

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

J. Lewitt, Chair
A. Fellow, VC
Communication
G. Shepherd Romey, VC
Legislation
L. Ackerman
M. Camacho
R. Crane
B. Dennstedt
G. Gray, Emeritus
R. Jay
F. Jung
A. Kassakhian
M. Katz
P. Paule
M. Ramos

Legislation and Communications Committee

Meeting with Board of Directors *

March 9, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Monday, March 9, 2026 Meeting Schedule

**09:00 a.m. EOT
11:00 a.m. LEG
12:30 p.m. BREAK
01:00 p.m. OPE
02:00 p.m. AUDIT
03:30 p.m. OWA**

Written public comments received by 3:00 p.m. the business day before the meeting is scheduled will be posted under the Submitted Items and Responses tab available here:
<https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>.

The 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 teleconference and in-person. To provide public comment by teleconference dial 1-833-548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 876 9484 9772 or to join by computer [click here](#).

Disclaimer: Written and oral public comments are received in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. Please note that Metropolitan does not endorse or ensure the accuracy or reliability of the information provided as public comment or by third parties.

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

Teleconference Locations:

3008 W. 82nd Place • Inglewood, CA 90305

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

11973 Fuerte Drive • El Cajon, CA 92020

806 North Camden Drive • Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Conference Room • 1545 Victory Boulevard, 2nd Floor • Glendale, CA 91201

* 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 ****

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for the February 9, 2026 [21-5479](#)

Attachments: [03092026 LEG 2A \(02092026\) Minutes](#)

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

NONE

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

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

NONE

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

- 9-5 Information on Facilities Naming Criteria and Procedures [21-5481](#)

Attachments: [03102026 LEG 9-5 B-L](#)

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

- a. East Bay Municipal Utility District H2Flow Campaign: Presented by Kathryn Horn, East Bay Municipal Utility District Senior Community Affairs Representative [21-5480](#)

Attachments: [03092026 LEG 6a C-L](#)
[03092026 LEG 6a Presentation](#)

- b. Report on Activities from Washington, D.C. [21-5483](#)

Attachments: [03092026 LEG 6b Federal Legislative Matrix](#)
[03092026 LEG 6b Presentation](#)

- c. Report on Activities from Sacramento [21-5482](#)

Attachments: [03092026 LEG 6c State Legislative Matrix](#)
[03092026 LEG 6c Presentation](#)

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. External Affairs activities [21-5511](#)

Attachments: [03092026 LEG 7a External Affairs activities](#)
[03092026 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

February 9, 2026

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

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), Jay, Kassakhian, Lewitt, Paule, and Shepherd Romey

Members absent: Directors Jung, Katz, and Ramos

Other Board Members present: Directors Cordero, Denham, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Kurtz, Miller, Pressman, and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Deshmukh, Hudson, Dela Cruz, Schaffer, Stites, Rubin, and Zinke

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

None

Director Gray entered the meeting.

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for December 8, 2025.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

Director Camacho made a motion, seconded by Director Shepherd Romey, to approve the consent calendar item 2A.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray, Jay, Kassakhian, Lewitt, Paule, and Shepherd Romey

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Jung, Katz, and Ramos

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 3 absent.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

- a. Subject: Bewaterwise.com Redesign

Presented by: Andrew Au, Principal Graphic Art Designer

Mr. Au provided an overview of the website re-design, describing the objectives and different elements of the updated website.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Jay
- 2) Shepherd Romey
- 3) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- b. Subject: Update on Internal Communications

Presented by: Brittany Foust, Section Manager – Media Services
Maritza Fairfield, Principal Public Affairs Representative

Ms. Foust and Ms. Fairfield introduced the new staff newsletter, “Inside Met”, highlighting the collaboration with staff, the use of media pop-ups, relationship-building efforts, and its overall value and impact.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Fellow
- 2) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

c. Subject: Quarterly Federal and State Regulatory Update

Presented by: Shradha Upadhayay, Team Manager – Operational
Regulatory Services

Ms. Upadhayay provided an update on Perchlorate, Waters of the United States, Clean Water Act Section 401, Drinking Water Fluoridation, Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, PFAS Monitoring Order, 1,4-Dioxane, and Golden Mussels.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1) Jay

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

d. Subject: Report on the Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and
Facilities Naming

Presented by: Director Anthony Fellow, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on
Communications and Facilities Naming

Director Fellow provided a report on the January 23, 2026, meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Facilities Naming. The committee plans to review and consider updates to the policies and procedures, including the criteria for candidates and whether some Metropolitan facilities should not be named.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

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

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on the Large-Scale Water Recycling Program Reauthorization, the FY 26 Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Environmental Protection Agency, and a legislative update on the Help Hoover Dam Act.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Seckel
- 2) Fellow

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

f. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the legislative calendar, Senate Pro Tem appointments, the newly appointed Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Governor's January budget proposal, proposed climate bond allocations, and Metropolitan legislative positions, including AB 35 and SB 601.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Miller

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: External Affairs Activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, External Affairs Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided updates on the Board's advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C.; a CRA inspection trip for educators; communications on key issues related to the Colorado River and reliability; and accomplishments in 2025.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Jay Lewitt
Chair



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Information

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

3/10/2026 Board Meeting

9-5

Subject

Information on Facilities Naming Criteria and Procedures

Executive Summary

An oral report will be provided on the March 2, 2026, meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Facilities Naming.

Fiscal Impact

None

Applicable Policy

By Minute Item 51004, dated November 14, 2017, the Board established the creation of the Ad Hoc Facilities Naming Committee.

By Minute Item 51324, dated September 11, 2018, the Board adopted the Metropolitan Facilities Naming Policy Principle as a Board-Adopted Policy Principle. It outlines criteria and procedures to name Metropolitan facilities.

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

The Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Facilities Naming may recommend naming facilities as nominations are received and reviewed. Board approval is required for a facility to be named or renamed.

Details and Background

At the March 2, 2026, meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Facilities Naming reviewed the adopted Facilities Naming Policy Principle, which includes naming criteria and procedures. The committee discussed excluding certain facilities from naming, such as the Metropolitan Headquarters Building at Union Station and the Headquarters rotunda. It was noted that the policy declares that Metropolitan has “sole discretion” in whether to name a facility and the name chosen, and this would address the issue. In addition, it was clarified that the naming criteria “ordinarily not for living persons” means that ordinarily naming will be for a deceased person, but in an extraordinary case may be for a person who is still living. The committee does not recommend changing the adopted criteria and procedures at this time.

