



Legislation and Communications Committee

# Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025

Item 9-3

November 19, 2024

Item #9-3

Legislative  
Priorities and  
Principles for  
2025

## Subject

Annual review of staff-recommended updates to the Legislative Priorities and Principles

## Purpose

Seek Board feedback & direction

## Next Steps

- Assess, incorporate and/or respond to input
- Return for Board adoption – December 2024

## Purpose & Process

- Annual update
- Provide Board guidance & direction on anticipated legislative/regulatory issues
- Seek & incorporate feedback and input
- Identify eight Metropolitan & regional priorities
- Identify any Metropolitan-sponsored legislative initiative(s)
- Express Metropolitan legislative principles in 6 over-arching strategic areas
- After adoption, posted publicly on website

# Summary of High-Level Changes

- Streamline document
  - Reduce repetitive phrases
  - Eliminate lists of examples
  - Keep bullets intentionally more general to speak to policy issue & principle
- Reflect recent developments in law, regulations, and anticipated legislative activity
- Add new priority to address public agency transition to zero emissions fleet & equipment
- Add a new MWD-sponsored bill proposal(s)

## Summary of High-Level Changes

- Revised 3 bullets in I:A Water Quality & Treatment to:
  - 2 – add recycled water
  - 3 – add treatment & mitigation measures
  - 5 – express support for CEC Action Fund
- I.B.1 was incorporated into the description
- Revised 1 bullet 5 in III.B. Colorado River Resources to express support for tribal settlement, consistent with the Law of the River

# Summary of High-Level Changes

- Revised IV.E. Workforce Development and Safety
- Revised V. Infrastructure to add power infrastructure throughout; also include support for infrastructure that complements both existing supplies and *operations*.
- VI.A Climate Resiliency – combined bullets 1, 6
- VI.B Emergency Preparedness – add hazard mitigation throughout

# Current Actions & Next Steps

- Board information item posted - November 6
- Present to Member Agency Legislative Coordinators - November 7
- Present to Member Agency General Managers - November 15
- Information item to Board - November 19
- Board action item posting – anticipated November 27
- Action Item to Board for adoption - December 10

# Top Legislative Priorities

1. Imported water supply resiliency & reliability
2. Demand management and water use efficiency
3. Pure Water Southern California & long-term supply reliability improvements
4. Support funding for regional conveyance
5. Drinking water quality & access to safe and reliable water; polluter pays principle
6. Ecosystem restorations accounting for evolving climate and risk analyses
7. Improve water affordability without burdening existing ratepayers/customers
8. **NEW:** Assist public agencies in the zero-emissions fleet & equipment transition, maintaining reliability & emergency response capabilities



## Possible MWD- sponsored State Bill(s)

- Amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date to allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan. (Approved November 2023, M.I. 53444)
- Amend the Public Contract Code to increase the minimum dollar threshold from \$25,000 to \$75,000 for public works construction contracts competitive bidding requirements (*contingent on 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

- Revise bullet 2 – add recycled water
- Revise bullet 3 – add treatment and mitigation measures
- Revise bullet 5 – support for CEC Action Fund

## B. Water Governance, Affordability & Funding

- Incorporate former bullet 1 in description

## II. Regional Water Resource Management

- A. Conservation
- B. Desalination & Groundwater Remediation
- C. Recycled Water
- D. Local Supply Development
- E. Watershed Management

No major changes

## III. Imported Water Supply

### A. Bay-Delta Initiatives

No major changes

### B. Colorado River Resources

- Revised Bullet 5 – add support for settlement of tribal reserved right claims consistent with the Law of the River

### C. State Water Project

No major changes

## IV. Sustainability, Resiliency, & Innovation

No major changes in A, B, C, D, or F

- A. Carbon Neutrality
- B. Water/Energy Nexus
- C. Renewable Energy
- D. Environmental Stewardship
- E. Workforce Development and Safety
  - Add bullet 3 – to promote safe working environments
- F. Innovation

## V. Infrastructure

- Include power infrastructure throughout
  - A. Funding and financing tools
  - B. Equitable cost-sharing
  - C. Expansion of funding; expedite approvals & reporting
  - D. Funding for public share of costs
  - E. Support infrastructure that complements existing water supplies and operations to ensure reliability for Metropolitan & MAs

## VI. System Resiliency

### A. Climate Resiliency

- Combine bullets 1, 6

### B. Emergency Preparedness

- Add hazard mitigation throughout

### C. Physical and Cyber Security

No major changes

### B. Chemical Security

No major changes



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