

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 - Final

Meeting with Board of Directors *

March 11, 2024

11:30 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, March 11, 2024
Meeting Schedule**

**09:00 a.m. EOT
11:30 a.m. Leg
01:00 p.m. Break
01:30 p.m. EOP
03:00 p.m. OWS**

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

Teleconference Locations:

Princess Cruise / Emerald Princess • 3721 S.W. 30th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

525 Via La Selva • Redondo Beach, CA 90277

City Hall • 303 W. Commonwealth Ave. • Fullerton, CA 92832

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

1370 N. Brea Blvd., Suite #235 • Fullerton, CA 92835

934 16th Street • Denver, CO 80202

* 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, Regulatory Affairs and Communications Committee for January 8, 2024 (copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions) [21-3109](#)

Attachments: [03112024 LEG 2A \(01082024\) 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. Regional Survey on Water Conservation; Presented by Adam Probolsky - President of Probolsky Research [21-3107](#)

Attachments: [03112024 LEG 6a Presentation](#)

- b. Report on Activities from Washington, D.C. [21-3110](#)

Attachments: [03112024 LEG 6b Federal Legislative Matrix](#)
[03112024 LEG 6b Presentation](#)

- c. Report on Activities from Sacramento [21-3111](#)

Attachments: [03112024 LEG 6c State Legislative Matrix](#)
[03112024 LEG 6c Presentation Revised](#)

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. External Affairs activities [21-3112](#)

Attachments: [03112024 LEG 7a EA Monthly Activity Report](#)
[03112024 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, REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

January 8, 2024

Chair of the Board Ortega called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Jung (teleconference posted location), Luna, McMillan, Ramos, and Smith (entered after rollcall).

Members absent: Directors Gray, Kassakhian, Phan and Pressman.

Other Board Members present: Directors Bryant, Cordero, De Jesus, Dick, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, McCoy, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Peterson and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Hagekhalil, Zinke, Stites, Sims, and Novoa.

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

1) Caty Wagner, Sierra Club California

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communications and Legislation Committee held November 14, 2023.

Director Smith entered the meeting.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-11 Subject: Adopt legislative priorities and principles for 2024; the general manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Lana Haddad, Section Manager, Legislative Services

Motion: Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024 with the revisions by staff and the committee members

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1) Smith
- 2) Peterson

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

Chair Ortega announce item 7-11 would be voted on separately.

After completion of the presentation, Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Abdo to approve item 7-11 as amended.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Luna, McMillan, Ramos and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, Phan and Pressman.

The motion for item 7-11 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 5 absent

Director Dennstedt made a motion, seconded by Director Fellow to approve item 2A.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, McMillan,
Ramos and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: Luna

Absent: Directors Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, Phan and Pressman.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 5 absent

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on Appropriations, National Defense Authorization Act, Farm bill, PFAS, and the Water Resource Development Act bill.

b. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on Proposed 2024/25 Fiscal Year Budget, Sacramento legislative leadership, Assembly committee leadership, two year bills of interest: Climate Bonds, Water Rights and Water Plan.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs Management Announcements and
Highlights

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke introduced Coro Fellow David Caddle who is currently working with Metropolitan on outreach to young adults. Recognized Education Team and shared a short video on Metropolitan's Agents of Discovery app. Provided an update on the Community Partnership Program.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Ramos requested a report on the State Water Resource Control Board's (SWRCB) conservation regulations and the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) report on the regulations. Staff will bring the report back to appropriate committee.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Adán Ortega Jr.
Chair of the Board



Legislation and Communications Committee

Regional Survey on Water Conservation

Item 6a

March 11, 2024

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Water Conservation Survey Results Presentation

March 2024



Market and Opinion Research



Metropolitan Water District – Water Conservation Survey

Survey Methodology*

	Survey Details
Mode	Phone (landline and mobile) (33%) Online (email and text-to-web) (67%)
Language	English (92%) and Spanish (8%)
Length	15 minutes
Target Respondents	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California service area residents
Survey Fielding	November 18 – 30, 2023
Survey Participants	1,000
Margin of Error	+/-3.2%

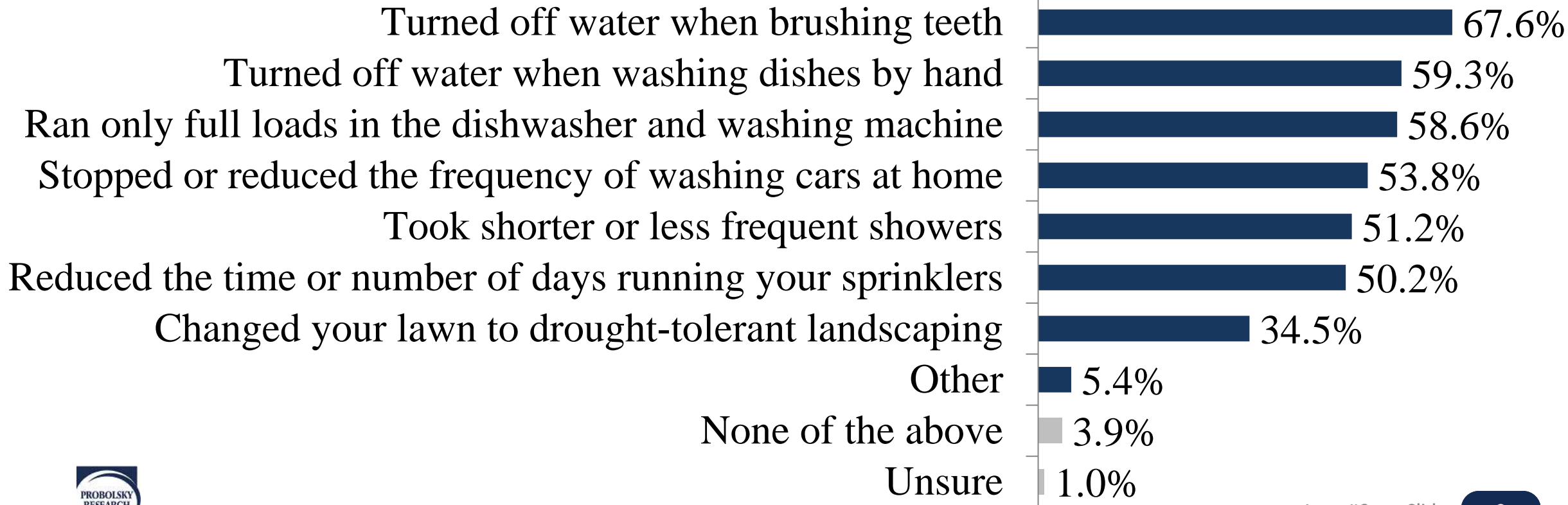
Probolsky Research is a Latina- and woman-owned market and opinion research firm with corporate, election, government, and non-profit clients.

**Due to rounding, totals shown on charts may not add up to 100%*



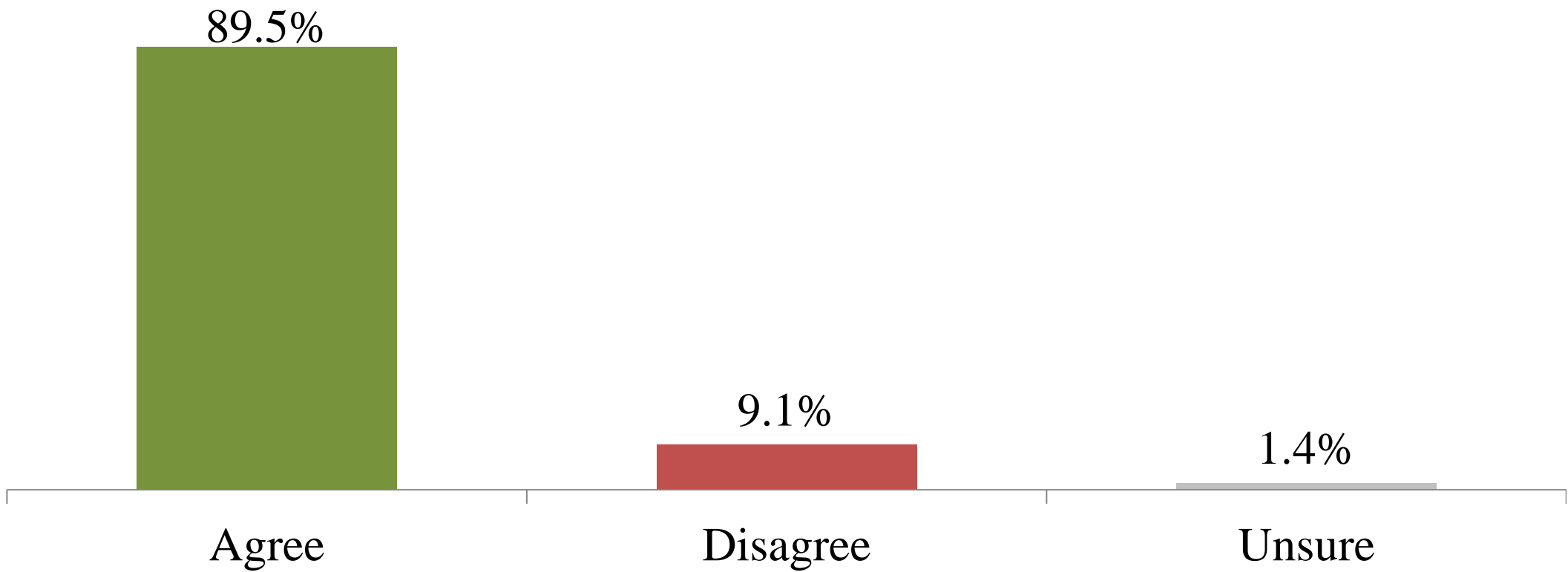
A majority adopted many water saving behaviors during the most recent serious drought in Southern California

Question 1: We are going to list ways to save water at home. Which of these things did you do during the most recent serious drought in Southern California? Select all that apply.