The committee has received two nominations which it will review and for which it will provide recommendations to the Board.



Carolyn Schaffer
Group Manager, External Affairs

3/5/2026
Date



Shivaji Deshmukh
General Manager

3/5/2026
Date

Ref# ea12713069



Legislation and Communications Committee

3/9/2026 Committee Meeting

6a

Subject

East Bay Municipal Utility District H2Flow Campaign: Presented by Kathryn Horn, EBMUD Senior Community Affairs Representative

Executive Summary

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) will present their “H₂Flow” campaign that uses music to build trust in tap water.

Fiscal Impact

None

Applicable Policy

Not applicable

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

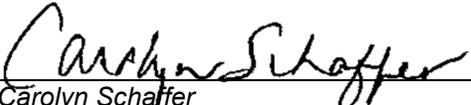
Not applicable

Details and Background

Background

Metropolitan is exploring different approaches to build trust in tap water. EBMUD will share their campaign and experience with the H₂Flow campaign. H₂Flow is a music video-driven water education campaign that uses rap, rhythm, and visual storytelling to connect audiences with the journey of drinking water from source to tap. Created in collaboration with Grammy- and Emmy-winning Oakland artists Alphabet Rockers, the song highlights water stewardship, builds trust in tap water, and encourages people to skip single-use plastic bottles. By blending culture, education, and environmental messaging, H₂Flow reaches young people in a modern, engaging way that supports long-term awareness of water systems and sustainability.

EBMUD, established in 1923, provides high-quality drinking water for 1.4 million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The District's wastewater system serves 740,000 customers and helps protect the ecosystem of San Francisco Bay.



Carolyn Schaffer
Group Manager, External Affairs

3/4/2026
Date



Shivaji Deshmukh
General Manager

3/4/2026
Date

Ref# ea12713663



Legislation and Communications Committee

East Bay Municipal Utility District H2Flow Campaign

Item 6a

March 9, 2026

Presented by: Kathryn Horn, EBMUD

Summary

Subject

East Bay Municipal Utility District H2Flow Campaign:
Presented by Kathryn Horn, East Bay Municipal Utility
District Senior Community Affairs Representative

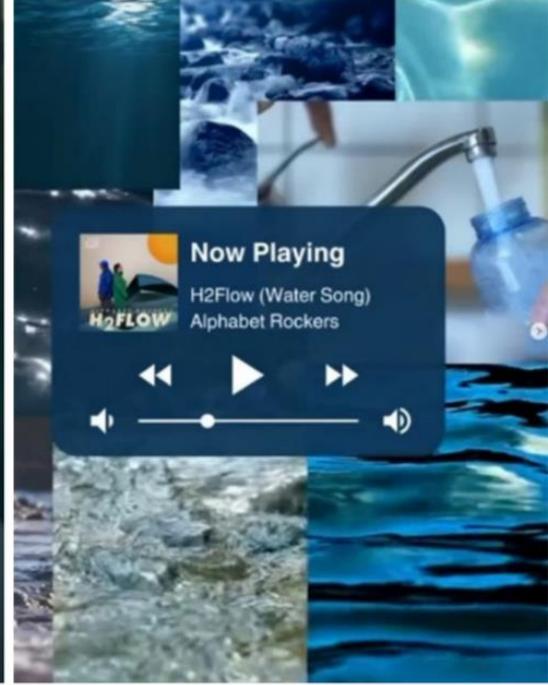
Purpose

Share EBMUD's outreach campaign that uses music
to build trust in tap water



EBMUD's H₂FLOW Campaign

Kathryn Horn
Senior Community Affairs



H2Flow Objectives

- Revitalize education program with modern resources.
- Video Viewership: Generate at least 50,000 music video views within the first year
- Form a partnership with the largest school district in the service area, Oakland Unified which serves 34,000 students
- Cross collaborate with community groups



