



Legislation, Regulatory Affairs and Communication
Committee

Legislative Priorities & Principles for 2024

Item 9-2

November 14, 2023

Item 9-2 Legislative Priorities & Principles for 2024

Subject

Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024

Purpose

Annual review of updates

Next Steps

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

Purpose & Process

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

Current Actions & Next Steps

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

Summary of High-Level Changes

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

Summary of High-Level Changes

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

Summary of High-Level Changes

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

Top Legislative Priorities

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

Possible MWD- sponsored Initiative

- Support administrative/legislative actions to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date to allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan.

Note: bill sponsorship contingent on explicit Board authorization

Strategic Policy Areas

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

I. Drinking Water

A. Water Quality & Treatment

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

B. Water Governance, Affordability & Funding

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

II. Regional Water Resource Management

- A. Conservation
 - minor clarifying updates
- B. Desalination and Groundwater Remediation
 - conforming changes
- C. Recycled Water
- D. Local Supply Development
 - formerly Stormwater Capture section
 - includes bullets from former Drought section
- A. Watershed Management

III.

Imported Water Supply

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

IV. Sustainability, Resiliency, & Innovation

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

V. Infrastructure

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

VI. System Resiliency

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

Member Agency Legislative Coordinators Annual
Planning Meeting

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