By utilizing PDB and awarding a project contract prior to the completion of all design work, DWR can potentially reduce overall costs and execute shorter project delivery schedules. This could lead to reduced costs for SWP-related projects-resulting in cost savings being passed on to Metropolitan.
SB 147 Ashby (D- Sacramento)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 59, Statutes of 2023	Fully protected species: California Endangered Species Act: authorized take This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and authorizes the take of fully protected species for certain infrastructure projects if specified conditions are met. Eligible projects include the maintenance, repair and improvement of the State Water Project, as well as critical regional and local water infrastructure.	Support and Amend Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	While this alternative may have benefits over current FPS regulations, the requirements are extensive and may make permit terms infeasible or cost prohibitive and could create other litigation risks for permittees.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 149 Caballero (D-Merced)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 60, Statutes of 2023	California Environmental Quality Act: administrative and judicial procedures: record of proceedings: judicial streamlining. This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and makes various changes to CEQA. This bill provides clarification for what is considered as part of the administrative record, as well as allowing a public agency to deny a request to prepare the record of proceedings. This bill also provides for expedited judicial review for specified energy and transportation projects.	Support and Amend Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	Administrative Records Streamlining: Overall, the provisions would be beneficial to Metropolitan as they could lower CEQA litigation costs and shorten litigation timelines. Expedited Judicial Review: The process for preparing the administrative record for any governor-certified infrastructure project must follow certain extensive and potentially costly specifications. While expedited judicial review is beneficial in concept, unless amended, the prerequisites may be infeasible or costly to implement.
SB 150 Durazo (D-Los Angeles)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 61, Statutes of 2023	Construction: workforce development: public contracts. This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and focuses on strengthening the state’s workforce and community benefits with infrastructure investments through California’s share of federal funds.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill is intended to help develop procurement models to enhance the state’s training and access pipeline for jobs while ensuring community benefits on infrastructure and manufacturing investments. This bill is consistent with Metropolitan’s policy and practice and could benefit the district by helping build the next generation of the state’s construction workforce.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024 – Second 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.</p> <p>Metropolitan is seeking amendments that include, but are not limited to, ensuring the 2050 target reflects statewide, regional, and local planning efforts and clarifying that the CA Water Plan should not establish a separate plan for complying with the Delta Plan, but should be complimentary and focus on supporting the co-equal goals of the Delta.</p>
<p>SB 659 Ashby (D – Sacramento)</p> <p>Sponsors: Sacramento Regional Water Authority</p>	<p>Chaptered</p> <p>Signed by the Governor Chapter 624, Statutes of 2023</p>	<p>California Water Supply Solutions Act of 2023.</p> <p>This bill would require DWR to develop a groundwater recharge plan by January 1, 2026, to create additional groundwater recharge capacity and include the plan as part of the 2028 update to the California Water Plan.</p>	<p>Support, if Amended</p> <p>Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles adopted December 2022.</p>	<p>This bill intends to elevate the importance of groundwater in the state’s planning efforts. Additional recharge capacities developed through implementation of this bill could potentially help in the successful implementation of projects such as Metropolitan’s Pure Water project, LADWP’s Operation Next project, and the Pure Water San Diego, potentially helping to maximize stormwater capture and increase sustainability of groundwater basins within Metropolitan’s service area.</p>
<p>SB 687 Eggman (D - Stockton)</p>	<p>Amended 5/2/2023</p> <p>Dead</p>	<p>Water Quality Control Plan: Delta Conveyance Project.</p> <p>This measure will require the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt a final update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan before the Board considers a change in the point of diversion or any other water rights permit or order for the Delta Conveyance Project.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>Metropolitan supports updating the Water Quality Control Plan to protect beneficial uses in the Delta. This bill would result in halting or delaying planning efforts on the Delta Conveyance Project and potentially prevent the project from operating if approved.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>SB 706 Caballero (D-Merced)</p> <p>Sponsors: CA State Association of Counties; County of San Diego; Design Build Institute of America Western Pacific Chapter; League of California Cities</p>	<p>Chaptered</p> <p>Signed by the Governor Chapter 500, Statutes of 2023</p>	<p>Public contracts: progressive design-build: local agencies.</p> <p>This bill would provide additional authority, until January 1, 2023, for cities, counties, and special districts to use progressive design-build (PDB) authority for up to 10 public works projects that are in excess of \$5 million. In addition, any local agency that uses this authorized progressive-design build process must submit a report to the Legislature.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>Currently, PDB-eligible projects are limited to wastewater treatment facilities, park and recreational facilities, solid waste management facilities and water recycling facilities. This bill now authorizes cities, counties and special districts, including Metropolitan, to use PDB for public works projects. This supports Metropolitan’s priority of ensuring reliable water supply deliveries throughout its service area.</p>
<p>SB 867 Allen (D-Santa Monica)</p>	<p>Amended 6/22/2023</p> <p>Two-Year Bill</p> <p>Assembly Natural Resources Committee</p>	<p>Drought, Flood and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, Park Creation and Outdoor Access, and Clean Energy Bond Act of 2024.</p> <p>This measure would authorize a \$15.5 billion general obligation bond for a range of resource-based programs that will improve California’s climate resiliency. If approved, this measure would be on the March 5, 2024 statewide ballot.</p>	<p>Support, if amended</p> <p>Based on June 2023 Board Action</p>	<p>This measure is consistent with Metropolitan’s current policy priorities and supports the objectives of Metropolitan’s Climate Adaptation Master Plan.</p> <p>Metropolitan is seeking amendments to increase funding for recycled water, dam safety, regional conveyance, drought, and conservation projects.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2610 E. Garcia (D – Coachella)	Introduced 2/14/2024 Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife	<p>Protected species: authorized take: Salton Sea Management Program: System Conservation Implementation Agreement.</p> <p>Current law authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife, if certain conditions are fulfilled, to authorize the take of species, including fully protected species, resulting from impacts attributable to implementation of the Quantification Settlement Agreement on specified lands and bodies of water, including the Salton Sea. This bill would additionally authorize the department, if certain conditions are fulfilled, to authorize the take of species resulting from impacts attributable to the implementation of the Salton Sea Management Program or implementation of any System Conservation Implementation Agreement between the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the Imperial Irrigation District to implement the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program, as provided, on the specified lands and bodies of water.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024</p>	<p>This bill will help to advance conservation agreements and collective conservation goals related to reducing reliance of the Colorado River in order to account for changes in climate and low water supplies by allowing IID to advance their short-term conservation goals between 2024 – 2026.</p>