Water Education Field Trip



Songwriting Workshop



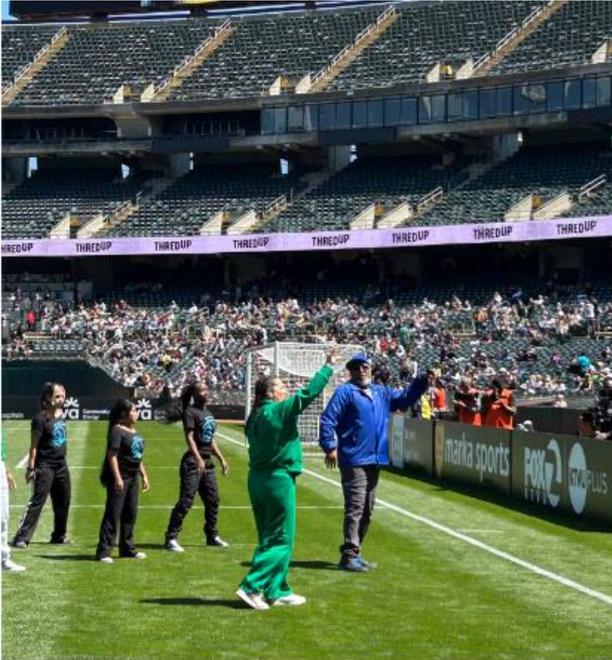
World Water Day Release

YouTube Kids and ABC7 News



Connecting with Community

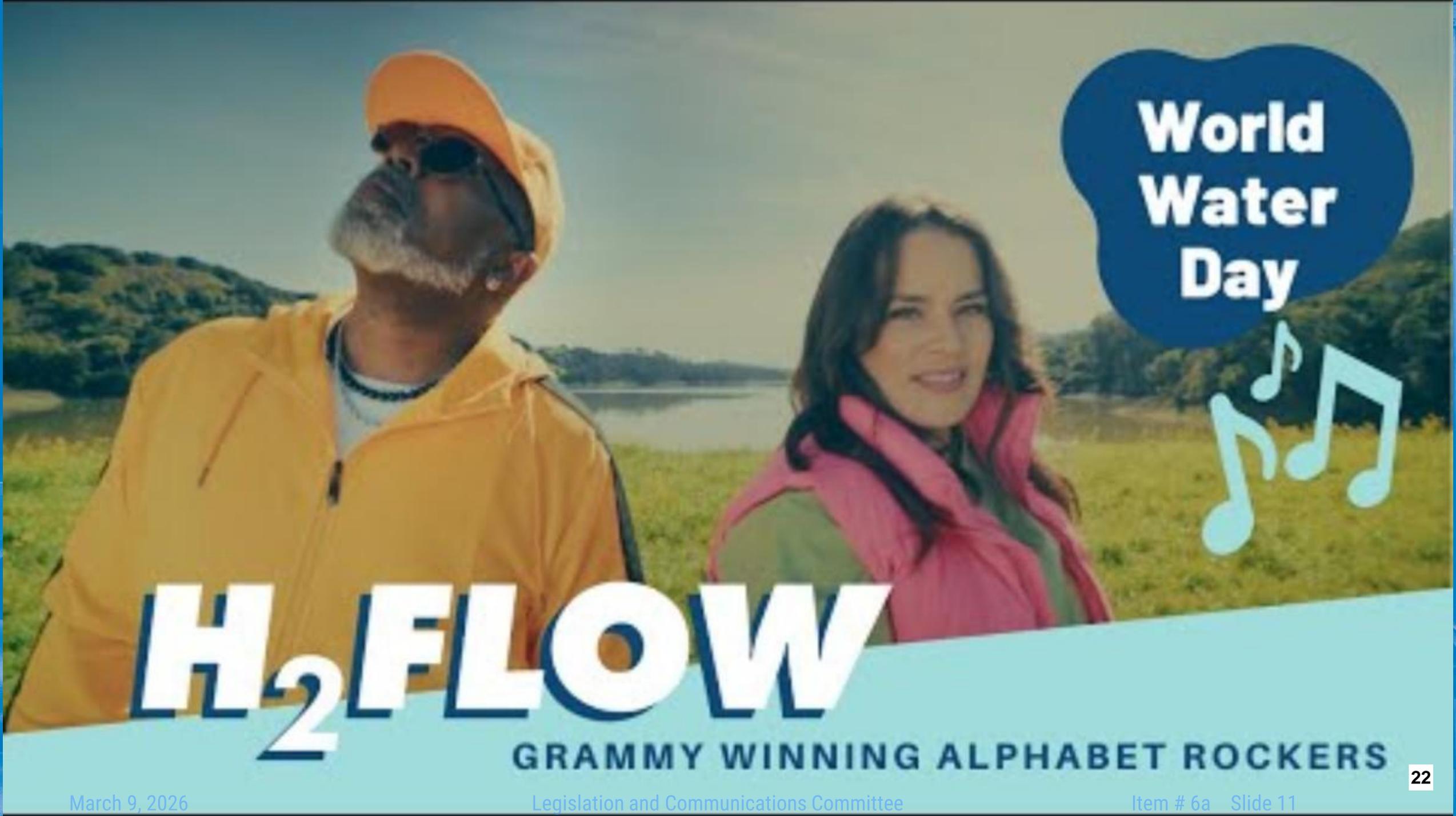
Oakland Roots partnership and halftime show performance





H₂Flow by the numbers...

- Over 182,000 views on YouTube
- 400,000 views on Instagram
- 6,000 fans at the Oakland Roots Performance
- \$8,000 Earned Media Value
- 20 live performances, 2 in-depth arts workshops
- Budget: \$30,500 = less than \$0.15 per view



**World
Water
Day**



H₂FLOW

GRAMMY WINNING ALPHABET ROCKERS

Questions?



Flowing
into the
Future



**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, Second Session
March 2026**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Assistance for Disadvantaged Communities	H.R. 4733 Sorenson, D-IL Bresnahan, R-PA Lawler, R-NY Kelly, D-IL Fitzpatrick, R-PA Davids, D-KS Moylan, R-Guam McBath, D-GA	7/23/25: Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.	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 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	This bill makes permanent the temporary low-income household water assistance program established at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sustained federal assistance to help low-income households afford their water and wastewater bills would help residents in Metropolitan’s service area and its member agencies.
Conservation	H.R. 1871 Huffman (D-CA) Moore (R-UT) S. 857 Curtis (R-UT) Padilla (D-CA)	3/05/25: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. 3/05/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for conservation subsidies to include water conservation or efficiency measures and stormwater management measures.	SUPPORT Based upon 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	This bill makes rebates that homeowners receive for water conservation improvements to their home, including smart irrigation systems and turf removal, exempt from federal taxes. If enacted, Metropolitan and its member agencies would no longer need to provide tax forms at the end of the year to customers that have received \$600 or more in water conservation rebates.

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, Second Session
March 2026**

<p>Cybersecurity</p>	<p>H.R. 2594 Crawford (R-AR) Bresnahan (R-PA) Finstad (R-MN)</p>	<p>4/02/25: Referred to the House Committees on Transportation & Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce.</p>	<p>Water Risk and Resilience Organization</p> <p>To establish a Water Risk and Resilience Organization to develop cybersecurity regulations for the water sector.</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>Based upon 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.</p>	<p>This bill establishes a new regulatory body, the Water Risk and Resilience Organization (WRRO), that would be overseen by EPA but is separate from EPA. The WRRO is tasked with developing and enforcing cybersecurity requirements for the water sector. If enacted this bill would subject Metropolitan and its member agencies to new unknown regulatory requirements. The legislation does not provide clear guidance to the WRRO on what type of cybersecurity standards are appropriate for the water sector other than relying on “best practices” and fails to ensure new regulations would not be duplicative of existing requirements some water systems are already subject to. Additionally, the legislation does not include funding to help water systems comply with new regulations, instead it includes a punitive penalty of up to \$25,000 per day for violation.</p>
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**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, Second Session
March 2026**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Endangered Species Act Oversight	<p>H.R. 831 Calvert (R-CA) Lee (D-NV) Titus (D-NV) Horsford (D-NV) Stanton (D-AZ) Ciscomoni (R-AZ)</p> <p>S. 291 Padilla (D-CA) Schiff (D-CA) Cortez Masto (D-NV) Rosen (D-NV) Kelly (D-AZ) Gallego (D-AZ)</p>	<p>9/15/25: Placed on the House Calendar.</p> <p>1/29/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.</p>	<p>Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2025</p> <p>Establishes an interest-bearing account for the non-federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP).</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.</p>	<p>The LCR MSCP program addresses the needs of threatened and endangered species and provides reliability for water deliveries and hydropower production. The bill will allow the Bureau of Reclamation to hold the non-federal funds for the LCR MSCP in an interest-bearing account. The interest collected will be reinvested in LCR MSCP projects, contributing to the continued success of this program and helping offset the impact of inflation. This bill would benefit Metropolitan because we are a member of California’s LCR MSCP participant group.</p>

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, Second Session
March 2026**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Endangered Species Act Oversight	H.R. 1894 Calvert (R-CA) Costa (D-CA) McClintock (R-CA) Issa (R-CA)	3/06/25: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.	Federally Integrated Species Health Act or the “FISH Act” Transfers the authority to oversee Endangered Species Act (ESA) related responsibilities for anadromous fish from the Secretary of Commerce to the Secretary of the Interior.	SUPPORT Based upon 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	This bill would consolidate the management and regulation of anadromous fish under the ESA at the Fish and Wildlife Service. Currently, ESA authority is split between FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). California’s water delivery system and its fisheries would benefit from having a single federal agency responsible for anadromous species management.