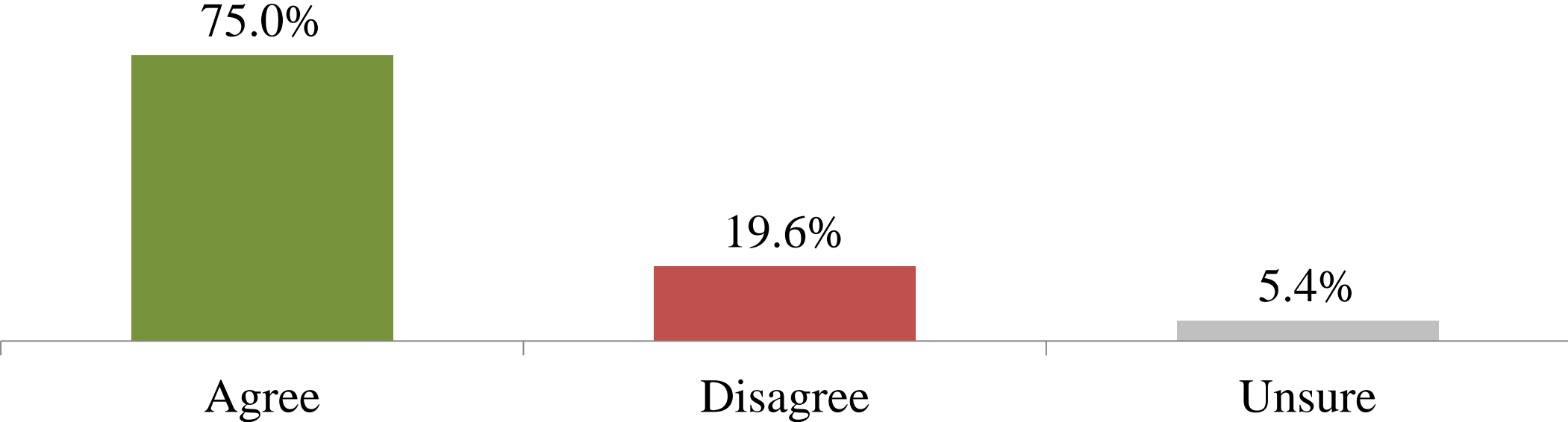
90% agree that it is important to conserve water every day, whether Southern California is in a drought or not

Question 4: Agree or disagree: I think it is important to conserve water every day, whether Southern California is in a drought or not.



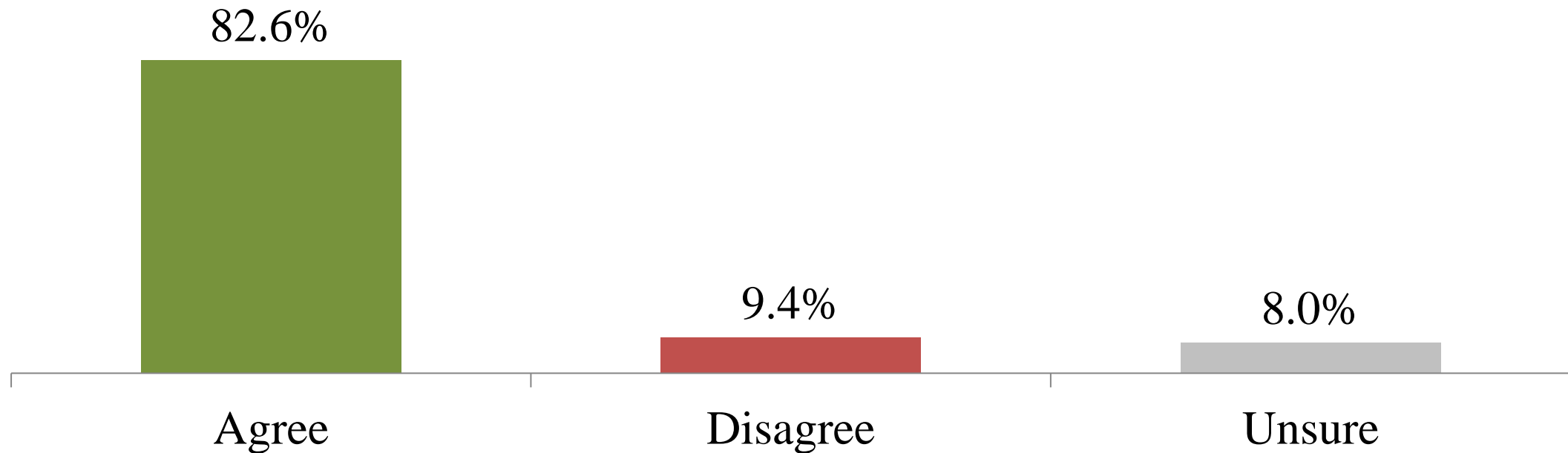
75% agree that climate change will significantly impact Southern California's water supply in the future

Question 5: Agree or disagree: Climate change will significantly impact Southern California's water supply in the future.



83% agree that Southern California will experience more droughts in the future

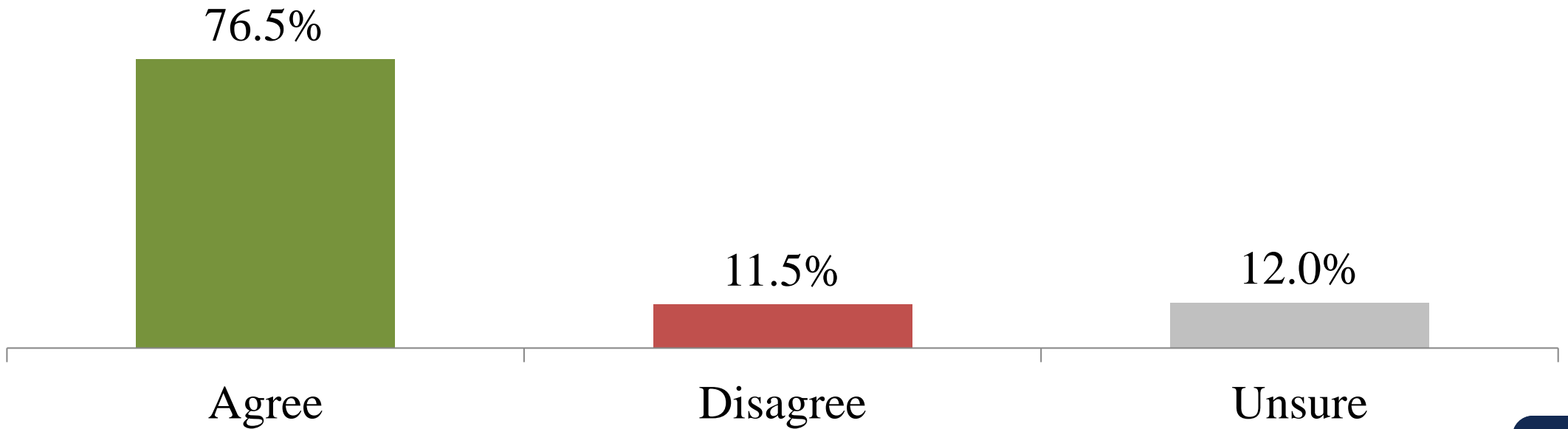
Question 6: Agree or disagree: Southern California will experience more droughts in the future.



77% agree that Southern California will experience more weather whiplash in the future

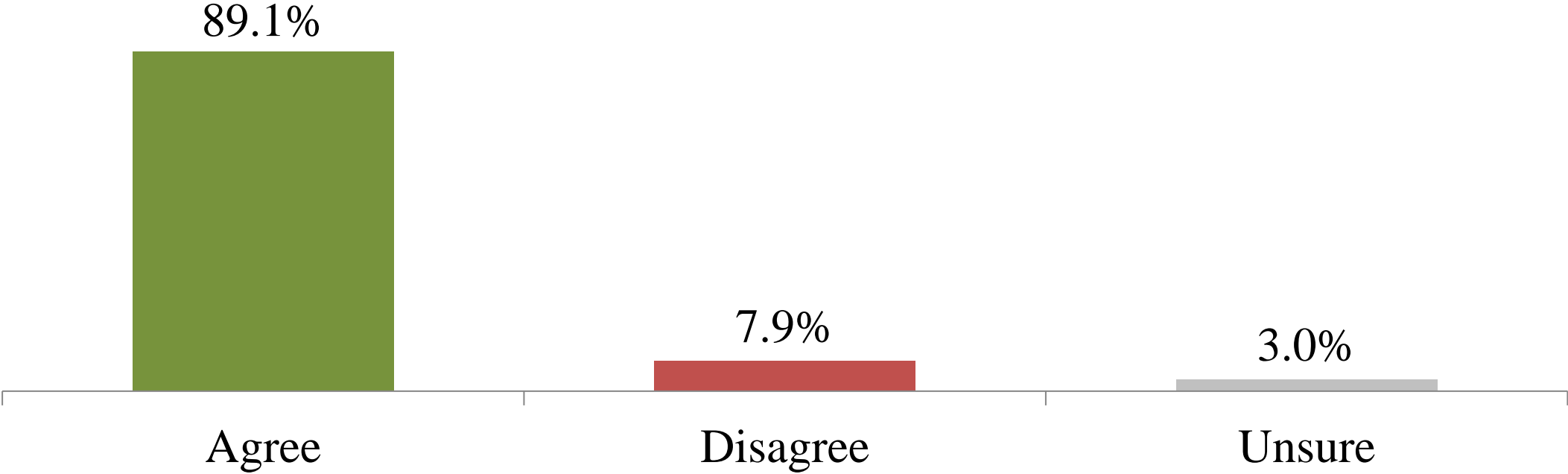
Weather whiplash is a phenomenon where an area experiences extreme weather changes – often in a short span of time, like we did last year. In California, this can mean extreme drought followed by extreme rain and snow years with little to no “average weather” in between.

Question 7: Agree or disagree: Southern California will experience more weather whiplash in the future.