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1827 D. Papan (D – San Mateo)	Introduced 1/12/2024 Assembly Committee on Local Government	Local government: fees and charges: water: higher-consumptive water parcels. The Legislature passed the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act in 1997 to provide guidance for implementation of the new constitutional provisions. AB 1827 (Papan) proposes to add Government Code section 53750.6 to the Act to clarify that the costs that may be recovered through retail water service fees may include the incrementally higher costs of water service due to (1) the higher water usage demand of parcels, (2) the maximum potential water use of parcels, or (3) projected peak water usage.	Support Policy I.B.5.	Metropolitan’s wholesale water service rates to its co-op members are not subject to Proposition 218 and therefore, the bill does not have an effect on Metropolitan. It will, however, provide clearer guidance for its member agencies that provide retail water service and any retail water service provider within Metropolitan service area.
AB 2257 L. Wilson (D – Suisun City)	Amended 3/20/2024 Assembly Committee on Local Government	Local government: property-related water and sewer fees and assessments: remedies. AB 2257 establishes a process for objections to be submitted by any party objecting to the proposed fee or assessment, notice to the public of the requirements, and prerequisites for suing an agency on the basis of the validity of the fee or assessment. The bill requires exhaustion of the administrative procedures provided therein before a plaintiff may file suit and it limits the administrative record that may be reviewed in that litigation to evidence presented to or available to the agency prior to the adoption of the fee or assessment.	Support Policy I.B.5.	Metropolitan does not currently collect any fee or assessment on properties within its service area that is subject to Article XIII D. It does, however, have the authority to do so. Should it decide to adopt such a fee or assessment, it would be required to follow these proposed additional procedural requirements. Any litigation challenging such a fee or assessment would also be subject to the administrative remedy exhaustion and evidence limitation provided for by AB2257.