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, Second Session
March 2026**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	<p>H.R. 3158 Lee (D-NV) Amodei (R-NV) Stanton (D-AZ) Ciscomani (R-AZ) Horsford (D-NV) Titus (D-NV) Ansari (D-AZ) Calvert (R-CA) Cisneros (D-CA) Schweikert5 (R-AZ)</p> <p>S. 1570 Cortez Masto (D-NV) Kelly (D-AZ) Gallego (D-AZ) Rosen (D-AZ) Padilla (D-CA) Schiff (D-CA)</p>	<p>5/01/25: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.</p> <p>5/01/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.</p>	<p>Help Hoover Dam Act</p> <p>Amends the Boulder Canyon Project Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expend money in the Colorado River Dam fund.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.</p>	<p>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.</p>

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, Second Session
March 2026**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	<p>H.R. 6204 Lee (D-NV) Ciscomani (R-AZ)</p> <p>S. 3693 Cortez Masto (D-NV) Curtis (R-UT)</p>	<p>11/20/25: Referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.</p> <p>1/27/26: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.</p>	<p>Large-Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization Act</p> <p>Reauthorizes for another five years the Bureau of Reclamation’s competitive grant program for the planning, design, and construction of large-scale water recycling and reclamation projects.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.</p>	<p>This bill benefits Metropolitan and our member agencies by reauthorizing Reclamation’s program to provide funding for our Pure Water project and other large-scale recycled water projects in the Colorado River Basin and throughout the West.</p>

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, Second Session
March 2026**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	S. 3737 Padilla (D-CA)	1/29/26: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	<p>Growing Resilient Operations from Water Saving and Municipal-Agricultural Reciprocally-beneficial Transactions Act or the “GROW SMART Act”</p> <p>Amends the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible entities for the conduct of innovative approaches to voluntary water partnership agreements among multiple water users and projects conducted by individual agricultural entities.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.</p>	<p>This bill creates a new grant program at the Bureau of Reclamation to fund demonstration projects to assess the feasibility of voluntarily switching to a variety of more water efficient agricultural practices. It could be used to support Metropolitan’s work in the Palo Verde Valley and elsewhere.</p>

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, Second Session
March 2026**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	S.3738 Padilla (D-CA)	1/29/26: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Making Our communities Resilient through Enhancing Water for Agriculture, Technology, the Environment, and Residences Act or the “MORE WATER Act” Amends the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to reauthorize the large-scale water recycling and reuse program, to establish a Water Conveyance Improvement Program.	SUPPORT Based upon 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles	This bill would help boost water supply reliability by extending the Bureau of Reclamation’s water recycling programs and environmental restoration program. It also creates a new grant program to help fix critical water conveyance infrastructure essential to ensuring reliable water deliveries.
Source Water Protection	S. 350 Padilla (D-CA) Daines (R-MT)	7/17/25: Discharged by Unanimous Consent from the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.	Wildfire Emergency Act of 2025 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 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	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.

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, Second Session
March 2026**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 1267 Perez (D-WA) Maloy (R-UT)	2/12/25: Referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure.	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 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	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.

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, Second Session
March 2026**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	<p>H.R. 1459 Crow (D-CO)</p> <p>S. 670 Bennet (D-CO) Wyden (D-OR) Hickenlooper (D-CO) Gallego (D-AZ) Rosen (D-NV)</p>	<p>2/20/25: Referred to the House Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources.</p> <p>2/20/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.</p>	<p>Protect the West Act of 2025</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.</p>	<p>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.</p>

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, Second Session
March 2026**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 2093 Calvert (R-CA) Garamendi (D-CA) Rouzer (R-NC)	3/14/25: Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.	Federal Water Pollution Control Permitting Terms Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) with respect to permitting terms.	SUPPORT Based upon 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	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.
Water Project Authorizations	H.R. 338 Costa (D-CA) Min (D-CA) Valadao (R-CA)	11/19/25: Hearing held before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries	Every Drop Counts Act Amends the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to raise the cap for eligible groundwater storage projects from 30,000 AF per year to 150,000 AF per year.	SUPPORT Based upon 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	Increasing the size of groundwater storage projects eligible to apply for this funding could benefit Metropolitan and our member agencies. The proposed cap of 150,000 AF per year is more than twice the annual storage capacity of the AVEK High Desert Water Bank. The revised program would create a new funding opportunity for larger scale groundwater storage projects in the Central Valley.

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, Second Session
March 2026**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water Project Authorizations	H.R. 1311 Harder (D-CA)	2/13/25: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure.	Stop the Tunnels Act Prohibits the Corps of Engineers from issuing a permit for the Delta Conveyance Project.	OPPOSE Based upon 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	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.



Legislation and Communications Committee

Report on Activities From **Washington, D.C.**

Item 6b

March 9, 2026

Presented by: Abby Schneider, PhD

Report on
Activities
from
Washington,
D.C.

