

Legislation and Communications Committee



# Express support if amended for AB 523 (Irwin) Metropolitan water districts: alternate representative

Item 7-9

April 7, 2025

# AB 523 (Irwin) MWD Act Amendment

## Subject

Express support if amended for AB 523 (Irwin) Metropolitan Water Districts: Alternate Representative. The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA.

## Purpose

To deliberate and vote on the Board's position on active legislation impacting the Metropolitan Board of Directors.

AB 523  
(Irwin)  
MWD Act  
Amendment

## Summary

Author: Assemblymember Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks)

Sponsor: Eastern Municipal Water District

Current bill text: Authorizes the appointment of an alternate board representative.

As proposed to be amended: This bill would allow board members to designate a proxy.

AB 523  
(Irwin)  
MWD Act  
Amendment

## Proposed Amendment

As proposed to be amended, would allow each member agency that only has one representative the ability to designate a proxy representative to vote in their place when the primary representative is unavailable.

Proxy must be another current Metropolitan board member.

This would not include a sunset provision.

AB 523  
(Irwin)  
MWD Act  
Amendment

## Specific Provisions

Participation of the proxy does not include assuming any board officer positions.

The proxy designation shall be memorialized by a written instrument and filed with the board secretary one business day in advance of the meeting.

Any conflict of interest that applies to the designating representative also applies to the proxy for purposes of voting on any conflicted items.

# Consideration for Future Amendments

## AB 523 (Irwin) MWD Act Amendment

Assemblymember Irwin committed to protecting the limited scope of this bill.

Metropolitan and Eastern MWD to oppose hostile amendments.

# AB 523 (Irwin) MWD Act Amendment

## Benefits of Proposed Amendments

Assigning the proxy to another member of the Board removes concerns with eroding board continuity and confidentiality.

Proxy option reduces cost pressure on designating member agencies.

Avoids concerns about expanding the Board of Directors and removes need to reopen MWD Act via a sunset provision

AB 523  
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## Concerns with Proposal

Opening up the MWD Act exposes Metropolitan to risk of hostile amendments.



# AB 523 (Irwin) MWD Act Amendment

## Options

### Option 1:

Express support if amended for AB 523 (Irwin)  
Metropolitan water districts: alternative  
representative

### Option 2:

Take no action