Legislation and Communications Committee

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Item 6c

April 8, 2024

Report on
Activities
from
Sacramento

Subject

Report on Activities from Sacramento.

Purpose

To provide a legislative update as we begin legislative session.

Sacramento Legislative Calendar

Legislative Calendar

- April 26: Last day for fiscal bills to move out of policy committee
- May 3: Last day for non-fiscal bills to move out of policy committee

State Fiscal Outlook

Sacramento Budget Update



GM Lobby Visits In Sacramento

Sacramento General Manager Highlights



Sacramento
Legislative
Highlights

2-Year Bills of Interest: Climate Bonds

AB 1567 (Garcia): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024



Sacramento Legislative Highlights

2-Year Bills of Interest: Climate Bonds (cont'd)

SB 867 (Allen): Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, and Clean Energy Bond Act of 2024



Sacramento Legislative Highlights

2-Year Bills of Interest: Water Rights

- AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan) State Water Resources Control Board: water rights and usage: interim relief: procedures.
- AB 1337 (Wicks) State Water Resources Control Board: water diversion curtailment.

Sacramento
Legislative
Highlights

Colorado River Conservation - Support

- AB 2610 (Garcia) Protected species:
authorized take: Salton Sea Management
Program: System Conservation
Implementation Agreement

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Prop 218 Clean-Up - Support

- AB 1827 (Papan): Local government: fees and charges: water: higher-consumptive water parcels
- AB 2257 (Wilson): Local government: property-related water and sewer fees and assessments: remedies

Sacramento
Legislative
Highlights

Water Quality

- AB 903 (Skinner) Environmental health: product safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Conservation Regulation Clean-Up Bills

- AB 3121 (Hart) Urban retail water suppliers: written notice: conservation order: dates
- SB 1110 (Ashby): Urban retail water suppliers: informational order: conservation order
- SB 1185 (Niello): Water conservation: water use objectives.
- SB 1330 (Archuleta): Urban retail water supplier: water use

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Connection and Capacity Charges

- AB 1820 (Schiavo): Housing development projects: applications: fees and exactions
- SB 937 (Wiener): Development projects: permits and other entitlements: fees and charges
- SB 1210 (Skinner): New housing construction: electrical, gas, sewer, and water service connections: charges.



**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session**

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

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session

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

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
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.
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
April 8, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	S. 2162 (Feinstein, D-CA)	7/19/23: Hearing held before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.	<p>Support To Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities Act” or the “STREAM Act</p> <p>Authorizes funding for a variety of Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure investments including storage, water recycling, desalination, and ecosystem restoration projects for 5 years. It also authorizes a new assistance 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
April 8, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 7776 (Lee, D-NV) S. 4016 (Sinema, I-AZ)	3/21/24: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. 3/21/24: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Help Hoover Dam Act Amends the Boulder Canyon Project Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expend money in the Colorado River Dam fund.	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This legislation gives the Bureau of Reclamation authority to utilize stranded funds paid by the Hoover Dam power contractors for operations, maintenance, repair, and clean up actions at Hoover Dam. The bill would benefit Metropolitan and its member agencies by providing a new source of funding for needed work on Hoover Dam.
Source Water Protection	H.R. 1181 (Garamendi, D-CA)	2/27/23: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment	Federal Water Pollution Control Permitting Terms Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) with respect to permitting terms.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This legislation would extend the maximum term for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits issued under the Clean Water Act from 5 to 10 years, for public agencies that have demonstrated compliance with existing permit conditions. This change is designed to better reflect the construction schedules for public agencies.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 3439 (Panetta, D-CA) S. 1715 (Feinstein, D-CA)	6/23/23: Referred to the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and Workforce, Energy and Commerce and Natural Resources. 5/18/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.	Wildfire Emergency Act of 2023 To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and for other purposes.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill has water supply, water quality, and ecosystem benefits for the Colorado River watershed and State Water Project watershed. Proper forest management and wildfire prevention promotes runoff, helps protect water quality, and improves habitat.
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
April 8, 2024, 118th Congress, Second 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
April 8, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session

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

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session**

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

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session**

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

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
April 8, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water System Security	H.R. 1367 (Schakowsky, D-IL) S. 660 (Markey, D-MA)	3/6/23: Referred to the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. 3/6/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.	Water System Threat Preparedness and Resilience Act of 2023 Establishes a new EPA grant program to increase drinking water and wastewater system threat preparedness and resilience, by helping cover the dues to join the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC).	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The WaterISAC is a source of information and best practices for water systems to protect against, mitigate, and respond to natural hazards, as well as physical and cyber security threats. Metropolitan, and many of 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.