Subject

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

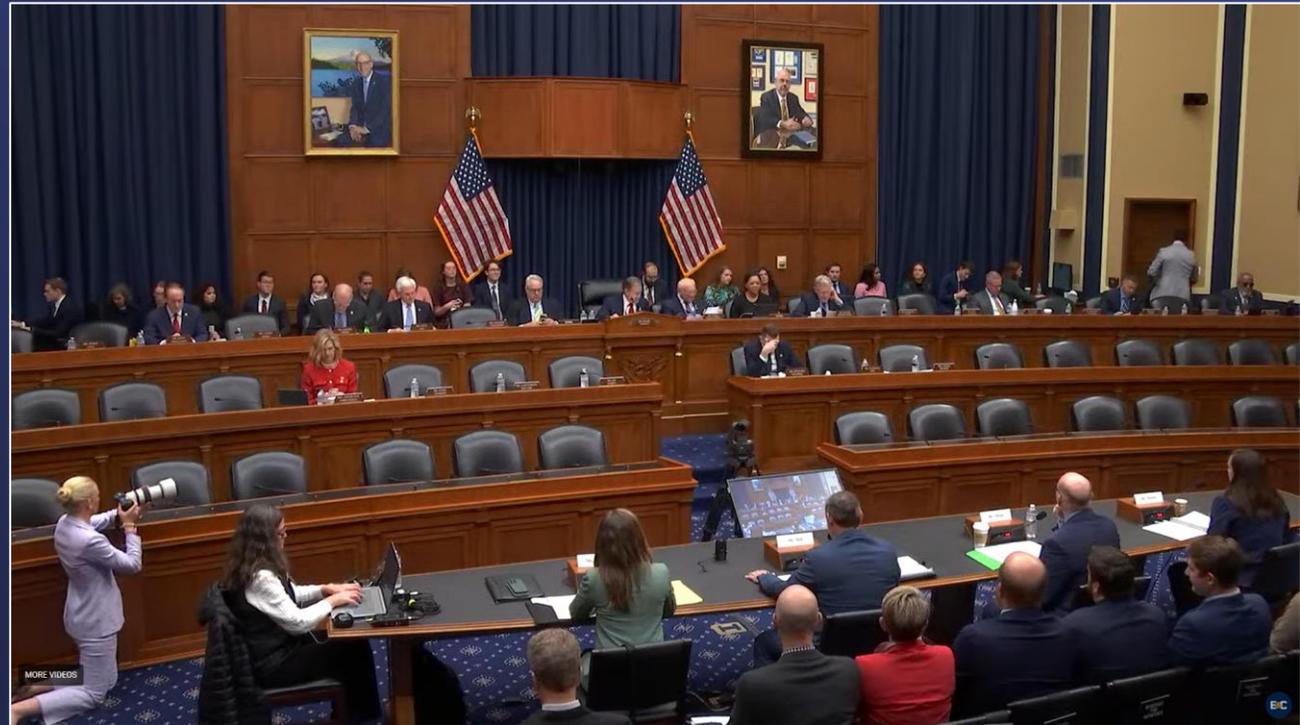
Purpose

To provide a legislative update.

House
Energy &
Commerce
Subcommittee
Hearing



From Source to Tap: Examining Challenges and Opportunities for Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Drinking Water



Water Resources Development Act 2026 Hearings



Legislation & Communications
Committee

State Water Contractors: D.C. Visit





The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
March 9, 2026

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>AB 35 D. Alvarez (D – San Diego)</p> <p>Sponsor: San Diego County</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Natural Resources Committee on 1/14/2026</p>	<p>Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.</p> <p>This bill exempts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4) from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which establishes rulemaking procedures and standards for state agencies in California, to expedite funding allocations.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>AB 35 would streamline the funding process for Proposition 4 projects and allow Metropolitan, its member agencies, and partner agencies to access funds more quickly and accelerate project timelines. Proposition 4 funding includes multiple critical areas for Metropolitan, including funding for groundwater management, water recycling, Delta levees, and repairs to regional conveyance.</p>
<p>AB 259 B. Rubio (D – Baldwin Park)</p> <p>Sponsors: California Special Districts Association, Three Valleys Municipal Water District</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Local Government Committee on 4/21/2025.</p> <p>Two-Year Bill</p>	<p>Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.</p> <p>This bill eliminates the sunset on provisions added to the Brown Act by AB 2449, a bill that provided additional flexibility with Brown Act meeting procedures in the event of a board member’s physical absence in connection with a “just cause” or “emergency circumstances,” allowing those members to participate in the meeting remotely consistent with the process detailed in the bill.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>By removing the sunset on the Brown Act provisions, AB 259 preserves flexibility for Metropolitan and Member Agency board members to meet remotely and continue providing the public with essential services.</p>

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
March 9, 2026

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>AB 794 J. Gabriel (D – Encino)</p> <p>Sponsors: Clean Water Action, Environmental Working Group</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 4/10/2025.</p> <p>Two-Year Bill</p> <p>Dead</p>	<p>California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations</p> <p>This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt an emergency regulation for water quality based on federal regulations in effect on January 19, 2025, regardless of whether the requirements were repealed or amended to be less stringent. The bill would prohibit an emergency regulation adopted pursuant to these provisions from implementing less stringent drinking water standards, as provided, and would authorize the regulation to include requirements that are more stringent than the requirements of the federal regulation. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2026, the SWRCB to adopt an emergency regulation and to initiate a primary drinking water standard for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).</p>	<p>Oppose Unless Amended</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>While AB 794 aims to protect public health, its approach circumvents the established regulatory process for setting Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Metropolitan’s Legislative Priorities and Principles call for using the best available science to protect public health and improve water quality when setting MCLs. The broad scope of this bill, which would allow the SWRCB to set through emergency action primary and secondary MCLs for any chemical with a federal MCL, sets a dangerous precedent and fails to align with well-established regulatory principles.</p>

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
March 9, 2026

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>SB 601 B. Allen (D – Santa Monica)</p> <p>Sponsors: California Coastkeeper Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 7/10/2025.</p> <p>Two-Year Bill</p>	<p>Water: waste discharge</p> <p>The intent of this bill is to restore Clean Water Act protections in California that were removed per the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2023 Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision. However, the bill goes beyond restoring statute and includes several provisions that expand regulatory requirements without the benefit of scientific analysis.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>Currently, AB 601 poses risks to Metropolitan and its member agencies by: adopting EPA’s drinking water standards for PFAS/PFOS, bypassing the state rulemaking process; increasing costs of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) permits for discharges of water when dewatering or operating water supply infrastructure, potentially requiring all such water to be recycled regardless of cost to comply; exposing Metropolitan and its Member Agencies to citizen suits in state court, and, for certain nexus waters, both state and federal court; and creating uncertainty in discharge permitting as the bill’s ambiguous provisions and implications are likely to be litigated.</p>
<p>SB 872 J. McNERNEY (D – Pleasanton)</p>	<p>Amended in Senate Rules Committee on 2/18/2026</p>	<p>Climate Change: funding priorities</p> <p>This bill would require, over the next 20 years, that \$150M is to be appropriated annually to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to support capital improvements to restore water conveyance capacity for state water conveyance systems affected by subsidence. Additionally, this bill would require that \$150M be appropriated to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy for levee improvements that would improve the sustainability of local or state water supplies, and projects that improve instream, riparian, flood plain, and wetland habitat.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>The proposed annual appropriation of \$150M over 20 years to fund capital costs of subsidence repairs could reduce State Water Project charges to contractors and could result in savings of up to \$1.5B for Metropolitan ratepayers.</p> <p>The proposed allocations for improvements to levees within the Delta and other actions to improve the sustainability of local or state water supplies and projects that that improve instream, riparian, floodplain, and wetland habitat would directly benefit Metropolitan by providing additional funding streams for levee improvements and indirectly through improvements within the Delta region.</p>



Legislation and Communications Committee

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Item 6c

March 9, 2026

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, II

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Subject

Report on Activities from Sacramento.