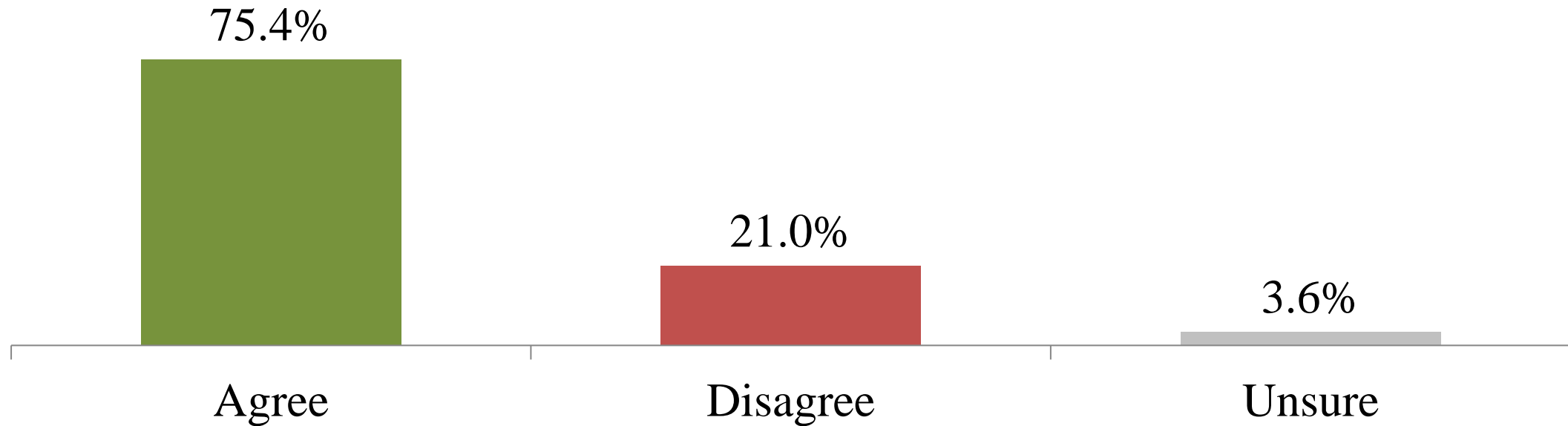
89% agree that they are willing to do their part to conserve water regardless of weather conditions in Southern California

Question 8: Agree or disagree: I am willing to do my part to conserve water regardless of weather conditions in Southern California.



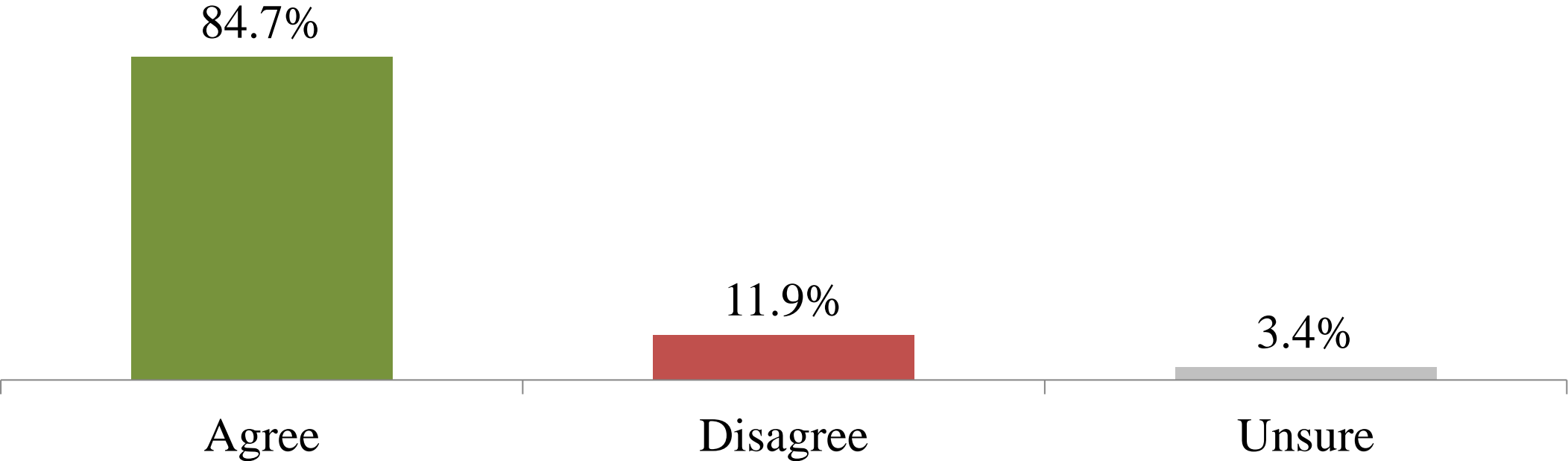
75% agree that they are willing to do more than they currently are to conserve water

Question 9: Agree or disagree: I am willing to do more than I am currently to conserve water.



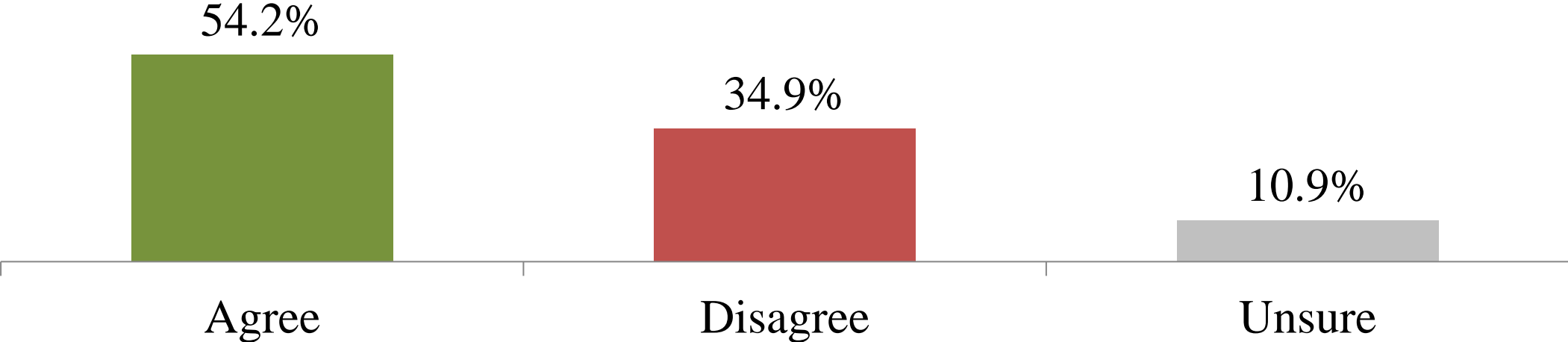
85% agree that they know what steps they can take to conserve more water

Question 10: Agree or disagree: I know what steps I can take to conserve more water.



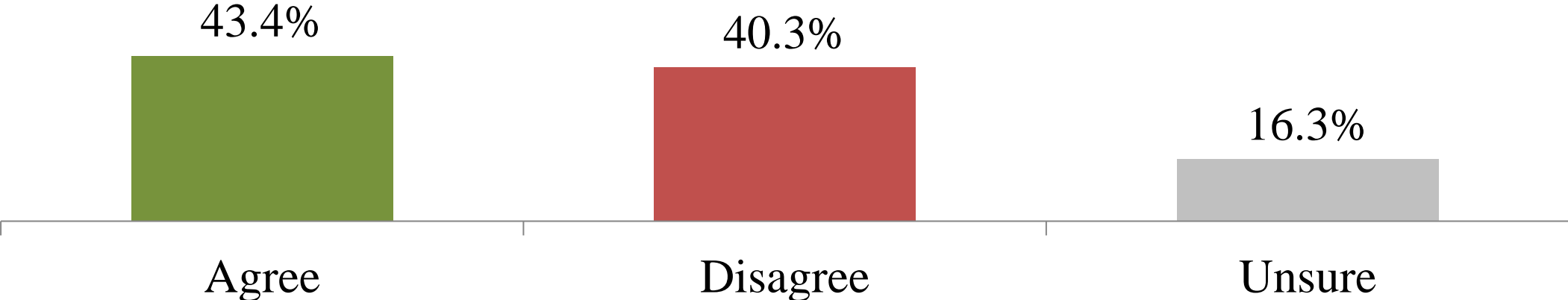
54% agree other Southern California residents are doing their fair share to conserve water

Question 12: Agree or disagree: Other Southern California residents are doing their fair share to conserve water.



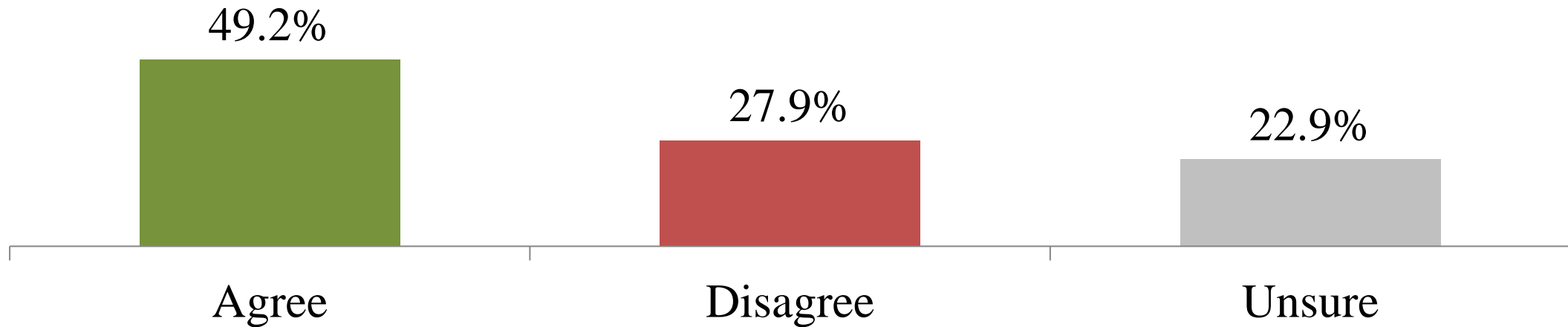
43% agree Southern California businesses are doing their fair share to conserve water

Question 13: Agree or disagree: Southern California businesses are doing their fair share to conserve water.