Office of the General Manager

● Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Summary

This letter provides an update on activities in Washington, D.C.

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

None

Detailed Report

Appropriations

Federal fiscal year 2023 ended on Sept 30th and the government was funded by a series of short duration continuing resolutions or CRs since then. The need for short-term FY 24 funding bills drew to a close in March. On March 8, half of the full-year appropriations bills were enacted into law, and the remainder were enacted into law on March 23.

Most of the funding for water programs in FY24 remains largely the same as it was in FY23. For example, FY24 funding for the Bureau of Reclamation's water recycling competitive program is \$20 million, the same as last year. This yearly appropriations money is on top of funding for the program available as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or IIJA. The water recycling program received \$550 million in the IIJA over five years, dwarfing yearly appropriations for the program. Reclamation spent \$310 million in IIJA act funds in FY22 for the water recycling program, \$150 million in FY23, and anticipates spending \$29 million in IIJA funds in FY24.

Funding for EPA's SRF program in FY 24 also remained constant \$1.1billion for the drinking water SRF and \$1.6 billion for the clean water SRF. Again, this funding is on top of the IIJA funds. For FY24 both the clean water and drinking water SRF will receive \$2.4 billion in IIJA funding. The IIJA continues to provide record funding for water programs for the next couple of years.

President Biden released his FY 25 budget proposal on March 11, and again funding for water programs is largely level. The budget release marks the official start of the FY 25 appropriations process, and Congress will spend the next several months holding hearings and crafting their own appropriations bills.

Board Report (Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.)

The President's FY 25 budget proposal includes language allowing states to divert up to 2.7 percent of their low-income energy assistance funding to support low-income household water assistance efforts. However, the budget proposal does not seek direct appropriations for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Congress provided \$1.1 billion through the American Rescue Plan and Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 for the LIHWAP program. This temporary assistance program was established at the height of the COVID-19 emergency and expired at the end of FY 23. Congress has not provided funding for the program since then, and Senator Padilla has a bill to authorize funding for the program and make it permanent.

Legislation

Bipartisan-bicameral legislation was introduced to allow the Bureau of Reclamation to tap into stranded funds paid by Hoover power contractors for operations, maintenance, repair, and clean-up work at Hoover Dam. The Help Hoover Dam Act has many co-sponsors, including Senators Padilla and Butler and Representative Napolitano. Reclamation estimates the Hoover Dam requires \$110 million in repair and upgrade work over the next five years. This legislation will free up a stranded fund to help off-set this cost.

PFAS Hearing

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing examining the impact of listing PFAS as hazardous substances under CERCLA on March 20. This committee has been working on developing PFAS legislation since last summer. The draft legislation does not include CERCLA liability protections for passive receivers such as drinking water, recycled water, and wastewater systems. Designating PFAS as hazardous substances is intended to make sure polluters are held responsible for paying for the cleanup of contaminated Superfund sites. However, water systems are passive receivers of PFAS that treat water to protect public health and the environment. These treatment processes generate residuals that may contain PFAS, and water systems need to be protected from liability.

Michal Witt with the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission in New Jersey, testified on behalf of the Water Coalition Against PFAS. The Water Coalition Against PFAS was created by the national water associations, including AWWA, AMWA, and NACWA, to advocate on PFAS issues including liability protection from a CERCLA listing. Though EPA has said it does not plan to target passive receivers, as Mr. Witt noted in the hearing, "Even if EPA said it won't sue you, everyone else can sue you."

It remains to be seen where lawmakers are going on this. There appeared to be glimmers of bipartisan support for a passive receive exemption, but no legislative language was considered, and no timeline for action was provided.