Purpose

To provide a legislative update as we begin legislative session.

Sacramento
Legislative
Highlights

Legislative Calendar

Feb 20, 2026 – Last day for bills to be introduced

Mar 26, 2026 – Spring Recess upon adjournment of session

Day at the Capitol

Sacramento Legislative Highlights



Advanced Clean Fleets

Sacramento Legislative Highlights



Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Legislative Update

- AB 35 (Alvarez) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.
- SB 872 (McNerney) Climate change: funding priorities.
- SB 935 (Choi) Local agency design-build projects: authorization.

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Legislative Update: Wildfire Response

- AB 2013 (Bennett) Fire risk areas: water suppliers: emergency preparedness plan.
- SB 1153 (Caballero) Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water systems: wildfire.
- SB 1417 (Perez) Disaster preparedness: public water systems.





External Affairs

- **Monthly Activity Report for February 2026**

Summary

This report provides a summary of External Affairs activities for January 16, 2026, through February 12, 2026.

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

Detailed Report – External Affairs Group’s Monthly Activities for January 16, 2026, through February 12, 2026

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Monthly Activity Report

Activities Supporting the General Manager’s Business Plan Goals

Develop a Biennial Budget that Meets Metropolitan’s Needs

- Provide transparency and broad engagement to support informed policy making**
 External Affairs is supporting transparency and public engagement in the budget workshops. Media Services produced a postcard with information on the budget workshop series and published information on the website with all workshop dates and how to participate. The Government Affairs Representatives shared the information with civic and business organizations, and the Community Relations Team shared information with the community-based and environmental organizations they work with. In addition, the Creative Design Team worked with the Budget Office to create the budget document cover, and the Press Office drafted talking points for any media inquiries.



2026/27 | 2027/28 Biennial Budget Workshops

Investing in Reliability
The budget the board ultimately adopts will show how Metropolitan plans to invest in maintaining Southern California's regional water system and continue delivering high-quality water to the communities we serve for generations to come.

This spring, we're holding a series of workshops where the public is invited to hear presentations and board discussions on drafts of the budget. These workshops also offer the public an opportunity to share its comments on the draft budget with the board.

All meetings are open to the public. Budget workshops will take place at our Finance, Affordability, Asset Management and Efficiency Committee and Board of Director meetings.

Budget Workshops	Budget Adoption
1. Feb. 10 - 8:00 a.m.	April 14*
2. Feb. 24 - 12 p.m.	
3. March 10*	
4. March 24*	

*Time TBD

Learn more: Find agendas, meeting times, and participation details at the following link or scan the QR code: www.metro.net/govaffairs



How to Participate

Members of the public may provide public comments to the Board:

- In Person: 700 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Teleconference: instructions are on each Committee and Board agenda
- In Writing: Email to BoardExecutiveSecretary@metro2a.com by 3 p.m. the business day before the meeting.

Metropolitan's requirements for lobbying registration and reporting can be found on our Ethics Office page: www.metro.net/management/ethicsoffice/

Execute CAMP4W Implementation Strategy to Integrate Climate Adaptation Districtwide

- Monitor and report progress**
 As part of the CAMP4W Implementation Plan, the Community Relations Team hosted a public workshop on developing community engagement standards. Approximately 75 people participated in the hybrid event and discussed best practices for engaging communities on drinking water issues. The workshop created space for meaningful dialogue, allowing a diverse group of external participants to share perspectives, lessons learned, and recommendations that will help inform and strengthen Metropolitan’s approach to engagement as CAMP4W advances.



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Monthly Activity Report

Staff hosted a meeting and tour with the Council for Watershed Health and their ReDesign LA community-based organizations, ending an 18-month tour series to build understanding of CAMP4W, water challenges in communities, and strengthen relationships.

Develop Post-2026 Guidelines and Negotiate Implementation Agreements

- **Educate legislators so they will champion Metropolitan’s interests.**

Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Sutley, Legislation and Communications Chair Lewitt, Colorado River Board Member and MWD Director Cordero, MWD Director Denham, General Manager Deshmukh, and Assistant General Manager Zinke traveled to Washington, D.C. (Feb. 2-5) to meet with California’s delegation and Bureau of Reclamation officials. Discussions focused on Colorado River issues, including the need for a seven-state consensus agreement for the Colorado River; interstate water transfers; protecting hydropower generation at Hoover Dam; and allowing interest to be collected on non-federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program.

Federal Legislative staff provided updates to congressional staff on the status of discussions on post-2026 Colorado River operations, the importance of a seven-state consensus to Metropolitan, and Metropolitan’s priorities for future River operations.



Senator Alex Padilla



Senator Adam Schiff



Rep. Ken Calvert



Rep. Laura Friedman

The Press Office coordinated an interview between Bill Hasencamp and Politico reporter Annie Snider regarding Colorado River negotiations and potential funding for conservation.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Monthly Activity Report

Decide on Sites Reservoir and Protect our Bay Delta Interests

- Maintain and advocate for Metropolitan’s interests in Regional Water Supply Reliability**
 Media Services worked with the Bay Delta Initiatives Team to update a fact sheet on Metropolitan’s landscape restoration efforts on Webb Tract.



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Monthly Activity Report

Complete Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Planning for Board to Consider Pure Water Southern California

- **Complete EIR analyses and public process**

Over the past month, a major milestone was achieved for the Pure Water Southern California program with the Metropolitan Board of Directors' unanimous certification of the Final EIR, formally completing more than five years of environmental analysis, outreach, and public input. This action marks a significant step forward in the potential development of one of the world's largest water recycling programs and clears the way for future board consideration related to phasing, funding, design, and construction.

