

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

F. Jung, Chair
A. Kassakhian, Vice Chair
J. Abdo
L. Ackerman
B. Dennstedt
A. Fellow
J. Garza
G. Gray
M. Luna
J. McMillan
T. Phan
B. Pressman
M. Ramos
T. Smith

Legislation and Communications Committee

Meeting with Board of Directors *

May 13, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Agendas, live streaming, meeting schedules, and other board materials are available here: <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. If you have technical difficulties with the live streaming page, a 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 via in-person or teleconference. To participate via teleconference 1-833-548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 876 9484 9772 or click <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87694849772?pwd=V3dGZGRYUjJ3allqdUxXTIJRM044Zz09>

Monday, May 13, 2024 Meeting Schedule

**09:00 a.m. EOT
11:00 a.m. LEG
12:30 p.m. Break
01:00 p.m. Legal
02:30 p.m. OWS**

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

Teleconference Locations:

525 Via La Selva • Redondo Beach, CA 90277

City Hall • 1546 Camden Place • Fullerton, CA 92832

Cedars Sinai Medical Center • 8700 Beverly Blvd • Los Angeles, CA 90048

Conference Room • 1545 Victory Blvd. 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 ITEMS -- ACTION ****

- 2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

- A. Approval of the minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for April 8, 2024 (copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions) [21-3307](#)

Attachments: [05132024 LEG 2A \(04082024\) Minutes](#)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

NONE

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

NONE

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

NONE

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Results of Focus Groups on Water Issues and Public Trust [21-3355](#)

Attachments: [05132024 LEG 6a Presentation](#)

- b. Update on Education Programs [21-3356](#)

Attachments: [05132024 LEG 6b Presentation](#)

- c. Report on Activities from Sacramento [21-3357](#)

Attachments: [05142024 LEG 6c State Legislative Matrix](#)
[05132024 LEG 6c Presentation](#)

- d. Report on Activities from Washington, D.C. [21-3358](#)

Attachments: [05142024 LEG 6d Federal Legislative Matrix](#)
[05132024 LEG 6d Presentation](#)

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. External Affairs activities [21-3308](#)

Attachments: [05132024 LEG 7a EA Monthly Activities Report](#)
[05132024 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

April 8, 2024

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow (teleconference posted location), Garza, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, McMillan, Phan (teleconference posted location), Pressman (teleconference posted location), Ramos (teleconference posted location), and Smith.

Members absent: Director Luna.

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong (AB 2449 just cause), Camacho, Erdman, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), Miller, Morris, Ortega, Peterson and Seckel.

Director Armstrong indicated he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” regarding illness. Director Armstrong appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee Staff present: Hagekhalil, Horton, Novoa, Wheeler, and Zinke

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

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Legislation and Communications Committee for March 11, 2024.

Director Garza made a motion, seconded by Director Kassakhian to approve item 2A.

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, McMillan, Phan, Pressman, Ramos and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Director Luna.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 1 absent

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-6 Express Support for broadening Metropolitan’s board priorities to include funding for Delta levee maintenance in the State of California’s climate resiliency bond proposals, AB 1567 (Garcia-D) and SB 867 (Allen-D); the General Manager has determined that the action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Jay L. Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Rep, State Legislative

Motion: Express support for broadening Metropolitan’s Board priorities to include funding for Delta levee maintenance in the State of California’s climate resiliency bond proposals, AB 1567 (Garcia-D) and SB 867 (Allen-D).

The following Directors provided comments or asked a question:

1. Jung
2. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors’ comments or questions.

After completion of the presentation, Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Garza to approve item 7-6.

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, McMillan, Phan, Pressman, Ramos and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Director Luna.

The motion for item 7-6 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 1 absent

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Quarterly State and Federal Regulatory Matrices

Chair Jung stated board reports are available on the website.

- b. Subject: Update on Activities for the 50th Anniversary of the Water Quality Program

Presented by: Paul Rochelle, Section Manager – Water Quality
Andrew Au, Principal Graphic Art Designer

Mr. Rochelle and Mr. Au provided an update on the Water Quality Lab and the celebration of its 50th anniversary. With a slideshow displaying the new installation and the different features that it showcases.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Jung
- 2.) Garza
- 3.) Gray
- 4.) Fellow
- 5.) Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- c. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the state budget, Sacramento legislative calendar, GM Hagekhalil's legislative meetings, two year bills of interest: climate bonds and water rights.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Dennstedt
- 2.) Gray
- 3.) Garza
- 4.) Jung
- 5.) Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- d. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Chair Jung stated board reports are available on the website.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs Activities
Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on federal issues, integrating research into messaging, Earth Day community events and outreach, May 2024 Water Awareness Month and Metropolitan's Year End Review.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

1. Peterson
2. Morris
3. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Fred Jung
Chair

Legislation and Communications Committee



Results of Focus Groups on Water Issues and Public Trust

Item 6a

May 13, 2024



Metropolitan Water District Focus Groups *Conducted December 2023*

Research Approach

- ▶ This qualitative research project was designed to gather feedback from Southern California residents on overall trust in agencies and institutions generally, and in organizations like Metropolitan specifically.
- ▶ The groups were also designed to generate discussion around specific water-related issues, namely water supply and water quality, and to engage participants as to whether and how their views toward those issues impact their opinions of an agency like Metropolitan.

- ▶ Total of 8 focus groups.
 - 4 groups with Engaged Community Members.
 - 4 groups with Bottled Water Consumers.
- ▶ Conducted online and facilitated by a trained, professional moderator.
- ▶ Mix of key audience segments, including gender, language, and household income.

Focus groups are qualitative research and findings are, by design, not meant to be projected onto a larger population.

Key Findings: Trust in Public Agencies

- ▶ Most participants were strongly distrustful of politicians, government, and corporations. Skepticism has developed from years of perceived inaction or failure to deliver on promises.
- ▶ While most local agencies did not face the same level of skepticism, participants were hesitant to extend their trust to agencies they knew little about.
- ▶ Though many were aware of water supply infrastructure projects and programs, few knew who is responsible for these efforts.
- ▶ Awareness of Metropolitan Water District was low.
- ▶ Metropolitan's low name-recognition insulates the agency somewhat from the distrust placed onto other government bodies.

Key Findings: Trust in Water Quality

- ▶ Participants had relatively high awareness of water supply issues, including drought and water conservation efforts in the area.
- ▶ For many, their preference for bottled water was now a lifestyle choice rather than an active decision based on dissatisfaction with their water.
- ▶ Few saw the financial or environmental cost as a deterrent from buying bottled water.
- ▶ Most had not personally tested their water or checked quality reports, but assumed their water would be unclean.



Trust & Skepticism

General Mood

- ▶ A general feeling of pessimism is pervasive. Trust in government has been severely eroded in recent decades.
- ▶ For a majority of participants, government and politicians are viewed interchangeably; failures of politicians diminish trust that anyone will keep their promises.

“...we see a lot of politicians [...] you see people making talking points so they can get a clip on Fox News [...] and no one's really actually addressing the issue in a meaningful way...”

“We're not in these rooms or on these boards. How do we know if we can trust these folks? How do we know if they're doing a good job? What would that even mean?”

- ▶ Participants were frustrated by perceived lack of progress or lack of success in dealing with big water-related issues.
- ▶ Many believed more rainwater should be captured.
- ▶ Some felt that water supply just shouldn't be an issue in California.
- ▶ Desalination and other large-scale projects were perceived as too expensive and impractical.

“...when there was a lot of heavy rainfall, there were a lot of areas that were flooded [...] And that water could have been reclaimed and unfortunately it wasn't.”

- ▶ Many pointed to “profit incentives” as the source for their trust in private companies.
- ▶ There were indications that public agencies such as Metropolitan could be an effective check on private company and citizen behavior.

“If [a private company’s] reputation sucks, they're not going to make money. Nobody's going to go to them and buy their products or use their services.”