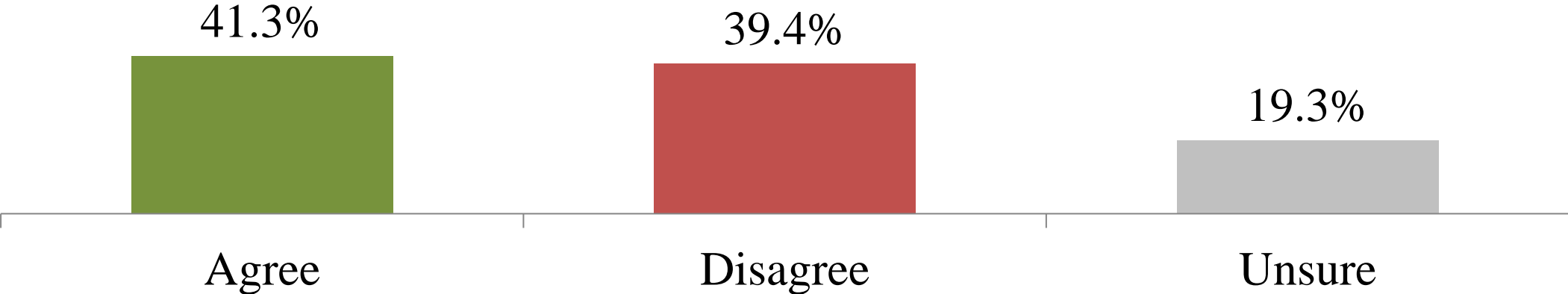
49% agree the agriculture industry in Southern California is doing its fair share to conserve water

Question 14: Agree or disagree: The agriculture industry in Southern California is doing its fair share to conserve water.



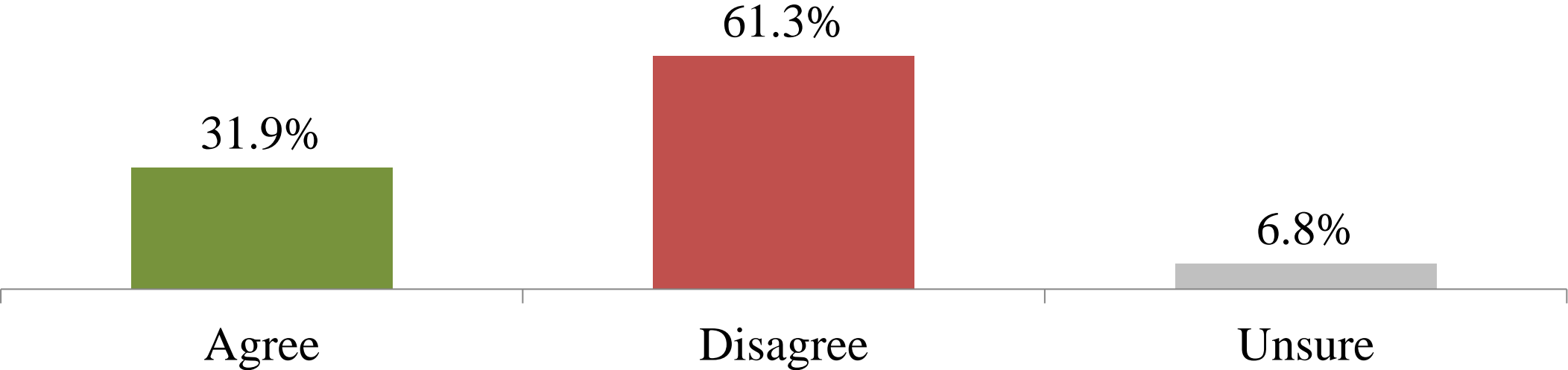
41% agree Southern California water managers are doing enough to properly manage and store available water supplies

Question 15: Agree or disagree: Southern California water managers are doing enough to properly manage and store available water supplies.



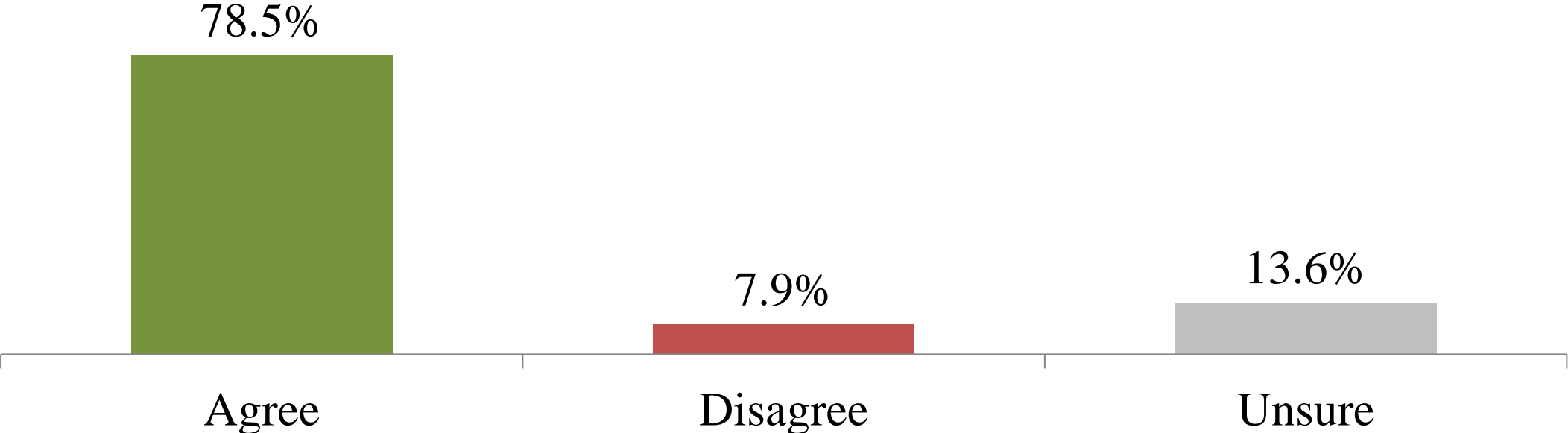
61% disagree that Southern California experienced a lot of rain and snow, so we do not need to conserve water

Question 16: Agree or disagree: Southern California experienced a lot of rain and snow last winter and is reportedly headed for another wet winter, which signals that we do not need to conserve water right now.



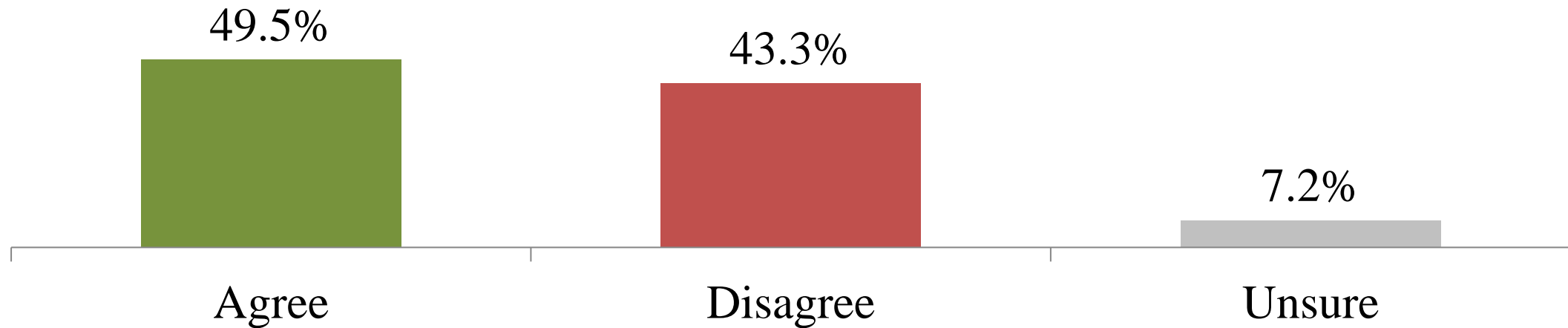
79% agree that Southern California water managers need to make changes to infrastructure and delivery system of the water supply

Question 17: Agree or disagree: Southern California water managers need to make changes to the infrastructure and delivery system for our water supply.



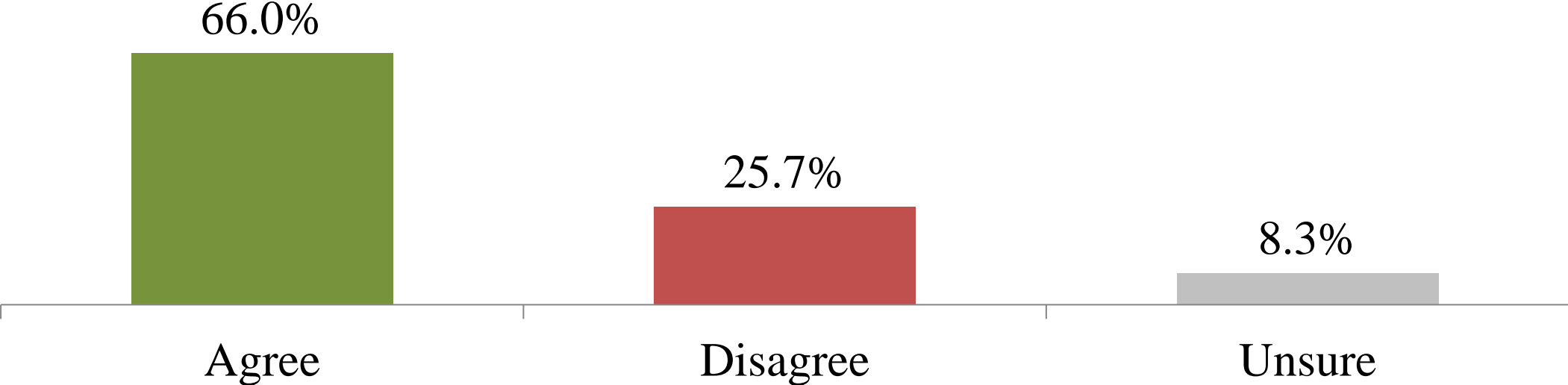
50% agree that state and local governments and local water agencies are asking too much water conservation of residents

Question 18: Agree or disagree: State and local governments and local water agencies are asking too much of residents when it comes to water conservation.