Throughout the environmental review process, the outreach team supported extensive stakeholder coordination and community engagement efforts to ensure an inclusive and transparent process. The Final EIR includes responses to all public comments received during the public comment period and reflects the collaborative work conducted with partner agencies, regulatory stakeholders, and communities surrounding the project. The Press Office issued a press release on the completed EIR to commemorate this important board action.

In addition, staff continued program coordination activities, including conducting multiple tours at the Grace F. Napolitano Innovation Center with the San Diego County Water Authority, City of Burbank, UCLA Nursing students, and the American Society of Civil Engineers Life Member Forum. Staff also participated in a regulatory meeting and provided a program update to the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District board.



Touring the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Monthly Activity Report

Achieve Equitable Supply Reliability for State Water Project-Dependent Areas

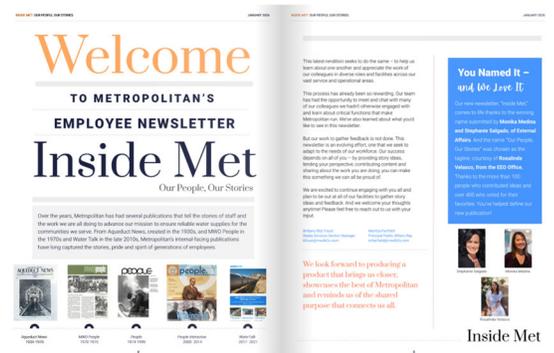
- Execute board-approved supply reliability projects.**
 External Affairs coordinated with Engineering Services to organize the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations project groundbreaking event on January 21, 2026, a significant milestone for the project that brought together board members, elected officials, stakeholders, and project partners to commemorate the start of construction. Vice Chair Sutley and Directors Erdman, Lewitt and McMillan spoke on the importance of the project for water supply reliability for communities dependent on State Water Project supplies. Board members and leadership from Calleguas Municipal Water District, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power attended along with Director Jay of Torrance. The event received strong media coverage, with the Press Office coordinating several media interviews.



Improve the Workplace and Promote START Values

- Promote START values (Safety, Trust, Accountability, Respect, Teamwork)**
 Media Services distributed the first edition of the “Inside Met” newsletter, including a digital version emailed to all employees as well as print publications provided to every Metropolitan facility. A postcard was created to advertise the newsletter to employees and promote ways for staff to get involved.

Media Services held a “Media Pop-Up” at Metropolitan’s La Verne facility to connect with employees, gather feedback on the “Inside Met” newsletter and collect story ideas for future editions.



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Monthly Activity Report

Media Services created an engineering social media reel featuring a current engineering intern at Weymouth. The reel was developed to promote the Engineering Co-Op Summer program, and it showed the teamwork dynamic on the construction management team.

Other Activities Supporting the General Manager’s Strategic Priorities

Empower the workforce and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion

Media Services collaborated with the Black Employees’ Association on a Martin Luther King, Jr. social media post celebrating the diversity of our workforce. Engineer Doaa Aboul-Hosn was featured as a Water Champion for her work on the Project Labor Agreement.



Water Champions
Project Labor Agreement:
Investing in the Workforce



Adapt to changing climate and water resources

The Press Office issued a statement on the increase of the State Water Project allocation to 30 percent and coordinated an interview between General Manager Deshmukh and Politico reporter Camille von Kaenel to introduce him to Politico’s California Climate readers, covering, among other things, his thoughts on climate adaptation.

Protect public health, the regional economy, and Metropolitan’s assets

Senator Padilla introduced S.3738, the Making Our communities Resilient through Enhancing Water for Agriculture, Technology, the Environment, and Residences Act or MORE WATER Act on January 29, 2026. This bill advances several key Metropolitan priorities for the Bureau of Reclamation. It extends the large-scale recycled water program, increases the cap on federal funding for local water recycling projects from \$40 million to \$50 million, and establishes a new grant program to help fund repairs to California’s water conveyance system.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Monthly Activity Report

The State Legislature passed a key step in the legislative process with the February 20, 2026, bill introduction deadline. For this year, a total of 1,918 bills were introduced, and policy committees will begin hearing bills in March.

Metropolitan adopted a support position on SB 872 (McNerney) which seeks to increase state investment in subsidence and Delta levee repairs. The proposal calls for \$300 million annually from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and would ensure California has access to stable water supplies, while also preserving the affordability of drinking water.

Metropolitan staff are currently reviewing bills for positions and will provide an update to the Board on key bills of interest at the next Legislative and Communications committee meeting.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Monthly Activity Report

Partner with interested parties and the communities we serve

Legislative Services

Metropolitan sponsored the Municipal Water District of Orange County's Water Policy Forum and Dinner, featuring Metropolitan General Manager Deshmukh as the keynote speaker. Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Camacho, and Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan, and Miller, along with Assistant General Managers Zinke, Bednarski, and General Counsel Scully attended.

Legislative Services staff attended the Ventura Council of Governments board meeting and provided a report on the Colorado River negotiations and the Pure Water environmental planning process.

Legislative Services staff participated in government affairs and policy committee meetings for the following organizations:

- Association of Water Agencies – Water Issues Committee
- Carson Chamber of Commerce – Government Affairs Committee
- Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality – Board/Regulatory Committee
- Corona Chamber of Commerce – Good Morning Corona
- El Segundo Chamber of Commerce – Government and Military Affairs Committee
- Gateway Chambers Alliance – Government Affairs Committee
- Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce – Legislative Roundtable
- Inland Action – General Member Meeting
- Inland Empire Economic Partnership – Advocacy & Government Affairs Committee
- League of California Cities, LA County Division – Legislative Committee & Board of Directors
- Los Angeles County Business Federation – Water and Advocacy Committees and Board Meeting
- Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce – Government Affairs Committee and Board Installation
- Orange County Business Council – Government Affairs Committee
- San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce – Sustainability and Infrastructure Committee
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership – Legislative Action Committee
- Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce – Government Affairs Committee
- Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce – Legislative Affairs Committee
- South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce – Board meeting
- Southern California Water Coalition – Legislative Affairs Committee
- Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce – Government Affairs Policy Meeting
- Upland Chamber of Commerce – Advocacy in Action Committee

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Monthly Activity Report

Member Services and Public Outreach

Member Services and Public Outreach staff hosted Western Municipal Water District’s Education Coordinators on a tour of Metropolitan’s Lake Mathews facility. The visit highlighted how Metropolitan and its member agencies work together to strengthen system reliability and operational redundancy.

Staff hosted a Coro Fellow for their government placement in the fellowship. During their time at Metropolitan, the fellow learned about the agency and completed a project on furthering trust in tap water.