“You need the regional organizations. The water has to get from the Colorado River to my bathtub, it doesn't just magically appear. Someone has to build the pipes and have the water flow through.”

Key Components of Trust

- ▶ **Transparency.** Participants want agencies to share as much information as is practical.
- ▶ **Demonstrated track record; demonstration projects.** People want to see results so they can judge for themselves. They also responded favorably to what they felt were new or novel approaches, such as shade balls in reservoirs.
- ▶ **Independent, third-party validators.** People appreciate third-party validation in addition to self-promotion.
- ▶ **Pure motivations.** For many, a factor of trust in government agencies centered around the fact that they don't have a profit motive and that they are working purely for the public interest.

Perceptions of Metropolitan

- ▶ Awareness of Metropolitan is very low. Some had heard the agency name but there was little specific knowledge of the agency.
- ▶ Some liked the concept of a regional agency overseeing the smaller local water agencies, while others wondered why there was a need for so many different agencies.
- ▶ For some participants, the lack of awareness was an opportunity to develop trust in Metropolitan since they had not heard anything bad about them.
- ▶ However, many opinions were neutral, not strongly negative nor positive. Participants' base-level skepticism of government kept positive opinions muted.



Water Issues

Water Supply

- ▶ Water supply and drought were top-of-mind concerns for most participants.
- ▶ Most recognized that water supply is still an issue in Southern California despite 2023 rains.
- ▶ Many participants say they had personally reduced their water usage, particularly for outdoor landscaping.
- ▶ A recurring perception was that California's water supply issues stem from inefficient management, not lack of rain.

“All of these individual campaigns, while important, I think wouldn't move the needle as much as if we were to build these huge infrastructure and make investments.”

Water Quality

- ▶ Detailed knowledge is very limited, but there are perceptions that tap water quality may be an issue generally.
- ▶ Participants assessed their water quality on many factors, including taste, smell, clarity, and how it felt on hair and skin.
- ▶ Despite overall mistrust and skepticism, many indicated they would trust a water quality report from their water agency. Few had any awareness or knowledge of their own water quality reports.

“If someone handed me a Japanese book, I would believe it's a Japanese book, but I wouldn't understand it... it's kind of the same thing with the water report. I can read it, but it doesn't necessarily inform me.”

“I have it filtered, but from what I see in the report, they're constantly improving the quality of the water. I do tend to believe what the reports say.”

Bottled Water

- ▶ For many, the preference for bottled water was a learned habit, not a reaction to a specific complaint against their tap water.
- ▶ Some noted that water quality concerns in other locations, like Michigan or Mexico, pushed them to err on the side of caution with their own tap water.

“Somebody comes over to my house, oh, God forbid I couldn't pour them a regular glass of water. You have to get a bottled water.”

“I think it all started in the late '80s with bottled water companies advertising on TV, like Arrowhead and Evian and Perrier. That's when the move went into bottled water.”



Conclusions

Conclusions & Recommendations

- ▶ Skepticism and mistrust is pervasive and has been built up over years.
- ▶ Perceptions of government have been soured by instances in which people believe the government (or politicians) didn't deliver on promises.
- ▶ Metropolitan may benefit from effectively communicating the success of its own efforts to address and improve Southern California water supply issues; particularly any new or novel approaches.
- ▶ Communicating the mission-driven work of Metropolitan on water supply and water quality may help distinguish these efforts. People want to believe that their government is working for the public good, not for self-interest.



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Legislation and Communications Committee

Update on Education Programs

Item 6b

May 13, 2024

Update on Education Outreach

Subject

Report on outreach to students, teachers and parents

Purpose

To provide an update on the activities, events, and programs promoting conservation and stewardship for grades Pre-K through 12 and college.



INCLUSION

Include underserved schools, students with disabilities, and tribes

Innovate using technology, project-based learning, and traditional methodologies



INNOVATION

Imagine creative ways to engage students and educators

Inspire students to 'take action' and become environmental leaders



IMAGINATION



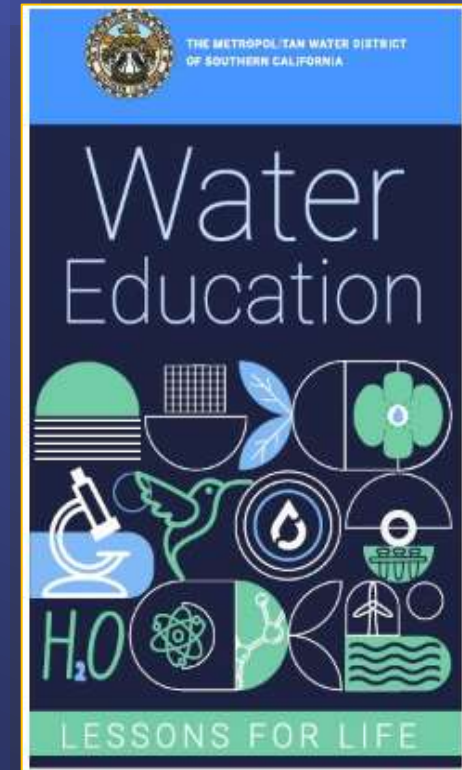
INSPIRATION

EDUCATION PROGRAM PILLARS



40th Anniversary of Metropolitan's Education Program

- Award-winning curriculum supplements for grades K – 12
- Estimated direct outreach to 800,000 students, teachers, and parents (20,000 annually)
- Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award winner
- Statewide Advisory Council members
 - Environmental Literacy
 - Workforce Development
- Educational impact, locally and globally
- Scouting programs, community outreach



Spotlight on Flagship Programs

Water Engineering for Good (STEM)

- 124 students from 8 schools in grades 7 - 12
- Winning schools:
 - Oxford Academy (MWDOC)
 - Garvey Intermediate (USGVMWD)

Water Journeys Field Trips to Pure Water Southern California & Bixby Marshland

- 413 students from 11 schools in grades 5 - college

2024 Calendar: Student Art Program

- 234 students from schools served by 26 member and retail agencies
- Traveling Gallery: 7,500 guests

WE4G



BIXBY MARSHLAND



WATER JOURNEYS



STUDENT ART





Diamond Valley Lake Field Trips

- 1,800 students from 10 school districts in grades 4 – 8
- Students use a computer tablet with an augmented reality app to complete missions and explore landmarks at the viewpoint and marina
- MWD won an award from the tech platform, Agents of Discovery

Legislation &
Communications Committee

Elementary School Programs



Secondary Schools and Colleges

Water Energy Education Alliance

- Industry education consortium for workforce development & career technical education

Cybersecurity Internship Program, WBMWD

- Tomorrow's Talent, Narbonne & Carson High

DWR / Project WET

- Climate adaptation workshops
- Activity Books: Drought & Water Reuse

LA County Sanitation Districts / Pando Populus

- College competition for real-world sustainability projects. Teams include CSUDH, El Camino, & Compton College



Community and Member Agency Programs

- Scouting Soil & Water Conservation Badge
- Compton Academy of Technology and Innovation
- Orange County Water Education Festival
- SEI Energize Schools: Virtual Earth Day Contest
- Splash Into Spring, EVMWD
- Rachel Carson Tunnel Boring Machine Naming Contest, Perris Valley Pipeline