External Affairs

• External Affairs Monthly Activities Report for March 2024

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Highlights

GM Hagekhalil was a featured speaker on the CEO Panel at the Western Winter Workshop, which was also attended by Vice Chair Camacho and Metropolitan staff. The GM spoke on strategies for successful leadership in the water industry. (March 1)

Staff hosted a news conference with board Chair Ortega, GM Hagekhalil, and TreePeople to announce the launch of the new tree rebate, in memory of Cindy Montanez, as part of the district’s turf replacement incentive. (March 5)

GM Hagekhalil attended the MetWorks networking event in Carson, which highlighted future contract opportunities for Pure Water Southern California and other projects. (March 7)

Chair Ortega spoke to Three Valleys MWD (March 6), and GM Hagekhalil spoke to the Fullerton City Council and the Pasadena City Council (March 5 and 11), to discuss regional priorities, Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water, and water supply conditions.



Top left: GM Hagekhalil and Director Kurtz at the Pasadena city council meeting, Top Right: GM Hagekhalil at the MetWorks networking event. Bottom left: Press conference to announce new tree rebate in memory of Cindy Montanez, Bottom right: Team Manager Lehman,EO Upadhyay and Asst Group Manager Collins at the WaterReuse Symposium

External Affairs Monthly Report March 2024



GM Hagekhalil introduced Senator Padilla at the AMWA Conference in Washington DC.

AGM Upadhyay and staff attended the WaterReuse association 2024 Symposium to talk about Pure Water Southern California and the future of water reuse. (March 12)

Directors Luna and Quinn and GM Hagekhalil attended and Metropolitan-sponsored Climate Resolve's Coolest in LA event. (March 14)

Chair Ortega was the keynote speaker, and Colorado River Manager Hasencamp presented at the American Society of Civil Engineers symposium. (March 28)

Legislative Services

Federal

GM Hagekhalil attended the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) Water Policy Conference in Washington DC and introduced Senator Padilla.

Additionally, GM Hagekhalil and J.B. Hamby, Chair of the Colorado River Board of

California, addressed the House caucus of California Democrats and met with House Republicans, Senator Padilla, Bureau of Reclamation staff, and White House officials to discuss the lower basin alternative for post-2026 Colorado River operations. (March 19–21)

State

Governor Newsom and legislative leaders announced an agreement to take immediate action with a first round of budget solutions to reduce the deficit by \$12–18 billion.

Stakeholder interest in the climate bonds continues to build as the state's fiscal situation shows a projected need for additional resources. Stakeholders in the water community will compete with other bonds of interest, which include housing, education, and addressing the fentanyl crisis. Metropolitan has joined coalition partners in advocating for the climate bond and will continue to push for these much-needed resources.

Local

This month, Metropolitan staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 73 webinars, meetings, and events with community organizations and trade associations on Metropolitan activities and other water-specific topics.

- Prepared local background information for GM presentations to cities and water agencies.
- Director Quinn attended, and Metropolitan sponsored the VICA State Officeholders dinner. (March 8)
- Metropolitan staff gave a CAMP4Water update to the California Environmental Education Foundation Summit. (March 23)

Media and Communications

- Helped coordinate media briefing and contributed quotes for joint news release between Arizona, California, and Nevada on the Lower Basin Alternative for post-2026 Colorado River operations.
- Arranged various interviews regarding tree rebate with Los Angeles Times, Smart Cities Dive, and Vision Latina with Chair Ortega.
- Arranged an interview with KBLA-AM 1580's Dominique DiPrima and WRM's Guerrero on tree rebates and conservation, as part of Metropolitan's sponsorship of the station's climate justice initiative.
- Set up an interview between Luke Bratt, North America editor of Global Water Intelligence, and Executive Officer/AGM Upadhyay regarding direct potable reuse.
- Coordinated an interview between ABC-10 Sacramento climate reporter Brenden Mincheff and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp regarding the Lower Basin alternative.
- Set up interview with Los Angeles Times reporter Ian James and GM Hagekhalil regarding proposed biennial budget and rate increases.

External Affairs Monthly Report March 2024

- Coordinated an interview between Verde Exchange’s David Abel and GM Hagekhalil regarding the Board’s vision for Metropolitan, staffing issues, water resiliency, and climate adaptation.