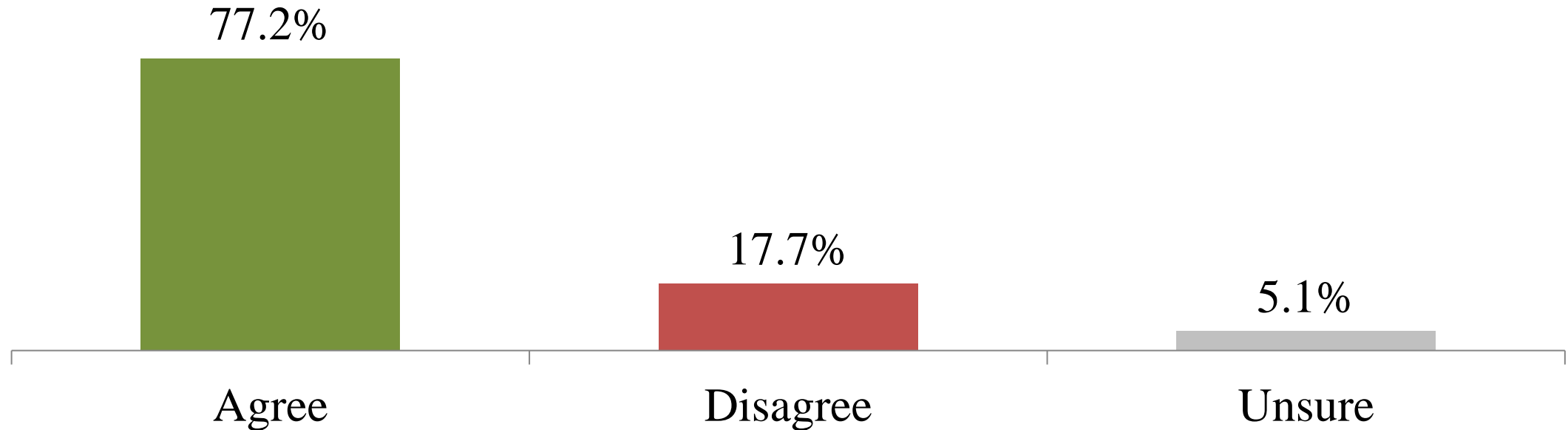
66% agree that Southern California should be moving faster to replace lawns with California-friendly landscapes

Question 19: Agree or disagree: Southern California should be moving faster to replace lawns with California-friendly landscapes.



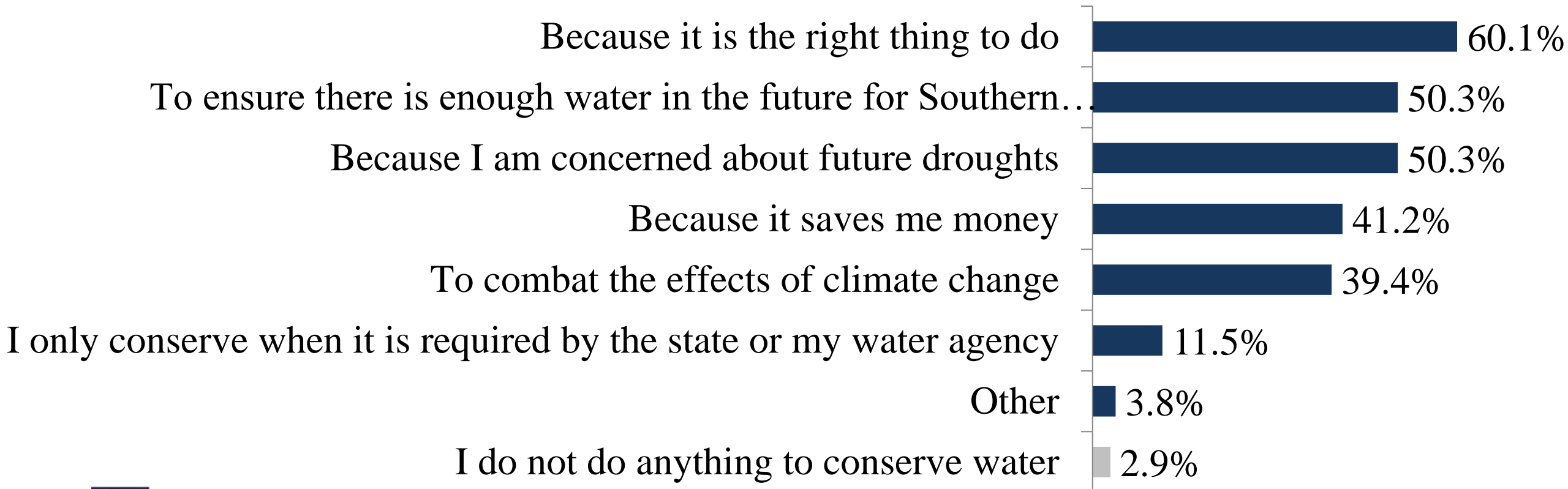
77% agree Southern California should be providing financial incentives to encourage replacing lawns

Question 20: Agree or disagree: Southern California should be providing financial incentives to homes and businesses to encourage replacing lawns with California-friendly landscapes.



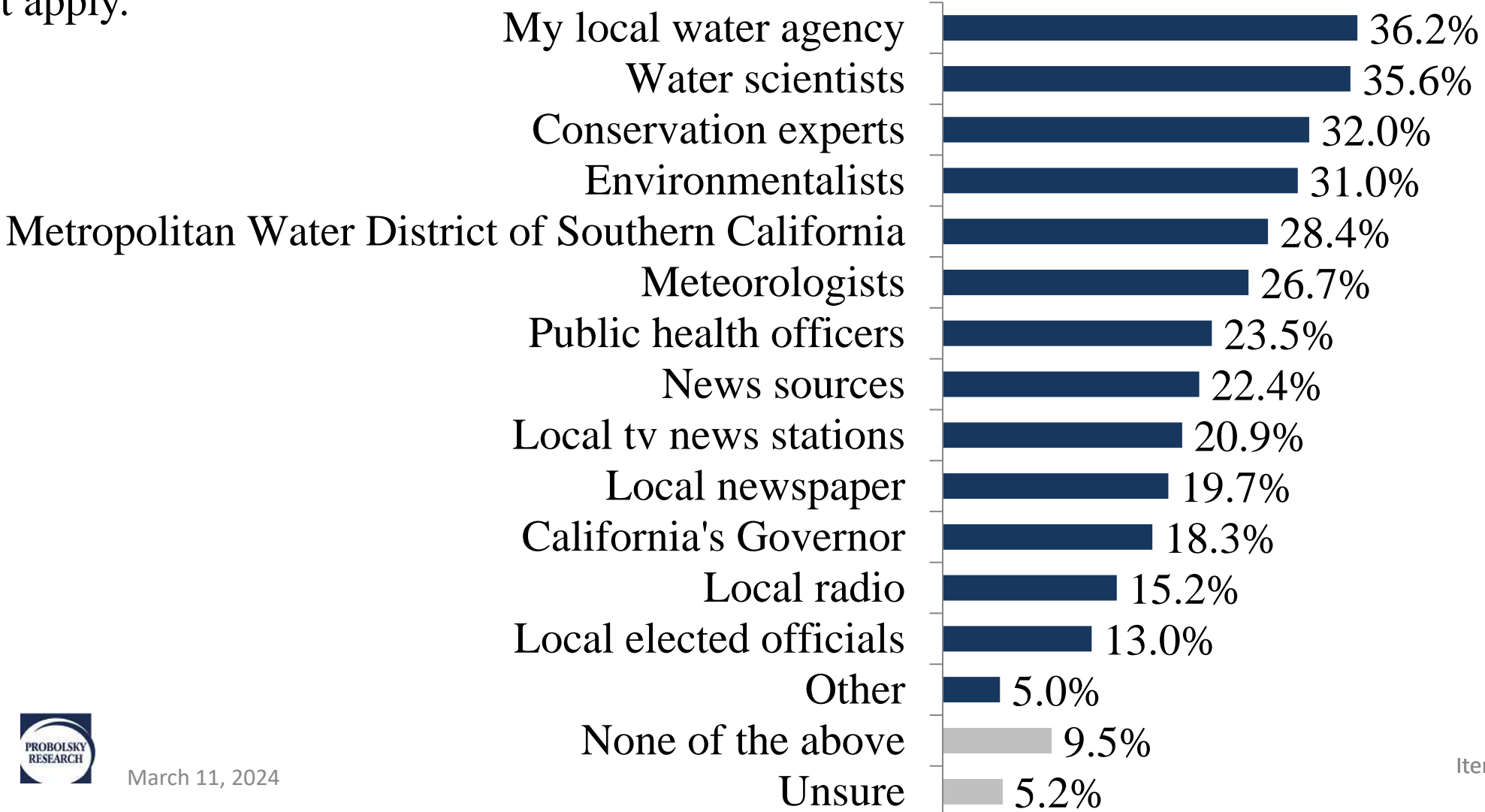
60% say they conserve water because it is the right thing to do

Question 21: Which of the following describes the reasons why you conserve water?
Select all that apply.



36% say they trust their local water agency with information on water issues

Question 26: Who do you trust to provide you with information on water issues? Select all that apply.