**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>AB 400 B. Rubio (D – Baldwin Park)</p> <p>Sponsors: California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities</p>	<p>Chaptered</p> <p>Signed by Governor Chapter 201, Statutes of 2023</p>	<p>Local agency design-build projects: authorization.</p> <p>This measure would extend the existing sunset date to January 1, 2031, for the use of design-build as a delivery method for public works contracts.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on October 2021 Board Action</p>	<p>Metropolitan’s current authority to use design-build under AB 1845 (Calderon, CH. 275, 2022) will sunset on January 1, 2028. The provisions of this bill allow Metropolitan to use design-build for future projects through January 1, 2031.</p>
<p>AB 460 Bauer-Kahan (D – Orinda)</p>	<p>Amended 5/18/23</p> <p>Two-year bill</p> <p>Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee</p>	<p>State Water Resources Control Board: water rights and usage: interim relief: procedures.</p> <p>This bill grants the State Water Resources Control Board authority to issue an interim relief order to enforce the reasonable use doctrine, water rights, water quality standards, and other provisions of water law.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>Based on 2023 Water Rights Principles, adopted April 2023</p>	<p>The stated intent of this bill is aimed at deterring unlawful diversions during a drought emergency with swift State Board action and stiff penalties for violations. This bill would give the State Board expansive new authority to assume control of the State Water Project, Metropolitan or its members’ use of imported or locally sourced water, Metropolitan’s diversion and use of water on the Delta Islands, and a number of other projects and Metropolitan operations. This bill would give the Water Board the authority to assert such control with very short or no prior notice or an opportunity to be heard. The State Board also would not require the use of the California Evidence Code, meaning these expedited decisions could be made based on testimony that is hearsay or by people not qualified to testify as experts on scientific or technical issues in court.</p>

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1337 Wicks (D – Oakland)	Amended 5/18/23 Two-year bill Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee	State Water Resources Control Board: water diversion curtailment. This bill would authorize SWRCB to adopt regulations for various water conservation purposes and implement these regulations through orders curtailing the diversion or use of water under any claim of right.	Oppose Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration, adopted April 2023	Regardless of whether there is a drought emergency, this bill would allow the State Board, by regulation, to permanently reduce permit rights (including SWP, Colorado River pre-1914 rights, or Delta Island license, pre-1914 or riparian right diversions) upon a finding that current diversions result in a waste or unreasonable use of water or that they harm public trust (fish and wildlife) resources. This would be a new broad power to the State Board that could permanently reallocate any water rights under any water year conditions without the protection or process of individual adjudications.
AB 1567 Garcia (D-Coachella)	Amended 5/26/2023 Two-year bill Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Clean Energy, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024. This measure would authorize a \$15.995 billion general obligation bond for the March 5, 2024, ballot to fund a broad range of resource-based programs that will assist California to improve its climate resiliency.	Support, if amended Based on June 2023 Board Action	This measure is consistent with Metropolitan’s current policy priorities and supports the objectives of Metropolitan’s Climate Adaptation Master Plan. Metropolitan is seeking amendments to increase funding for recycled water, dam safety, regional conveyance, drought and conservation projects.
AB 1572 Friedman (D - Glendale) Co-sponsors: Metropolitan, Heal the Bay, National Resources Defense Council	Chaptered Signed by Governor Chapter 849, Statutes of 2023	Potable water: nonfunctional turf. This measure prohibits the use of potable water for the irrigation of non-functional turf located on commercial, industrial, institutional. This measure provides the State Water Resources Control Board with the authority to postpone compliance dates as prescribed.	Co-sponsor Based on April 2023 Board action	Based on input from the Board and member agencies, Metropolitan secured amendments to exclude multi-family residential buildings and protect the authority and local control of public water systems. Metropolitan is a co-sponsor of this measure.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1573 Friedman (D - Glendale) Sponsor: Earth Advocacy and California Native Plant Society	Amended on 9/1/2023 Two Year Bill Senator Floor – Inactive File	Water conservation: landscape design: model ordinance. This measure would update the model water efficient landscape ordinance for new or renovated nonresidential areas to require at least 25% local native plants beginning January 1, 2026. This measure would also prohibit the use of nonfunctional turf in nonresidential landscape projects after January 1, 2026.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This measure is consistent with Metropolitan’s effort to reduce nonfunctional turf within its service area.
AB 1648 Bains (D - Bakersfield)	Amended 3/16/2023 Dead	Water: Colorado River Conservation This measure would specifically prohibit Metropolitan and LADWP to offset federally required reductions on Colorado River resources with increased water deliveries from other regions of California, including the Delta, retroactively as of January 1, 2023.	Oppose Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This measure would impair Metropolitan’s flexibility with its entire water portfolio, including the Integrated Water Resources Plan and the Annual Operating Plan. Metropolitan’s reliability and its ability to meet demands would also be impaired by restrictions on partnerships with its State Water Project and Colorado River Basin stakeholders.
SB 122 Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 51, Statutes of 2023	Flood Flow Streamlining Provisions in this trailer bill provide that diversion of flood flows for groundwater recharge do not require an appropriative water right if specified conditions regarding the diversion are met. These provisions exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) specified actions related to the implementation of Colorado River water conservation agreements with the US Bureau of Reclamation.	Seek Amendments Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration 2023 Water Rights Principles, adopted April 2023	The no-permit authorization poses a significant concern to Metropolitan’s State Water Project supplies. There is no protest process, no requirement that diverters avoid harm to other legal water users with water rights senior to the flood flow diverter, and no protection of SWP and CVP rights to divert “excess flows” when they exist in the system up to the full capacity of the projects. Metropolitan will work with the Administration to address these issues as the program is implemented.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 124 Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 53, Statutes of 2023	Green Financing Programs for Federal IRA Funding This measure contains various provisions to implement the 2023 State Budget Act, which includes authorizing the State Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to access and utilize federal funding in the Inflation Reduction Act to finance projects that reduce greenhouse emissions.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	For the State Water Project, DWR’s direct investment in qualifying projects could lower its capital costs, which would ultimately be passed on to Metropolitan and other SWP contractors.
SB 146 Gonzalez (D-Long Beach)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 58, Statutes of 2023	Public resources: infrastructure: contracting. This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and authorizes DWR to use the progressive design-build (PDB) project delivery method for up to eight public works projects that exceed \$25 million. The Delta conveyance facilities and seawater desalination are expressly prohibited under this measure.	Support Based on October 2021 Board Action	By utilizing PDB and awarding a project contract prior to the completion of all design work, DWR can potentially reduce overall costs and execute shorter project delivery schedules. This could lead to reduced costs for SWP-related projects-resulting in cost savings being passed on to Metropolitan.
SB 147 Ashby (D- Sacramento)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 59, Statutes of 2023	Fully protected species: California Endangered Species Act: authorized take This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and authorizes the take of fully protected species for certain infrastructure projects if specified conditions are met. Eligible projects include the maintenance, repair and improvement of the State Water Project, as well as critical regional and local water infrastructure.	Support and Amend Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	While this alternative may have benefits over current FPS regulations, the requirements are extensive and may make permit terms infeasible or cost prohibitive and could create other litigation risks for permittees.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 149 Caballero (D-Merced)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 60, Statutes of 2023	California Environmental Quality Act: administrative and judicial procedures: record of proceedings: judicial streamlining. This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and makes various changes to CEQA. This bill provides clarification for what is considered as part of the administrative record, as well as allowing a public agency to deny a request to prepare the record of proceedings. This bill also provides for expedited judicial review for specified energy and transportation projects.	Support and Amend Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	Administrative Records Streamlining: Overall, the provisions would be beneficial to Metropolitan as they could lower CEQA litigation costs and shorten litigation timelines. Expedited Judicial Review: The process for preparing the administrative record for any governor-certified infrastructure project must follow certain extensive and potentially costly specifications. While expedited judicial review is beneficial in concept, unless amended, the prerequisites may be infeasible or costly to implement.
SB 150 Durazo (D-Los Angeles)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 61, Statutes of 2023	Construction: workforce development: public contracts. This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and focuses on strengthening the state’s workforce and community benefits with infrastructure investments through California’s share of federal funds.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill is intended to help develop procurement models to enhance the state’s training and access pipeline for jobs while ensuring community benefits on infrastructure and manufacturing investments. This bill is consistent with Metropolitan’s policy and practice and could benefit the district by helping build the next generation of the state’s construction workforce.