Press Releases

- Opening of DVL Wildflower Trail.
- Statement on final revised interim operation of Colorado River through 2026.
- New tree rebate program.
- Public survey showing that Southern Californians are committed to conservation.



Spring wildflowers in bloom at Diamond Valley Lake

Creative Design

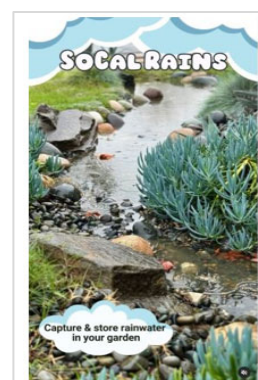
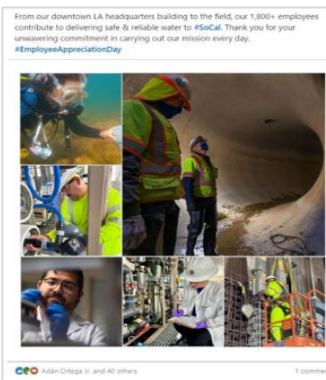
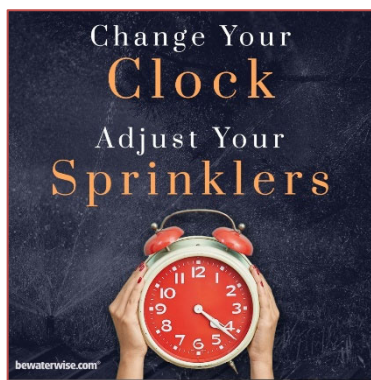
- Designed, fabricated, and began installation of a new commemorative gallery display at the Water Quality Laboratory for the facility’s 50th anniversary celebration; created new local inspection trip book; designed new fact sheet for legislative briefing of Lower Basin States Alternative for post-2026 Colorado River operations.

Website

- Generated 62,000 visits to mwdh2o.com with careers, job postings, and Pure Water Southern California being the most popular pages. Registered 21,000 views on bewaterwise.com with turf replacement, the new tree rebate page, and California Friendly/native plants profiles generating the most traffic.

Social Media

- Capitalized on wet February conditions to produce a “SoCal Rains” series consisting of Instagram reels which generated good engagement by reaching nearly 100,000 views.
- Highlighted the media event launching new tree rebates as part of our turf replacement rebate through live streaming and photos.
- Collaborated with the Persian American Employee’s Organization on a Nowruz post in celebration of the first day of spring and to recognize Persian Heritage Month.
- Led by US EPA’s WaterSense, participated in an X party with agencies across the nation for Fix a Leak Week, promoting the district’s flow monitor device rebate.
- Created a collage of photos of employees working in recognition of Employee Appreciation Day. Highlighted a team of water quality staff who belong to a select group of only nine Flavor Profile Analysis certified trainers worldwide for Women’s International Day and Women’s History Month.



External Affairs Monthly Report March 2024

Community Outreach

Provided an inspection trip of the Grace F. Napolitano Innovation Center, Weymouth, and Water Quality Lab for Directors Phan and Seckel. (March 1)

Provided an overview of Colorado River issues for the Water Education Foundation's Colorado River Inspection trip. (March 14)

Hosted an Environmental Listening Session on CAMP4W. (March 25)

Notified residents and businesses about the Allen-McColloch Pipeline urgent repair, Sepulveda Feeder urgent repair, and Orange County Feeder shutdown.

Pure Water Southern California

- Provided presentations, workshops, and tours of the Napolitano Innovation Center for the Downey Rotary Club, Nature for All, outreach team for East County Advanced Purification Program, Warren Facility Citizens Advisory Committee, Water Services of Australia, Dreamers and Visionaries of South Bay, and the Association of Advancement of Cost Engineering.
- Discussed the Pure Water Program with the cities of Irwindale, Bellflower and Whittier, and LA Metro.
- Participated in the Pure Water Southern California networking event at the Carson Community Center, and a career fair for construction jobs and apprenticeships. (March 7)

Education

- Interacted with 1,800 teachers, students, and adults through in-person and online meetings and events; distributed the quarterly education newsletter to 2,100 educators.
- Student art exhibit was displayed at the city of Anaheim, Municipal Water District of Orange County, and Eastern Municipal Water District.
- Conducted a half-day clinic for advanced scouts ages 14–18, to earn the Soil and Water Conservation merit badge.
- Participated in the California Environmental Education Foundation's Teacher Institute; Provided educational materials for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's Splash into Spring event, La Canada High School's Engineering Club, El Camino College's Discover a Career in Water Night, Los Angeles County Office of Education's Girls in STEM career day, and Orange County Water District Children's Water Festival.