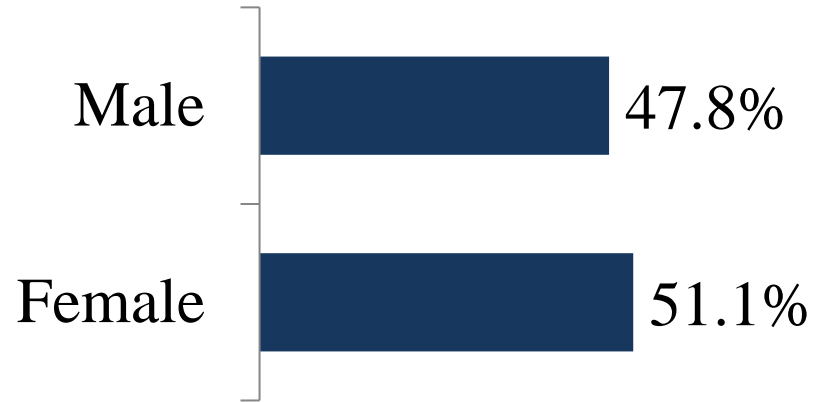


Demographics

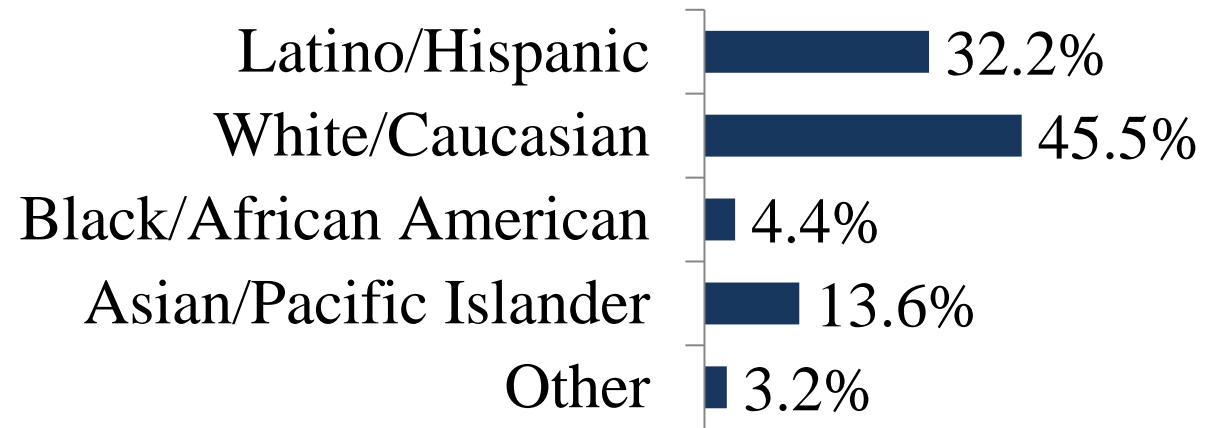


Respondent demographics by gender, age ethnicity, and county,

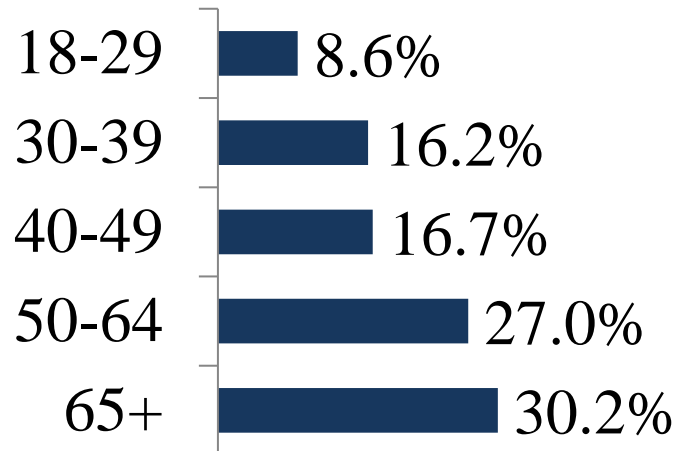
Gender



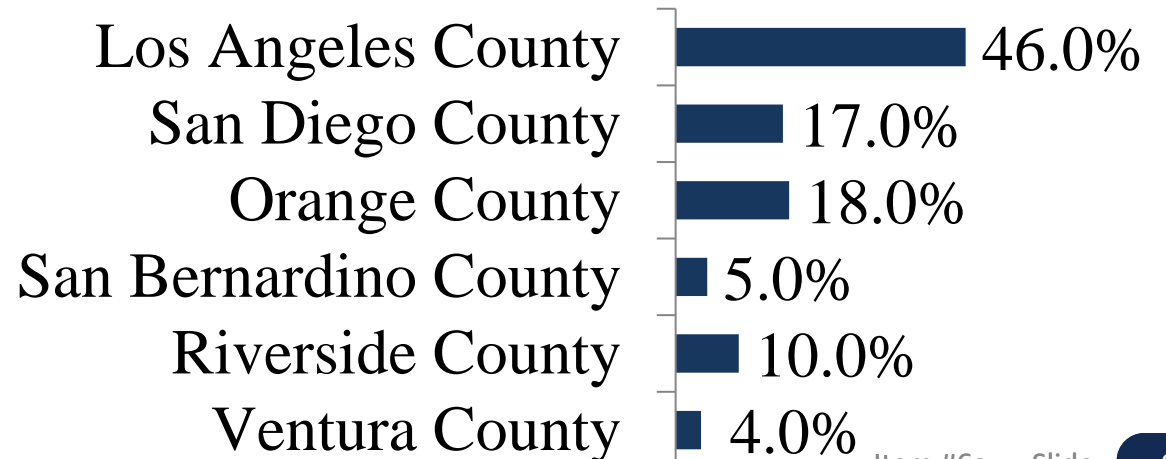
Ethnicity



Age

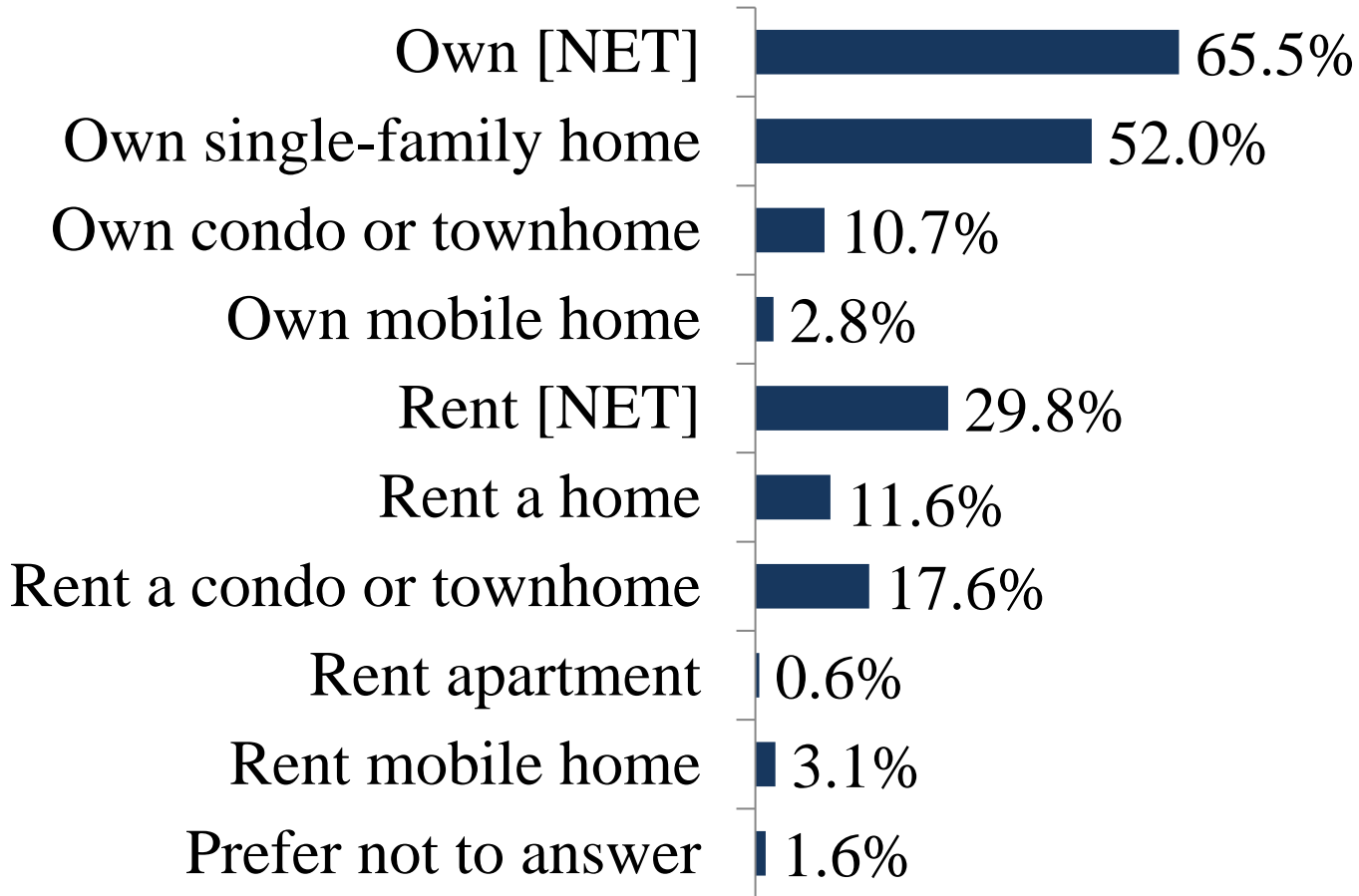


County

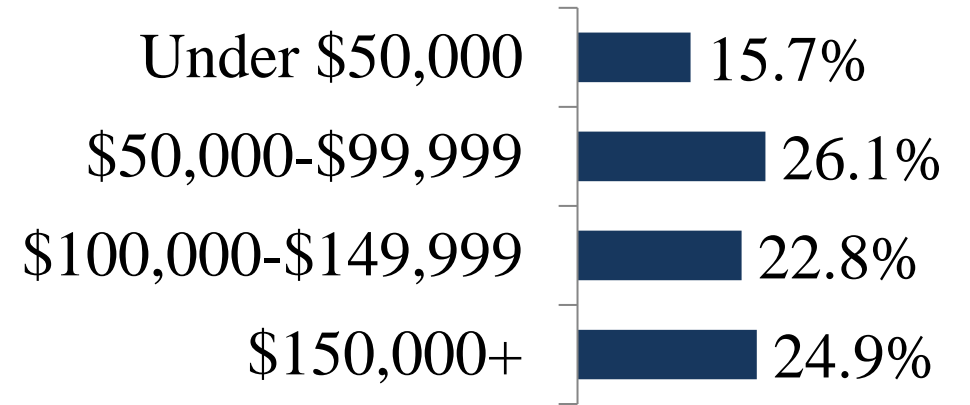


Respondent demographics by home type and household income

Home Type



Household Income



Questions?