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May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>SB 366 Caballero (D - Merced)</p> <p>Sponsors: California Municipal Utilities Association, California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance, California State Association of Counties</p>	<p>Amended 4/8/24</p> <p>Two-year bill</p> <p>Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee</p>	<p>The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.</p> <p>This measure would revise the California Water Plan to require the DWR to update the California Water Plan by December 31, 2028, and every five years after, to include a long-term water supply target for 2050 and discussion on the development of specified water supply sources to meet demand.</p>	<p>Support, if amended</p> <p>Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>The intent of this bill is to help modernize California’s water management practices and provide long-term reliable supplies in response to the current climate challenges.</p> <p>Metropolitan is seeking amendments that include, but are not limited to, ensuring the 2050 target reflects statewide, regional, and local planning efforts and clarifying that the CA Water Plan should not establish a separate plan for complying with the Delta Plan, but should be complimentary and focus on supporting the co-equal goals of the Delta.</p>
<p>SB 659 Ashby (D – Sacramento)</p> <p>Sponsors: Sacramento Regional Water Authority</p>	<p>Chaptered</p> <p>Signed by the Governor Chapter 624, Statutes of 2023</p>	<p>California Water Supply Solutions Act of 2023.</p> <p>This bill would require DWR to develop a groundwater recharge plan by January 1, 2026, to create additional groundwater recharge capacity and include the plan as part of the 2028 update to the California Water Plan.</p>	<p>Support, if Amended</p> <p>Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles adopted December 2022.</p>	<p>This bill intends to elevate the importance of groundwater in the state’s planning efforts. Additional recharge capacities developed through implementation of this bill could potentially help in the successful implementation of projects such as Metropolitan’s Pure Water project, LADWP’s Operation Next project, and the Pure Water San Diego, potentially helping to maximize stormwater capture and increase sustainability of groundwater basins within Metropolitan’s service area.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 687 Eggman (D - Stockton)	Amended 5/2/2023 Dead	Water Quality Control Plan: Delta Conveyance Project. This measure will require the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt a final update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan before the Board considers a change in the point of diversion or any other water rights permit or order for the Delta Conveyance Project.	Oppose Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	Metropolitan supports updating the Water Quality Control Plan to protect beneficial uses in the Delta. This bill would result in halting or delaying planning efforts on the Delta Conveyance Project and potentially prevent the project from operating if approved.
SB 706 Caballero (D- Merced) Sponsors: CA State Association of Counties; County of San Diego; Design Build Institute of America Western Pacific Chapter; League of California Cities	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 500, Statutes of 2023	Public contracts: progressive design-build: local agencies. This bill would provide additional authority, until January 1, 2023, for cities, counties, and special districts to use progressive design-build (PDB) authority for up to 10 public works projects that are in excess of \$5 million. In addition, any local agency that uses this authorized progressive-design build process must submit a report to the Legislature.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	Currently, PDB-eligible projects are limited to wastewater treatment facilities, park and recreational facilities, solid waste management facilities and water recycling facilities. This bill now authorizes cities, counties and special districts, including Metropolitan, to use PDB for public works projects. This supports Metropolitan’s priority of ensuring reliable water supply deliveries throughout its service area.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 867 Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Amended 6/22/2023 Two-Year Bill Assembly Natural Resources Committee	Drought, Flood and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, Park Creation and Outdoor Access, and Clean Energy Bond Act of 2024. This measure would authorize a \$15.5 billion general obligation bond for a range of resource- based programs that will improve California’s climate resiliency. If approved, this measure would be on the March 5, 2024 statewide ballot.	Support, if amended Based on June 2023 Board Action	This measure is consistent with Metropolitan’s current policy priorities and supports the objectives of Metropolitan’s Climate Adaptation Master Plan. Metropolitan is seeking amendments to increase funding for recycled water, dam safety, regional conveyance, drought, and conservation projects.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2610 E. Garcia (D – Coachella)	Amended 4/10/2024 Assembly Consent Calendar	<p>Protected species: authorized take: Salton Sea Management Program: System Conservation Implementation Agreement.</p> <p>Current law authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife, if certain conditions are fulfilled, to authorize the take of species, including fully protected species, resulting from impacts attributable to implementation of the Quantification Settlement Agreement on specified lands and bodies of water, including the Salton Sea. This bill would additionally authorize the department, if certain conditions are fulfilled, to authorize the take of species resulting from impacts attributable to the implementation of the Salton Sea Management Program or implementation of any System Conservation Implementation Agreement between the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the Imperial Irrigation District to implement the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program, as provided, on the specified lands and bodies of water.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024</p>	<p>This bill will help to advance conservation agreements and collective conservation goals related to reducing reliance of the Colorado River in order to account for changes in climate and low water supplies by allowing IID to advance their short-term conservation goals between 2024 – 2026.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1827 D. Papan (D – San Mateo)	Amended 4/4/2024 Assembly Third Reading	Local government: fees and charges: water: higher-consumptive water parcels. The Legislature passed the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act in 1997 to provide guidance for implementation of the new constitutional provisions. AB 1827 (Papan) proposes to add Government Code section 53750.6 to the Act to clarify that the costs that may be recovered through retail water service fees may include the incrementally higher costs of water service due to (1) the higher water usage demand of parcels, (2) the maximum potential water use of parcels, or (3) projected peak water usage.	Support Policy I.B.5.	Metropolitan’s wholesale water service rates to its co-op members are not subject to Proposition 218 and therefore, the bill does not have an effect on Metropolitan. It will, however, provide clearer guidance for its member agencies that provide retail water service and any retail water service provider within Metropolitan service area.
AB 2257 L. Wilson (D – Suisun City)	Amended 4/23/2024 Assembly Committee on Local Government	Local government: property-related water and sewer fees and assessments: remedies. AB 2257 establishes a process for objections to be submitted by any party objecting to the proposed fee or assessment, notice to the public of the requirements, and prerequisites for suing an agency on the basis of the validity of the fee or assessment. The bill requires exhaustion of the administrative procedures provided therein before a plaintiff may file suit and it limits the administrative record that may be reviewed in that litigation to evidence presented to or available to the agency prior to the adoption of the fee or assessment.	Support Policy I.B.5.	Metropolitan does not currently collect any fee or assessment on properties within its service area that is subject to Article XIII D. It does, however, have the authority to do so. Should it decide to adopt such a fee or assessment, it would be required to follow these proposed additional procedural requirements. Any litigation challenging such a fee or assessment would also be subject to the administrative remedy exhaustion and evidence limitation provided for by AB2257.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>AB 2409 D. Papan (D – San Mateo)</p>	<p>Amended 4/11/2024</p> <p>Assembly Appropriations Suspense File</p>	<p>Office of Planning and Research: permitting accountability transparency dashboard.</p> <p>Would require the Office of Planning and Research, on or before January 1, 2026, to create and maintain, as specified, a permitting accountability transparency internet website (dashboard). The bill would require the dashboard to include a display for each permit to be issued by specified state agencies for all covered projects. The bill would define various terms for these purposes. The bill would also require the dashboard to include, but not be limited to, information for each permit to be issued by a state agency that is required for the completion of the project, including, among other requirements, the permit application submission date. The bill would require each state agency with a responsibility for issuing a permit for a covered project to provide information in the appropriate time and manner as determined by the office. The bill would also make related findings and declarations.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for environmental compliance to improve clarity and workability of the requirements and promote consistency and reduce regulatory duplication, while protecting public health and the environment.</p>	<p>AB 2409 requires the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to create and maintain a permitting transparency website with a project dashboard showing the status of each state permit for specific projects with an estimated cost of \$100 million or more. AB 2409 would be beneficial to Metropolitan by making environmental permitting more transparent and would help the public understand why large projects take years to permit (e.g., Pure Water Southern California or Delta Conveyance).</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2060 E. Soria (D – Fresno)	Amended 4/16/2024 Assembly Appropriations	<p>Lake and streambed alteration agreements: exemptions.</p> <p>This bill would exempt qualifying temporary permit diversions of water from streams at or near flood stage to groundwater storage from the requirements of Fish & Game Code section 1602. Section 1602 requires anyone proposing to substantially alter the bed, banks or natural flows of a stream, river or lake to notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If CDFW determines the proposed activity may have a significant adverse impact on fish or wildlife, it will require a Lake or Stream Alteration Agreement (LSAA) that functions as a permit for the activity, and which always requires mitigation, monitoring and reporting to CDFW. It is designed to prevent harm to fish and wildlife from covered activities. AB 2060 would exempt qualifying diversions from this requirement. The only “mitigation” required to qualify is installation of basic fish screens, with no requirement that they meet any standards, including those adopted by CDFW and the federal fish services.</p>	<p>Support if Amended</p> <p>Water Rights Policy Principle 5.</p> <p>Water Rights Policy Principle 9.</p> <p>Legislative Policy V.D.1.</p>	<p>This bill was amended to ensure the temporary permit authorization is consistent with existing law on diversion authorizations for current water rights holders. Metropolitan is seeking additional amendments to ensure the inclusion of fish screens on all intakes, not just “temporary pump” intakes, and that the screens minimize both entrainment <i>and</i> impingement, since impingement is just as deadly as entrainment.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>SB 903 N. Skinner (D – Berkeley)</p>	<p>Amended 4/11/2024</p> <p>Appropriations Suspense File</p>	<p>Environmental health: product safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.</p> <p>Starting January 1, 2025, certain substances called perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) will be prohibited in new textiles, cosmetics, food packaging, and juvenile products in the state. This means that manufacturers and sellers cannot add PFAS to these products. A new bill, starting January 1, 2032, will also require the Department of Toxic Substances Control to determine if using PFAS in a product is necessary and unavoidable before it can be offered for sale. The department will keep a list of these determinations on its website and use any penalties collected for administering and enforcing these laws. By January 1, 2027, the department will adopt regulations to carry out this bill, including setting an application fee and creating an appeal process for penalties and decisions made under this law. A PFAS Oversight Fund will be created from the application fees to cover the department's expenses for administering this act, with funds allocated by the legislature.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that utilize best available science, occurrence and health effects data, and appropriate cost-benefit analyses or economic feasibility to protect public health and improve water quality.</p>	<p>From a source water protection standpoint, the bill creates provisions to reduce PFAS contamination and enhance protection of water quality and public health. By limiting PFAS in consumer products, the bill indirectly aims to reduce PFAS contamination in water sources, potentially decreasing treatment costs and complexity for water providers. The bill encourages the development and adoption of PFAS alternatives, potentially impacting the types of materials and products used within the water industry and by consumers, promoting safer water handling and packaging materials.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 1072 S. Padilla (D – San Diego)	Amended 4/24/2024 Senate Local Government	<p>Local government: Proposition 218: remedies.</p> <p>The California Constitution has rules for imposing taxes at a local level. It excludes certain fees and assessments if they meet certain criteria, such as not exceeding the benefit given to a property or the cost of the service provided. There is also a law known as the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act that outlines how local agencies must comply with these requirements. This bill, if passed, would require local agencies to correct any fees or charges for property-related services that violate these constitutional provisions and credit the amount of the violation against the revenues needed for the service. This bill supports the purposes and intent of Proposition 218 and the Omnibus Implementation Act.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>I.B.5, and 6.</p>	<p>Metropolitan does not currently collect any revenue from any property related fees or assessments subject to Articles XIII C or D. However, Metropolitan does have statutory authority to collect such fees. If Metropolitan were to adopt such a fee or assessment in the future, the revenues from those fees or assessment would be subject to the limitation added by SB 1072.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
May 13, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session**