- Launched Earth Day Challenge 2024 virtual competition for secondary schools. Other sponsors include the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and Edison. During the competition students will learn about conservation, stewardship, climate change, air quality, and sustainability.



Water conservation-themed student art on display in Anaheim

- Water Engineering 4 Good (WE4G) teams gave their final presentation on their water conservation devices to a panel of Metropolitan engineers on March 14 and 21.

- Supported water education through Community Partnering grants to Generation STEAM for the San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering; 2024 Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair; Paradise Hills Native Garden Educational Signage; Orange County Water District Children's Water Festival; and La Iglesia De Dios De La Profecia Water is Life, California Native Garden Installation.



Legislation & Communications Committee

External Affairs Monthly Activities & Highlights

Item 7a

April 8, 2024

Report on
Activities
from
External
Affairs

Subject

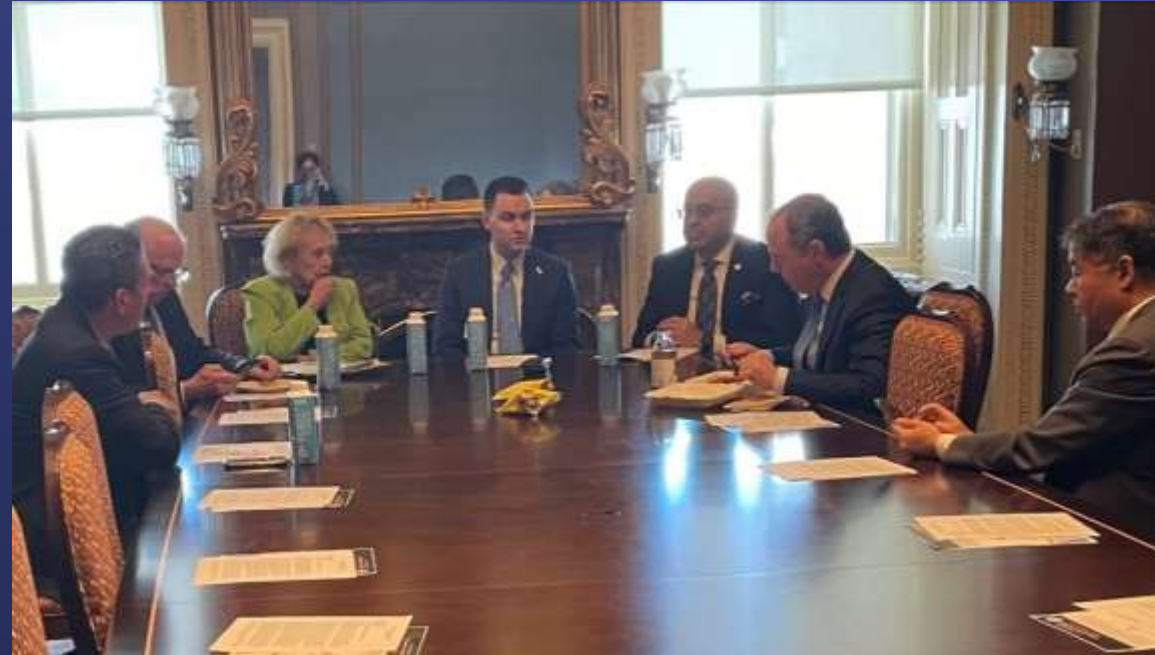
Report on Activities from External Affairs

Purpose

To provide management announcements and highlights for External Affairs

Legislation & Communications
Committee

Federal Update



Integrating Research into Messaging

- Press Release
- Follow-up on Probolsky results and future presentations on public awareness and messaging.