Education Program

Education staff continued to engage students and educators with ongoing field trips to Diamond Valley Lake, the launch of Water Engineering for Good – a middle and high school STEM program, and several educational events.

In collaboration with the Inspection Trips Team, Education staff hosted a Colorado River Aqueduct inspection trip for educators, provided professional development focused on infrastructure, with hands-on activities addressing water quality, groundwater, watershed restoration, and the interconnected systems of water conveyance and distribution, as teachers used colorful building blocks to construct and test a “gravity flow” conveyance system.



In partnership with Pando Populus, staff took part in a two-day Pando Days summit alongside industry partners, community college and university faculty members to strengthen cross-sector collaborations supporting innovative sustainability and learning projects.

The student calendar art was displayed at the Padre Dam and Helix Water Agencies in San Diego.



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Monthly Activity Report

Career awareness efforts continued through participation in “Evening with Industry” for Hemet Unified School District, and the Water Energy Education Alliance Career Day, which connected high school students across Orange County to benefit regional partners, including Eastern Municipal Water District and the Municipal Water District of Orange County.



Community Partnering Program

The Community Partnering Program sponsored four water education and conservation partnerships this month:

- Municipal Water District of Orange County will procure hands-on watershed models to share how water is treated and flows in communities during the 2026 Orange County Children’s Water Festival and other events.
- Sustainable Claremont’s Earth Day Celebration will provide approximately 300 guests the opportunity to participate in a water-wise garden workshop and receive a California native plant.
- Walnut Valley Water District’s Community Water Wise Garden Elementary Project will create an outdoor water learning experience through a school landscape transformation at Vejar Elementary School.
- Steam100’s 3rd Annual Veterans’ Contributions to Careers in Water will provide veterans with an opportunity to highlight water careers, pathways, and workforce development in the water sector to K-12 students.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Monthly Activity Report

Inspection Trips Program

The Inspection Trips Team organized and led trips to Pure Water Southern California for Directors Fong-Sakai and Ramos and to the Hoover Dam and the Colorado River Aqueduct for Directors Garza and Pressman. The team also led a trip to Diamond Valley Lake for Metropolitan’s Information Technology Mentorship Program.



Guests of Pure Water Southern California Inspection Trip with Directors Fong-Sakai and Ramos

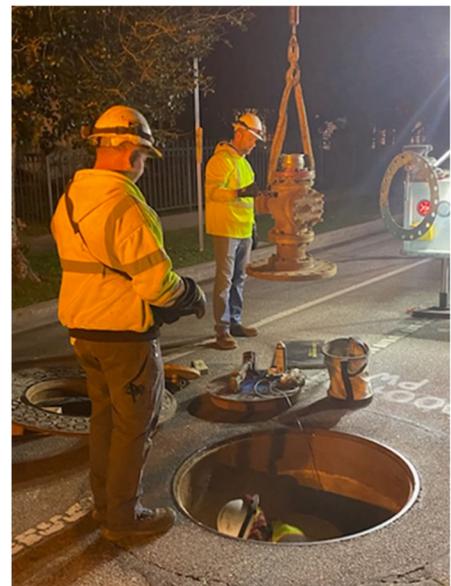


Guests of Hoover-Colorado River Aqueduct Inspection Trip with Directors Garza and Pressman

Construction Outreach

Over the past month, the Construction Outreach Team continued proactive communications and coordination to support major milestones and operational activities across the system.

The West Valley Feeder shutdown was successfully completed, with outreach efforts ensuring stakeholders remained informed throughout the duration of the work. In preparation for upcoming activities, staff mailed notifications and coordinated communications regarding scheduled drainage line repairs to minimize community impacts and maintain transparency.





Legislation and Communications Committee

External Affairs Activities

Item 7a

March 9, 2026

Presented by: Dee Zinke

Report on
Activities
from
External
Affairs

Subject
External Affairs Activities

Purpose
To provide management announcements
and highlights for External Affairs

Sharing Metropolitan's Priorities

State and Federal Government Outreach

Engaging Legislators

- **Upcoming**
 - March 17-18: Board Sacramento Day
 - Water Matters in-region events with directors, legislators, community leaders
 - District Office briefings

 Controlling Invasive Species:
Golden Mussels 

After first being detected in the Port of Stockton in October 2024, golden mussels have quickly spread through California's water delivery system. The invasive species has been detected in various points of the State Water Project, including the east and west branches, reaching infrastructure in Southern California. The extent of the invasion is still under study, but it is already creating a challenge for water managers across the state, who are implementing measures to control their spread.

Like other invasive mussel species, golden mussels can clog water infrastructure and harm ecosystems and water quality. They cannot be eradicated in water delivery systems, with constantly moving water. But they can be controlled through thoughtful, cost-effective management and careful coordination between water agencies.

Metropolitan has been successfully managing a similar invasive species, quagga mussels, in its Colorado River Aqueduct for 18 years, maintaining reliable deliveries despite the ongoing challenge. We are preparing to use similar management techniques to work with the California Department of Water Resources and other water agencies to help control golden mussels in our State Water Project supplies. Because that system involves greater interconnection among many agencies, collaboration is key to their successful control.

What damage can golden mussels cause?

Clog systems: Golden mussels attach in dense clusters, clogging conveyance systems, pipelines, pumps, filters, and hydropower facilities.

Disrupt ecosystems: They alter food webs and nutrient cycles, outcompete native species, transfer contaminants up the food chain, and can severely impact fisheries.

Change water quality: As filter feeders, golden mussels remove particles from the water, causing increased water clarity and allowing more sunlight to penetrate through a water body. This can potentially cause more cyanobacterial blooms, including toxin-producing blooms.



2.17.26

Learning about Recycled Water

Engaging Students and Teachers

WaterReuse Youth Summit

Winning teams present
at WaterReuse
Symposium
March 10, 4 pm

- Collaboration with National WaterReuse, West Basin MWD, and Water Replenishment District
- Focus areas: engineering, water quality and public acceptance



Urban Water Institute Spring Conference

Learning from Colleagues

Discussing Key Issues



- GM Deshmukh: Change Makers
- Liji Thomas, DEI Officer: Beyond the Labels – Understanding Generational Changes in the Workforce
- Heather Collins, AWWA President: How to Change Public Perception
- Bill Hasencamp, Colorado Resources Manager: A Changing Colorado River



Legislation and Communications Committee



Item #7a Slide 5