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 1169 H. Stern (D – Los Angeles)	Amended 3/18/2024 Senate Consent Calendar	Los Angeles County Flood Control District: finances. This law, known as the Los Angeles County Flood Control Act, sets up a district responsible for managing and preserving flood and wastewaters in the county. It permits the district to borrow money from certain sources to fund flood control work and repay the loan within 20 years with a maximum interest rate of 4.25% annually. The district must also collect enough taxes from property owners each year to cover the loan payments. Currently, the district is limited to borrowing a maximum of \$4.5 million and issuing bonds up to the same amount. This proposed bill would extend the loan repayment period to 35 years with a maximum interest rate of 5.5% annually. It would also remove the borrowing and bond limits for the district. The bill justifies these changes by stating the need for a special law for the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.	Support Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for new or expanded water infrastructure or programs that complement existing water supplies to ensure reliability for all member agencies. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that facilitate the integration of existing and planned local water supply, distribution systems, and regional water facilities.	Support for this bill will help with Los Angeles County’s flood control program and is consistent with the Board’s policy to support development of local resources and conservation efforts.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 1390 A. Caballero (D – Merced)	Amended 4/24/2024 Senate Appropriations	<p>Groundwater recharge: floodflows: diversion.</p> <p>Under current law, all water in the state belongs to the people, but individuals can gain the right to use it through a legal process. This process requires the water to be used for a purpose that is helpful or beneficial. However, if certain conditions are met, using floodwater for groundwater recharge does not require a specific legal right. These conditions include receiving notice from a local or regional agency that there is a risk of flooding, and filing a report with the State Water Resources Control Board once the diversion is finished. This applies to diversions that began before January 1, 2029. This bill would extend these requirements to diversions that began before June 1, 2032. It would also add additional conditions that must be met for the diversion to be allowed, such as the local agency declaring that the diversion is in line with specific plans or emergency operations plans. The diversion must also stop within 90 days unless it is renewed, and the final report must include information about the methods used to predict and prevent flooding. Finally, the diversion must not harm any prior water rights holders in the area.</p>	<p>Support if Amended</p> <p>Water Rights Policy Principle 5.</p> <p>Water Rights Policy Principle 9.</p> <p>Legislative Policy IV.D.1.</p>	<p>Like the companion bill AB 2060, SB 1390 could adversely impact Metropolitan’s SWP supplies by increasing the amount of diversions authorized under SB 122. SB 122 could harm State Water Project supplies directly and indirectly. When the Delta is in “excess conditions,” the State Water Project may divert inflows that are not releases of stored water (known as unregulated water). If enough diverters in the Delta watershed take advantage of SB 122 and this proposed exemption, it could cost Metropolitan some of its SWP supplies. It could also indirectly affect supplies because such diversions could adversely impact listed fish species, thereby triggering restrictions on SWP operations more frequently or for longer periods.</p>



Legislation and Communications
Committee

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Item 6c

May 13, 2024

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Subject

Report on Activities from Sacramento.

Purpose

To provide a legislative update.

Sacramento Legislative Calendar

Legislative Calendar

May 17: Last day for fiscal committees to report bills to the floor.

May 20-24: Floor session only.

May 24: Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house

May 27: Memorial Day.

May 28: Committee meetings may resume.

State Fiscal Outlook

Sacramento Budget Update



Metropolitan at ACWA Conference

Sacramento Legislative Highlights



California Climate Resilience Bond

Sacramento Legislative Highlights



Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Water Rights: Oppose

- AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan) State Water Resources Control Board: water rights and usage: interim relief: procedures.
- AB 1337 (Wicks) State Water Resources Control Board: water diversion curtailment.

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Metropolitan Support if Amended

- AB 2060 (Soria): Lake and streambed alteration agreements: exemptions
- SB 1390 (Caballero): Groundwater recharge: floodflows: diversion

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Metropolitan Support if Amended

- SB 366 (Caballero): The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Metropolitan Support

- AB 903 (Skinner) Environmental health: product safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances
- AB 2409 (Papan) Office of Planning and Research: permitting accountability transparency dashboard
- AB 2610 (Garcia) Protected species: authorized take: Salton Sea Management Program: System Conservation Implementation Agreement

Prop 218 Clean-Up: Support

- AB 1827 (Papan): Local government: fees and charges: water: higher-consumptive water parcels
- AB 2257 (Wilson): Local government: property-related water and sewer fees and assessments: remedies
- SB 1072 (Padilla): Local government: Proposition 218: remedies.