Adam Probolsky, President

O: 949-855-6400 | M: 949-697-6726

E: adamp@probolskyresearch.com

Alyce Basil, Senior Research Analyst

O: 202-559-0270



Market and Opinion Research



**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
March 11, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Assistance for Disadvantaged Communities	S. 3830 (Padilla, D-CA)	2/28/24: Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.	Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act Establishes a permanent, nationwide water assistance program to help low-income households with their water and wastewater bills.	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	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.
Conservation	H.R. 3490 (Gallego, D-AZ)	5/19/23: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.	Water Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2023 Authorizes a new grant program to help wastewater and drinking water systems detect leaks and reduce water loss.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill directly benefits Metropolitan and its member agencies by creating a grant program to help cover the costs for conveyance leak detection and reduce supplier-side water loss. It could be used for a variety of investments including smart water network technologies, real-time sensing technologies, real-time decision support, and advanced metering infrastructure.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
March 11, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session

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
March 11, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session

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
March 11, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session**

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
March 11, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session**

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

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
March 11, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 1236 (Crow, D-CO) S. 540 (Bennet, D-CO)	3/22/23: Referred to the House Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources. 2/28/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.	Protect the West Act of 2023 Establishes a \$60 billion fund at the Treasury Department for use by the Secretary of Agriculture for restoration and resilience projects, wildfire risk reduction projects and habitat restoration projects.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill would benefit Metropolitan and its member agencies by funding projects to improve watershed health. It creates a grant program for restoration and resilience projects to improve forest conditions, rangeland health, watershed functions, or wildlife habitat. Additional grants would provide funding for partnership projects to reduce wildfire risk, restore habitat, and expand access to the outdoors. State agencies, local and tribal governments, and special districts may use these funds along with partner organizations.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
March 11, 2024, 118th Congress, Second Session**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	S. 2514 (Bennett, D-CO)	7/26/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.	Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act Amends the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The bill directly benefits Metropolitan and its member agencies by ensuring continued federal funding for salinity control projects along the Colorado River. This bill increases the federal cost share for projects to reduce the salt load in the Colorado River. The states have insufficient funds to meet the current cost share requirements because project costs are increasing, and the state contribution is funded by hydropower power revenue which is declining. The cost share change is needed to maintain the current program.
Water Project Authorizations	H.R. 924 (Harder, D-CA)	2/10/23: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment.	Stop the Tunnels Act Prohibits the Corps of Engineers from issuing a permit for the Delta Conveyance Project.	OPPOSE Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill prevents the Army Corps from issuing a Clean Water Act section 404 permit for the Delta Conveyance Project. Metropolitan has invested in the planning and permitting process for this project and if enacted this bill would stop the permitting process from moving forward.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
March 11, 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
March 11, 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
March 11, 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.	Reclamation Climate Change and Water Program Reauthorization Act of 2023 Extends the authorization for Reclamation’s basin studies program for ten years.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The Basin studies bring together technical experts, state and local water managers, conservation groups, and other stakeholders to assess water supply and demand imbalances at the river basin level. This benefits Metropolitan and its member agencies by ensuring consistent operations using science and awareness of the. In addition to the Colorado River basin, Reclamation has conducted these studies in other watersheds across the West including the Los Angeles and Santa Ana basins in Metropolitan’s service area and the Sacramento-San Joaquin system.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
March 11, 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	S.1430 (Lummis, R-WY)	5/3/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.	Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act Provides exemptions to drinking water and wastewater facilities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) for PFAS chemicals designated as hazardous substances.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The bill follows the “polluters pay” principle for cleanup of PFAS under CERCLA by shielding drinking water and wastewater systems from cleanup liability when they properly dispose of water treatment byproducts containing PFAS.



Legislation and Communications Committee

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Item #6b

March 11, 2024

Item 6b
Report on
Activities
from
Washington,
D.C.

Subject

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Purpose

To provide an update on Congressional and Administrative actions.

Appropriations Update.



March 8

- Bureau of Reclamation
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Department of Agriculture
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

March 22

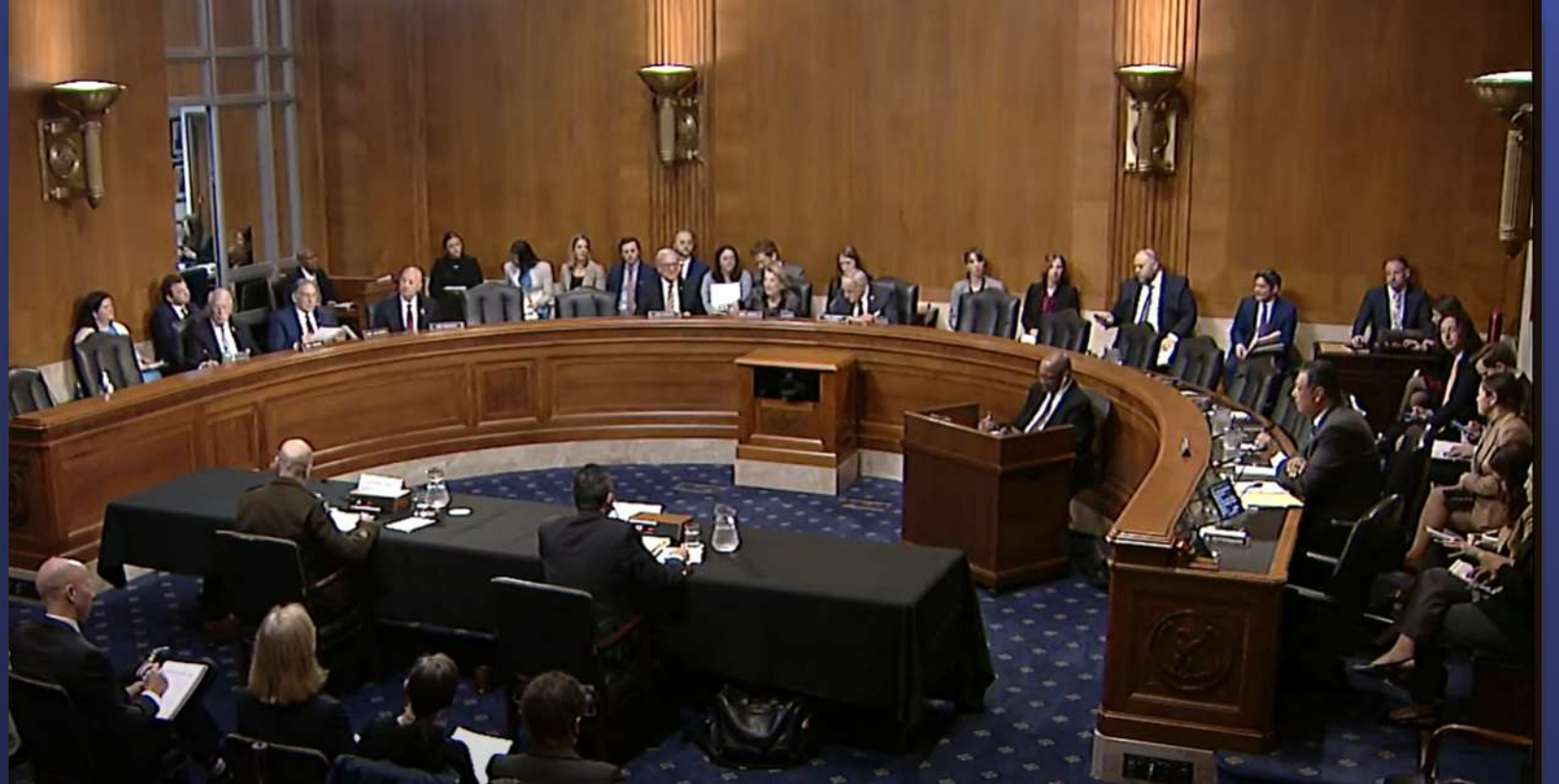
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Defense Department
- Homeland Security
- Legislative Branch
- State Department

Appropriations Update.

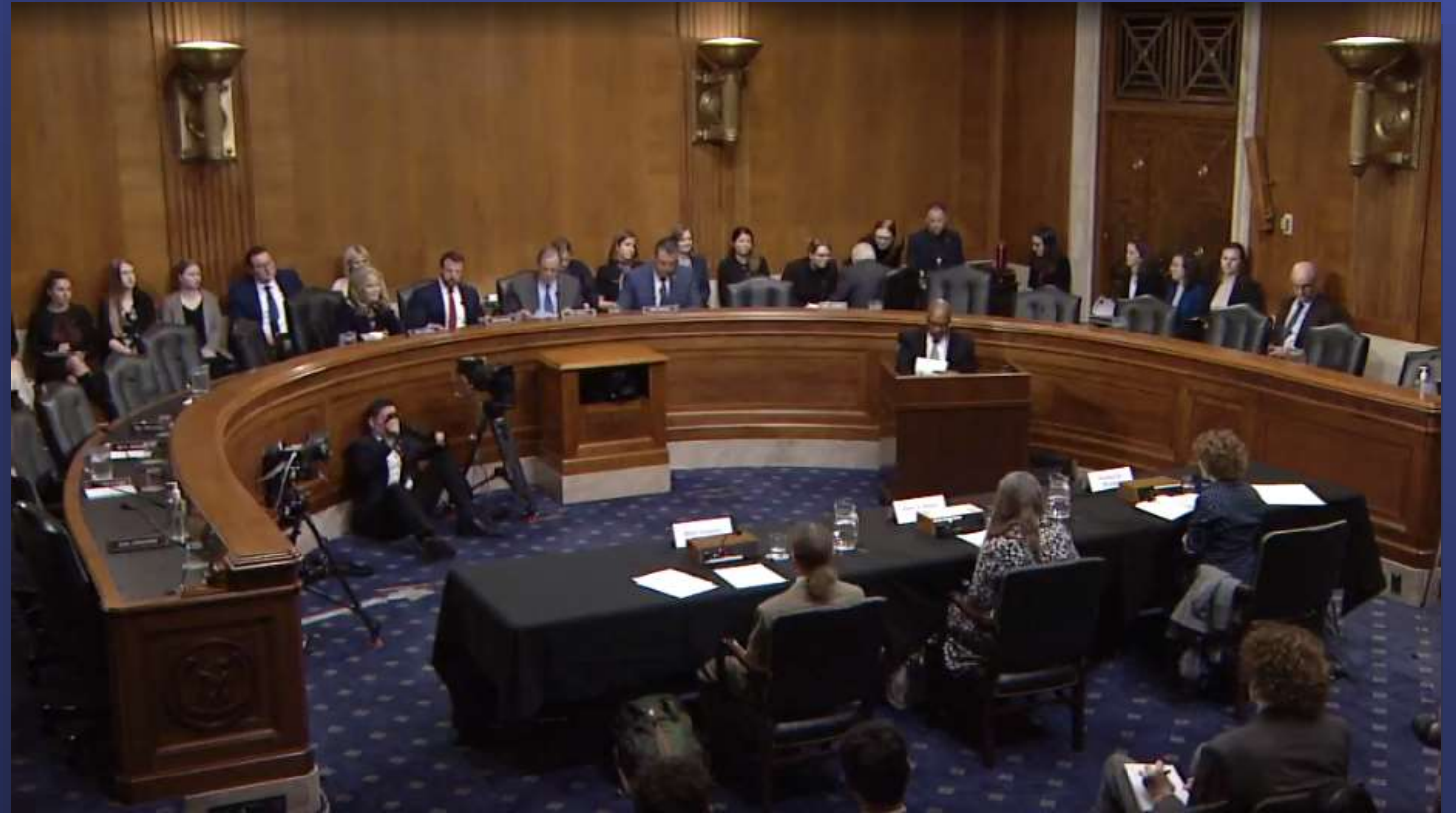


Agency	FY 23	FY 24
Reclamation		
Water Recycling Competitive Grant	\$20 M	\$20 M
Safety of Dams	\$182.5 M	\$182.5 M
Lower CR DCP	\$50 M	\$50 M
Water storage	\$134 M	\$134 M
CALFED	\$33	\$33 M
EPA		
Drinking Water SRF	\$1.1 B	\$1.1B
Clean Water SRF	\$1.6 B	\$1.6 B
WIFIA	\$75 M	\$72M

WRDA 2024.



