

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
February 13, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session

| Topic | Bill/Author | Status | Title – Summary | MWD Position | Effects on MWD |
|--------------|--|---|--|--|---|
| Conservation | H.R. 3490 (Gallego, D-AZ) | 5/19/23: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. | Water Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2023 Authorizes a new grant program to help wastewater and drinking water systems detect leaks and reduce water loss. | SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022 | This bill directly benefits Metropolitan and its member agencies by creating a grant program to help cover the costs for conveyance leak detection and reduce supplier-side water loss. It could be used for a variety of investments including smart water network technologies, real-time sensing technologies, real-time decision support, and advanced metering infrastructure. |
| Conservation | S. 2166 (Padilla, D-CA) | 7/19/23: Hearing held before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power. | Voluntary Agricultural Land Repurposing Act Authorizes a grant program at the Bureau of Reclamation to provide States and Indian Tribes with funding to establish programs to voluntarily repurpose agricultural land to reduce consumptive water use. | SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022 | This new program would provide federal funding to support California’s 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. |

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| 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. |
| 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. |

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| 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. |

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| 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> |

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| Source Water Protection | H.R. 1181 (Garamendi, D-CA) | 2/27/23: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment | Federal Water Pollution Control Permitting Terms Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) with respect to permitting terms. | SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022 | This legislation would extend the maximum term for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits issued under the Clean Water Act from 5 to 10 years, for public agencies that have demonstrated compliance with existing permit conditions. This change is designed to better reflect the construction schedules for public agencies. |
| Source Water Protection | H.R. 3439 (Panetta, D-CA) S. 1715 (Feinstein, D-CA) | 6/23/23: Referred to the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and Workforce, Energy and Commerce and Natural Resources. 5/18/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. | Wildfire Emergency Act of 2023 To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and for other purposes. | SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022 | This bill has water supply, water quality, and ecosystem benefits for the Colorado River watershed and State Water Project watershed. Proper forest management and wildfire prevention promotes runoff, helps protect water quality, and improves habitat. |

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| 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. |

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| 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. |

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| 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. |

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| Water Science | H.R. 2429 (Lee, D-NV) S. 1118 (Cortez-Mastro, D-NV) | <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> |

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| 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. |

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| 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. |