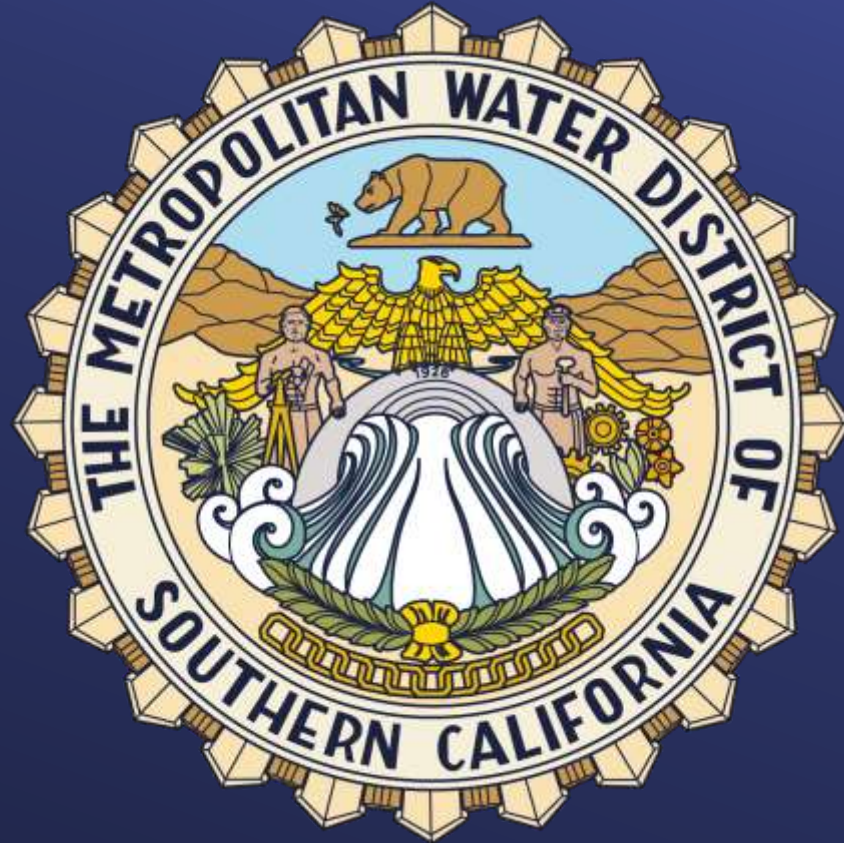
Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Tribal Water Rights

- AB 2614 (Ramos) Water policy: California tribal communities

Labor and Special Districts

- AB 2489 (Ward) Local agencies: contracts for special services and temporary help
- AB 2557 (Ortega) Local agencies: contracts for special services and temporary help: performance reports
- AB 2561 (McKinnor): Local public employees: vacant positions



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

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Assistance for Disadvantaged Communities	<p>H.R. 8032 (Sorenson, D-IL)</p> <p>S. 3830 (Padilla, D-CA)</p>	<p>4/16/24: Referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure.</p> <p>2/28/24: Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.</p>	<p>Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act</p> <p>Establishes a permanent, nationwide water assistance program to help low-income households with their water and wastewater bills.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024</p>	<p>This bill makes the temporary low-income household water assistance program established at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic permanent. Sustained federal assistance to help low-income household afford their water and wastewater bills would help residents in Metropolitan’s service area and Metropolitan’s member agencies.</p>
Conservation	<p>H.R. 3490 (Gallego, D-AZ)</p>	<p>5/19/23: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.</p>	<p>Water Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2023</p> <p>Authorizes a new grant program to help wastewater and drinking water systems detect leaks and reduce water loss.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>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.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
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.
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.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
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.
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.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
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>

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

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 7776 (Lee, D-NV) S. 4016 (Sinema, I-AZ)	3/21/24: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. 3/21/24: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Help Hoover Dam Act Amends the Boulder Canyon Project Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expend money in the Colorado River Dam fund.	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	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.
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 7990 (Napolitano, D-CA)	4/15/24: Referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.	Large Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization and Investment Act of 2024 Extends Reclamation’s large-scale recycled water program for six years, increases the cost threshold for large-scale projects from \$500M to \$1 B, and authorizes \$1B for the program.	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This bill would benefit Metropolitan and our member agencies by re-authorizing Reclamation’s large-scale recycled water program. This program provides federal assistance for large regional recycled water projects.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 8030 (Peters, D-CA) S. 4134 (Padilla, D-CA)	04/16/24: Referred to the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce. 04/16/24: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.	Drought Relief Obtained Using Government Help Today Act of 2024 (DROUGHT Act) Increases the maximum WIFIA loan a project can receive from 49% to 90% of the total cost if it is being built in either a state that has experienced D2 level droughts for 4 weeks in the past 3 years, a county for which a Governor has declared a drought emergency during the last 3 years, or serves a historically disadvantaged community.	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This legislation would benefit Metropolitan and our member agencies by increasing the cap on WIFIA loans from 49% of a total project’s costs to 90% under some circumstances. WIFIA is an EPA program that provides low interests loans for water projects that cost over \$20 million.
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.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
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.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
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May 13, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	<p>H.R. 1236 (Crow, D-CO)</p> <p>S. 540 (Bennet, D-CO)</p>	<p>3/22/23: Referred to the House Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources.</p> <p>2/28/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.</p>	<p>Protect the West Act of 2023</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 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</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>

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

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 7872 (Curtis, R-UT) S. 2514 (Bennett, D-CO)	4/5/24: Referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. 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.

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

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
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.

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

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water Science	<p>H.R. 2429 (Lee, D-NV)</p> <p>S. 1118 (Cortez-Mastro, D-NV)</p>	<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>

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

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water Science	H.R. 3027 (Porter, D-CA)	6/14/23: Hearing held before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries.	<p>Reclamation Climate Change and Water Program Reauthorization Act of 2023</p> <p>Extends the authorization for Reclamation’s basin studies program for ten years.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>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.</p>

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

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
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	H.R. 7944 (Curtis, R-UT) S.1430 (Lummis, R-WY)	4/11/24: Referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure. 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.



Legislation and Communications Committee

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Item 6d
May 13, 2024

Report on
Activities
from
Washington
DC

Subject

Report on Activities from Washington DC

Purpose

To provide a legislative update

Federal Matrix Update.



New Bills - Support

PFAS Liability Protection

- S.1430, Water System PFAS Liability Protection Act
- Draft Senate PFAS bill
- H.R. 7944, Water System PFAS Liability Protection Act

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program

- S.3830, the LIHWAP Establishment Act
- H.R. 8032, the LIHWAP Establishment Act

Federal Matrix Update



New Bills

Funding for water infrastructure projects

- H.R. 7990, the Large-Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization and Investment Act
- H.R.8030/S.4134, the DROUGHT Act of 2024

FY25 Appropriations Hearings.



The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary, Department of Interior



The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator, Environmental
Protection Agency

Low Income Homeowners Water Assistance Program

FY25 Policy Proposal.



- No direct funding proposed for FY25
- States may redirect up to 2.7% of LIHEAP funding
- Sen. Padilla and Reps. Sorensen and Chavez-DeRemer requesting dedicated funding
- Reps. Tlaib, Dingell, Blunt Rochester, Moore, and Lofgren requesting \$500M





External Affairs

• External Affairs Monthly Activities Report for April 2024

Summary

This report provides a summary of External Affairs’ group activities for March 2024.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Highlights

Chair Ortega, GM Hagekhalil, AGM Upadhyay, and Chief SRI Officer Crosson provided an overview of CAMP4W and other water issues to member agencies including the San Fernando City Council (April 2), Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD (April 10), Las Virgenes MWD (April 16), Eastern MWD (April 17), Long Beach Utilities Commission (April 18), Compton City Council (April 23), Santa Monica City Council (April 23), and West Basin MWD (April 27).