Legislation & Communications
Committee

Earth Day Community Events & Outreach Activities



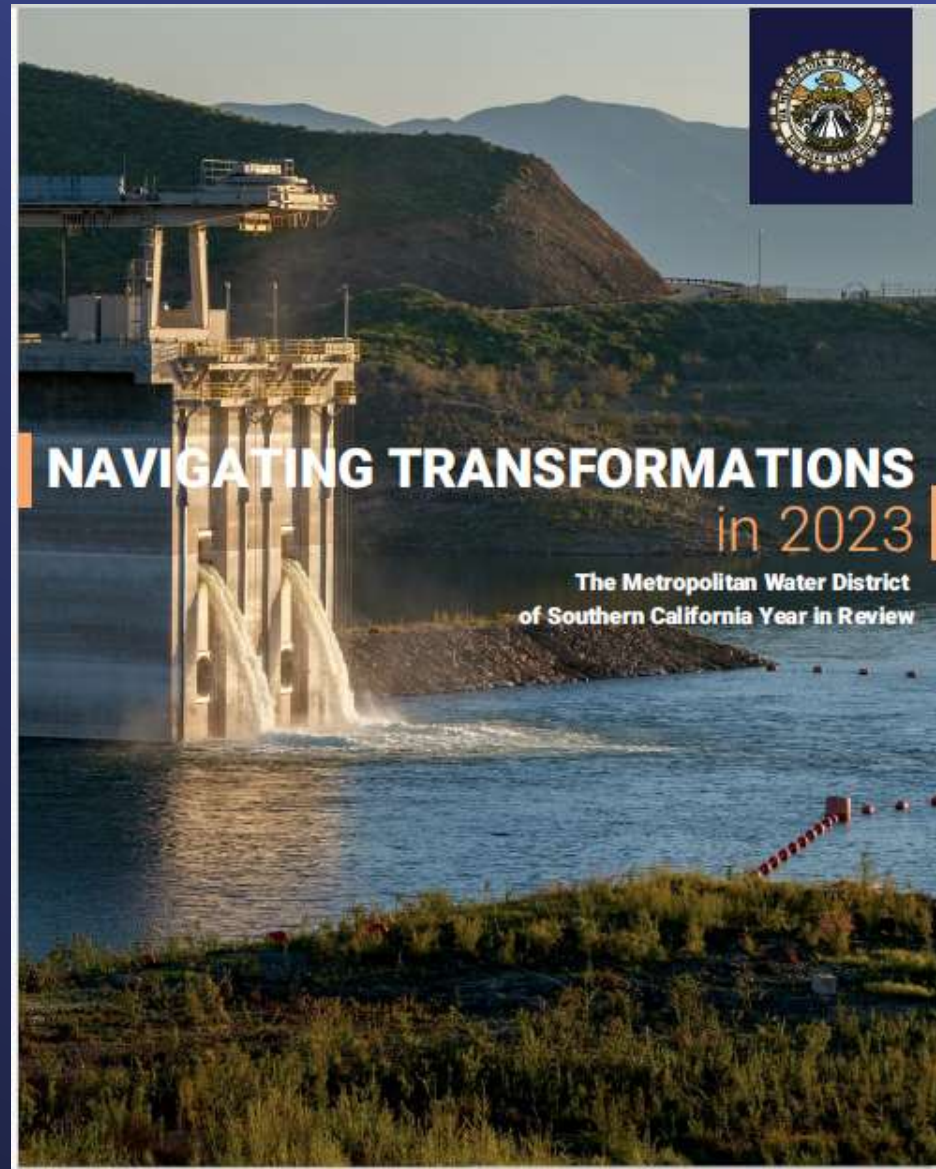
Legislation & Communications
Committee

May 2024 Water Awareness Month



Legislation & Communications
Committee

Year in Review



**ADAPTING
TO A CHANGING
CLIMATE**

**DRIVING A
COMMITMENT
TO DIVERSITY**

**BUILDING GREATER
RELIABILITY, EQUITY FOR
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**BRINGING
SUSTAINABILITY
TO THE
COLORADO RIVER**

**CONTINUING
CONSERVATION
MOMENTUM**