Throughout the month, Chair Ortega and Metropolitan leaders met with member agencies and local city councils to provide updates on Southern California’s water supply conditions, sustainability initiatives, planned investments to ensure continued reliability and resiliency, and CAMP4W



Coordinated arrangements for Colorado River Board of California meeting and tour at Diamond Valley Lake. (April 10)

Director Erdman provided opening remarks at the Pando Populus event at California Institute of Technology. Metropolitan and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts are sponsors of a program to create a “spotlight on water” for college and university students. (April 14)

Director Dick and AGM Zinke attended the Southern California Water Coalition quarterly luncheon on “Digital Democracy, Voter Sentiment, and Advocating for Water Infrastructure”. (April 19)

GM Monthly Report April 2024

Metropolitan was recognized as the Utility of the Year by the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce. GM Hagekhalil, Metropolitan staff, and local leaders including Mayor Bass attended. (April 19)

Metropolitan hosted representatives from the Abu Dhabi Department of Energy, led by His Excellency Eng. Awaidha Al Marar. The group toured the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center and met with GM Hagekhalil. (April 25)

Metropolitan sponsored and Chief SRI Officer Crosson presented on Sustainability issues at LACI Spring Power Day. (April 26)

Chair Ortega, GM Hagekhalil, Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp, and staff attended a signing ceremony of the Water Resiliency Act among Colorado River Tribes, State of Arizona, and the U.S Department of the Interior. (April 26)

In coordination with the SRI office, organized and hosted an Earth Day Lunch and Learn event for Metropolitan employees highlighting innovation and sustainability initiatives. (April 30)

Chair Ortega, Directors Erdman, Goldberg, McMillan, and Morris, GM Hagekhalil, and staff attended a reception honoring Metropolitan's Heather Collins in her new role as AWWA President; ACWA President Cathy Green and ACWA Vice President Ernie Avila. (April 30)



CAP President Goddard, USBR Commissioner Touton, GM Hagekhalil, Arizona Governor Hobbs, CRIT Chairwoman Flores, Department of Interior Secretary Haaland, Arizona DWR Director Buschatzke, and Board Chair Ortega, Jr.



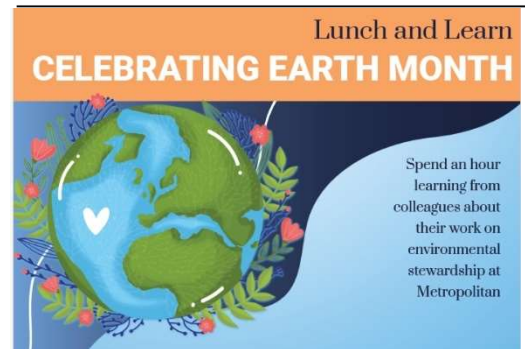
Heather Collins
AWWA President



Cathy Green



Ernie Avila



Legislative Services

Federal

Metropolitan hosted House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources Chair Rouzer (NC-7) and Rep. Napolitano (CA-31), and staff to tour the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center and learn more about the future of recycled water in Southern California. (April 2)



R - Congressional leaders and staff joined Metropolitan at the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center; L- Representative Rouzer



Legislation was introduced in Congress to advance numerous Metropolitan priorities including liability protection for water agencies if per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are designated as hazardous

GM Monthly Report April 2024

substances (H.R. 7944), creating a permanent federal low-income homeowner water assistance program (H.R. 8032), and extending the Bureau of Reclamation's large-scale water recycling program (H.R. 7990).

State

GM Hagekhalil and Metropolitan staff met with legislators and staff to urge support for board-approved priorities in the proposed climate bond and other legislative priorities moving through the legislature. This included meetings with Asm Isaac Bryan, Chair of Asm Natural Resources Committee, and Asm Tina McKinnor, Chair of the Los Angeles Legislative Delegation. (April 4)

Metropolitan advocated in support of several bills in the state Legislature, including SB 903 (Skinner) focused on banning PFAS, AB 2409 (Papan) focused on infrastructure permitting transparency, AB 1827 (Papan) which clarifies Prop-218, and AB 2610 (Garcia), which will support conservation on the Colorado River.



Community Leaders Briefing in Orange County

Metropolitan advocated a support if amended position on SB 1390 (Caballero) to ensure protection for our existing water rights. .

Several bills of interest are moving through the legislature where Metropolitan has not taken a position, but is actively monitoring. AB 2614 (Ramos) regarding tribal uses of water, passed out of Asm Appropriations Committee and a package a bills intended to build on the State's Conservation as a California Way of Life regulations passed out of policy committee: AB 3121 (Hart), SB 1110 (Ashby), SB 1185 (Niello) and SB 1330 (Archuleta).

Local

This month, Metropolitan staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 80 webinars, meetings, and events with community organizations and trade associations, board members, and federal or state elected officials on Metropolitan activities and other water-specific topics.

Directors Dick and Seckel and GM Hagekhalil discussed regional partnerships and water reliability at the Community Leaders Briefing in Orange County with Assemblymember Davies (R-Oceanside). (April 6)

Media and Communications

- Coordinated an interview with LA Times editorial writer Robert Greene, board Chair Ortega and GM Hagekhalil on Metropolitan's adopted biennial budget and rates and charges; provided separate interviews with GM Hagekhalil and KPCC reporter Leslie Berenstein Rojas and LA Times' Ian James on Metropolitan's budget, rates, and charges.
- Responded to questions from the city of Beverly Hills and the Beverly Hills Press regarding a suspected leak on Santa Monica Feeder and necessary excavation.
- Set up an interview between Water Education Foundation's Nick Cahill and Bay-Delta Initiative's Hawk regarding Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in-stream flow and related issues.
- Coordinated a live interview at Compton Earth Day event between KBLA-AM 1580 and Director McCoy.
- Provided responses to questions on Metropolitan's investment management services Request for Qualifications from Zack Cziryak, editor of Texas-based Financial Investment News.

GM Monthly Report April 2024

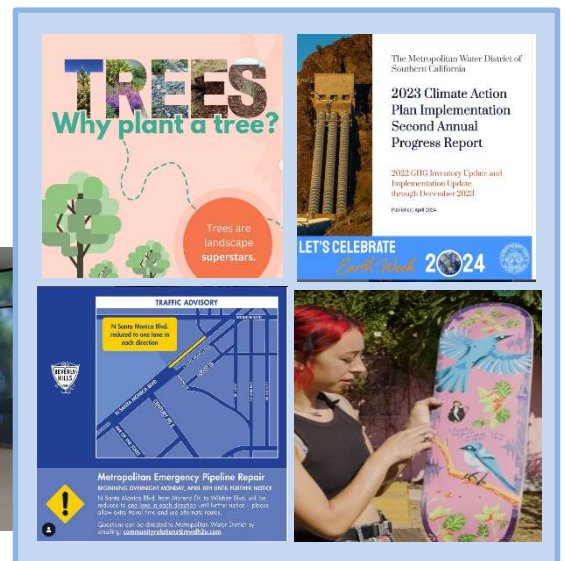
- Coordinated an interview with Talking Issues Podcast and Chair Ortega regarding the importance of Metropolitan, challenges for water delivery, and how the district will serve the region's future needs.
- Arranged an interview between Information Technology's Margolis and Wall Street Journal's Catherine Stupp about cybersecurity in the water sector.
- Coordinated KNX-AM interview with GM Hagekhalil and responded to questions from Southern California News Group regarding Local Resources Program agreements.
- Arranged separate interviews between KNBC-TV Channel 4's Conan Nolan and Politico's Camille von Kaenel about the results of the state's snow survey and Gov. Newsom's support of Delta Conveyance Project.
- Set up an interview for Global Water Intelligence's new Water Leaders Podcast and GM Hagekhalil regarding Pure Water Southern California and other water issues.
- Set up an interview between KPCC/LAist Jacob Margolis and GM Hagekhalil regarding water supply outlook.
- Arranged an interview between SRI's Hightower and KBLA-AM 1580 regarding water equity and communities of color as part of Metropolitan's partnership with the station on its 12-month Climate Justice Initiative.

Press Releases

- Metropolitan Board's adoption of biennial budget, rates, and charges
- S&P and Moody's reaffirming Metropolitan's strong credit ratings
- Metropolitan Board's approval of four Local Resource Program agreements
- Urgent shutdown of the Santa Monica Feeder in Beverly Hills

Creative Design, Website and Social Media

- Completed installation of new Water Quality Laboratory gallery museum celebrating the 50th anniversary, new regional inspection trip book for local tours, new postcard project for inspection trips, and fact sheets for the water quality co-op program and apprentice program.



- Received more than 68,000 visits to mwdh2o.com, and generated over 46,000 visits on bewaterwise.com, with the tree rebate page, and California Friendly/native plants the most frequented; added homepage features spotlighting the newly-revised Leadership Today Water Tomorrow report, Addressing Climate Change and the High Desert Water Bank alignment with CAMP4W.
- Posted an Instagram reel featuring professional skateboarder Lizzie Armanto showcasing her native plant skate deck through the district's sponsorship with Theodore Payne 2024 Native Plant Garden Tours.

GM Monthly Report April 2024

- Created a series of graphics highlighting Metropolitan’s work in sustainability, including a new microplastics lab and the annual Climate Action Plan Implementation Progress Report.
- Highlighted Employee Resource Group activities, including a Cesar Chavez Day partnership with the Hispanic Employees Association and photos from the Armenian American Employee Group’s Armenian History Month event.

Community Outreach

Notified communities of urgent maintenance activities on Santa Monica Feeder in Beverly Hills (April 8-9); coordinated meetings with Teresina HOA for AMP Urgent Repair (April 15); and met with community members to on Second Lower Feeder (April 18).

Led two inspection trips to the State Water Project and four trips to the Colorado River.

Participated in Strength-Based Community Change Earth Day (April 27) and LA County Resiliency Summit (April 29).

Supported tours of Jensen Treatment Plant for LA Trade Technical College Water Treatment Plant operator students (April 8), Jensen for College of the Canyons Water Technologies students (April 18), Skinner for Mt. San Jacinto Water Treatment Plant Operator Students (April 24), and Weymouth and Water Quality Lab for AWWA Young Professionals (April 25).

Sponsored and participated in the following water conservation and education projects and events:

- Pando Populus, Inc—Camp Pando
- Niguel Botanical Preserve Earth Day
- Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative Forum
- Oceanographic Teaching Stations Earth Day Festival
- Walnut Valley Water District Earth Day Celebration
- Coastal Christian Academy Water Refill & Educational Station
- Friends of the Los Angeles River Earth Day
- Sustainable Claremont Earth Day
- City of Hawthorne Earth Day Festival
- American Fisheries Society CA-NV Chapter



GM Monthly Report April 2024

- CORO Women in Leadership luncheon
- Theodore Payne Garden Tour
- AWA Ventura County Water Symposium

Pure Water Southern California

- Provided presentations, workshops and tours of the Napolitano Innovation Center Tour for Member Agency PWSC Outreach Workgroup (April 3), Carson Economic Development Commission (April 4), City of Azusa (April 8), Cal Poly Pomona students (April 9), LADWP Water Employees' Club (April 10), Eastern Municipal Water District (April 11), LMU Biology students (April 13, 20), UCLA nursing students (April 17), Member Agency Legislative Coordinators (April 19), Occidental College students (April 20); Bellflower City Council (April 22), Recycled Water Communications Working Group (April 23), Long Beach Utilities Commissioners and City Councilmembers (April 24); and Groundwater Resources Association of California (April 29)
- Discussed the Pure Water Program with the cities of Irwindale, Bellflower and Whittier, and LA Metro. Met with Marathon Refinery to discuss proposed project (April 30)

Education

- Interacted with 1,500 teachers, students, and adults through in-person and online meetings and events
- Conducted a half-day clinic for advanced Scouts to earn the Soil and Water Conservation merit badge
- Participated in the California Environmental Education Foundation's Teacher Institute, MWDOC's Water Energy Education Alliance Leadership Roundtable, University of LaVerne's Business Council, and Water Replenishment District's Water Industry Workforce Development Group
- Fourteen schools with 1,020 students entered Strategic Energy Innovations Earth Day Challenge 2024, a virtual competition for secondary schools sponsored by Metropolitan. The schools are within the service areas for San Diego County Water Authority, City of Fullerton, West Basin Municipal Water District, and Central Basin Municipal Water District.
- Displayed student art exhibit at Western Municipal Water District and Rancho California Water District
- The Water Engineering 4 Good (WE4G) awards ceremony marked the successful completion of WE4G 2024. Seven schools completed the competition. Garvey Intermediate School Team 1 (USGVMWD) won the Middle School Division and Oxford Academy (OCWD) won in the High School Division.





Legislation and Communications Committee

External Affairs Activities

Item 7a

May 13, 2024

Report on
Activities
from
External
Affairs

Subject

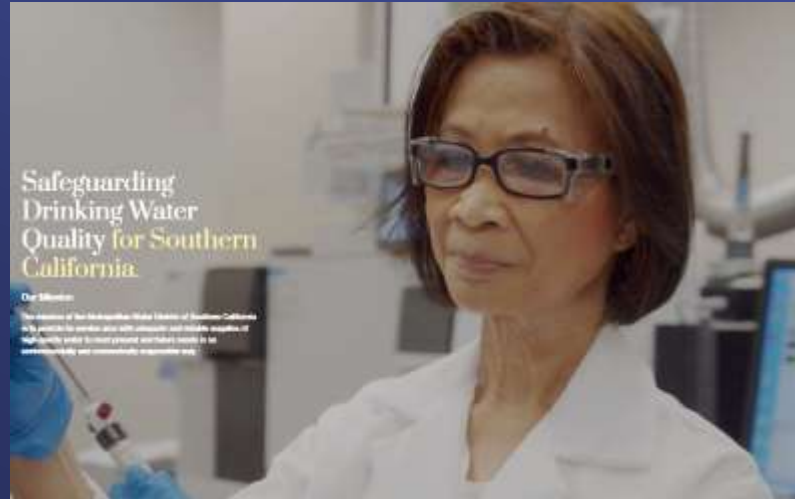
Report on Activities from External
Affairs

Purpose

To provide management
announcements and highlights for
External Affairs

Legislation &
Communications Committee

Website: Focus on Water Quality



Water Awareness Month



- **One Water Awards**
 - Honored four projects that save 200 million gallons of water annually
- **Tap Water Day in California**
 - Metropolitan and 17 of our member agencies posted social media about the day and supported WeTap



2024 Value of Water Index

Top Federal Priorities

88%
say ensuring a
reliable supply
of water should
be a priority for
the federal
government
this year

Drinking Water

47%
drink filtered tap
water

23% drink
bottled water
and 23% drink
unfiltered water
from tap

Views of Local Infrastructure

63%
say their local
water
infrastructure
is good (down
from 86% in
2016)

27% say it is
bad

Affordability

60%
say what they
pay for water
services is
affordable

30% say it's not
affordable

2024 Value of Water Index

A majority of voters would pay modest rate increases to support local utility projects that improve water accessibility and community health.

Despite affordability concerns, 61 percent of voters would pay 50 dollars more per year on their water bills if it helped fund projects that prioritized the safety and health of their area's drinking water and ensured that everyone in their community had basic water and sewer service.



61% of voters would pay \$50 more per year on their water bills if it:



ensured that everyone in their community had basic water services



helped make drinking water safer and healthier



helped reduce pollution

Inspection Trips



First Spanish-language Inspection Trip
State Water Project, May 3-5

Upcoming:

Hoover - Colorado River Inspection Trip for WELL
(Water Education for Latino Leaders) May 31-June 2