Microplastics Hearing.





**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
March 11, 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
March 11, 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
March 11, 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
March 11, 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
March 11, 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.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
March 11, 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 6/29/2023</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
March 11, 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
March 11, 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.



Legislation and Communications
Committee

Report on Activities from Sacramento

March 11, 2024
Item 6c

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Subject

Report on Activities from Sacramento.

Purpose

To provide a legislative update as we begin legislative session.

Sacramento Legislative Calendar

Legislative Calendar

Feb 16: Last day for new bills to be introduced

Mar 21 – 29: Legislative Spring Recess

State Fiscal Outlook

Sacramento Budget Update



2-Year Bills of Interest: Climate Bonds

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

AB 1567 (Garcia): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024



Sacramento Legislative Highlights

2-Year Bills of Interest: Climate Bonds (Cont'd)

SB 867 (Allen): Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, and Clean Energy Bond Act of 2024



Surface Mining and Reclamation Act Exemption

Sacramento Legislative Highlights



Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Flood Flow Streamlining

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



Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Prop 218 Clean-Up

- 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

Connection and Capacity Charges

- AB 1820 (Schiavo): Housing development projects: applications: fees and exactions
- SB 937 (Wiener): Development projects: permits and other entitlements: fees and charges
- SB 1210 (Skinner): New housing construction: electrical, gas, sewer, and water service connections: charges.

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Bills of Interest

- AB 2409 (Papan): Office of Planning and Research: permitting accountability transparency dashboard
- SB 1218: Water: emergency water supplies





External Affairs

• External Affairs Monthly Activities Report for February 2024

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Highlights

GM Hagekhalil, COO Upadhyay, and staff hosted a tour of CRA facilities for member agency managers. (February 1)

Chair Ortega, GM Hagekhalil, and EO/AGM Upadhyay provided an update to the Calleguas board of directors on water supply reliability and how CAMP4W will inform future investments to serve Ventura County and the region. (February 7)



L: Member Agency Managers tour CRA Facilities; R: GM Hagekhalil, Chair Ortega, and Director McMillan at Calleguas board meeting



GM Hagekhalil and Chief DE&I Officer Thomas, met with Rep. Napolitano and Sunburst Youth Academy staff to discuss workforce development and training.

GM Hagekhalil was a panelist at the NACWA Winter Conference and spoke about the ways that Metropolitan’s regional cooperative brings together many interests to collectively address the water needs and challenges of Southern California. (February 13–16)

Metropolitan leadership, including General Manager Hagekhalil and Chief DE&I Officer Thomas, met with Representative Grace Napolitano and Sunburst Youth

External Affairs Monthly Report February 2024

Academy to discuss workforce development and training opportunities. (February 20)

As the featured speaker at Western MWD's 2024 retail agency roundtable event, GM Hagekhalil provided an overview on CAMP4W and other initiatives, regional economic pressures, and the proposed biennial budget. (February 21)

Chair Ortega and GM Hagekhalil provided an update to the Inland Empire Utilities Agency board of directors on water supply conditions, CAMP4W, and planned investments to ensure continued reliability in the region. (February 21)

GM Hagekhalil spoke at the Los Angeles City Council's Energy & Environment Committee about Metropolitan's efforts to develop regional water supplies in collaboration with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Los Angeles County Sanitation District. (February 23)



GM Hagekhalil testifying at LA City Council Energy and Environment Committee meeting

Legislative Services

Federal

Congress provided \$1.1 billion through the American Rescue Plan and Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 to help low-income households pay their water and wastewater bills, prevent shutoffs, and restore services. Senator Padilla plans to introduce a bill to make the program permanent, and Metropolitan provided a support letter to advance the legislation.



Community Outreach Manager Soni and Rep. Barragan at Pure Water Southern California

Chair Ortega, Director Erdman, and staff met with Congresswoman Barragan and her staff for a presentation and tour of the Pure Water Southern California demonstration facility. (February 21)

State

The Legislative Analyst Office released an update on the state's budget deficit, reporting that it has grown from \$58 Billion to \$73 Billion based on low revenue receipts for this fiscal year. This report recommended cuts to one-time and temporary spending programs totaling \$16 billion, with \$3.4 billion of those cuts proposed from water and environmental programs.

Metropolitan is continuing to advocate for the passage of a climate bond in this year's session. Stakeholders are watching the behavioral health bond on the March ballot to gauge voter appetite for the state taking on

External Affairs Monthly Report February 2024

more bond debt. The Legislature will have until June 27 to pass a bill on the climate bond that qualifies for the November 2024 ballot.

The State Legislature's bill introduction deadline passed on February 16. In total, 2,226 bills were introduced this year, with 78 actives from last year. Bills that are currently active from 2023 will have until May 28 before any further action is taken.

Local

This month, Metropolitan staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 64 webinars, virtual meetings, and events with community organizations, trade associations, and local officials on Metropolitan activities and other water-specific topics.

Director Dick attended and Metropolitan sponsored the Orange County Taxpayer's Association's luncheon featuring OC Board of Supervisors Chairman Wagner. (February 2)

Metropolitan staff participated in a tour of the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center with members of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, which included staff from Upper Municipal Water District and San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. (February 7)

Vice Chairs Camacho and Goldberg attended and Metropolitan sponsored the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual event. (February 8)

Chief SRI Officer Crosson presented on CAMP4W to the Los Angeles Business Council's Energy & Environment Committee. (February 14)

Metropolitan sponsored the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce 2024 Inaugural, which recognized business and civic leaders and the 2024 Santa Ana River Science and Conservation Symposium. (February 15)

Media and Communications

Coordinated interview between Vogue writer Tamar Adler and GM Hagekhalil and External Affairs' Soni about Pure Water Southern California for a story on DPR in California.

Responded to inquiries from CNN, Los Angeles Times, and 89.3 FM KPCC regarding stormwater capture and Metropolitan pilot programs.

Provided a tour of Pure Water Southern California to New York Times reporter Michael Kimmelman for a long-term piece on Southern California water to be published later this year.

Provided a tour of High Desert Water Bank to Dutch reporter Mari Myers and an interview with Water Resource Management's Manager Alonzo for a story on water storage opportunities.

External Affairs Monthly Report February 2024

Provided a quote and photos for the American Water Works Association newsletter on the Water Savings Incentives Program and 2023 One Water Awards winners.

Press Releases

- Opening of the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake
- New Central Basin Municipal Water District representative Michael Gualtieri on the Metropolitan Board

Creative Design

Finalized Water System Operations' Annual Operating Plan and 2024 Leadership Today, Water Tomorrow brochure.

Designed and produced new first responder signs for all Colorado River Aqueduct pump plants.

Website

Posted new homepage features spotlighting Water Quality Lab staff, the 2023 Annual Achievement Report, and the proposed biennial budget.

Added to bewaterwise.com a listing of newly certified landscape professionals who have completed Metropolitan's Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program; the webpage hosts nearly 100 EPA WaterSense-certified professionals with industry-leading water efficiency training.

Registered more than 62,000 visits to mwdh2o.com, with careers, job postings, and the Board of Directors webpages receiving the most traffic. Received over 20,000 views on bewaterwise.com site, with turf replacement, California Friendly/native plants profiles, and rebates the most visited pages.

Social Media

Shared postings of videos from actor Kyle MacLachlan, which outperformed all posts in terms of reach, impressions, and engagement from his 550,000 followers on social media.

Highlighted Inland Empire Construction Career, Apprenticeship Resource Fair.

Posted public comments made during the One Water & Stewardship Committee public hearing for the Annual Achievement Report.



GM Hagekhalil, Chair Ortega, newly installed Central Basin Director Gualtieri and Director Garza

External Affairs Monthly Report February 2024



February social media posts

Featured posts to celebrate the Super Bowl, Black History month, Lunar New Year, and Valentines Day.

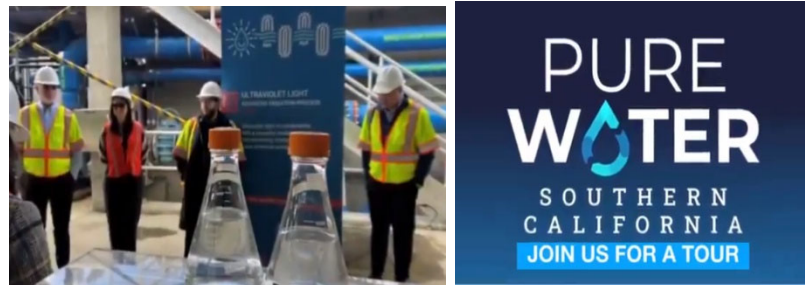
Community Outreach

- Notified residents and businesses on upcoming work and urgent repair on the Sepulveda Feeder and notified residents about San Diego Canal repair and shutdown.
- Presentation to Willow Glen and Portola Springs HOAs and city of Mission Viejo on upcoming Allen-McColloch Pipeline urgent repair.
- Tour of Weymouth and Water Quality Lab for AWWA CA-NV Young Professionals Committee. (February 22)
- Led State Water Project inspection trip for Vice Chair Goldberg and Director Alvarez.

Pure Water Southern California

Participation at Del Amo Action Committee's Stormwater Symposium (February 24) and focus groups on public attitudes on potable reuse. (February 28–29)

Made presentations and tours to the Los Angeles Faith and Ecology Network (February 14), staff of Assemblymember Zbur (D-Hollywood) (February 14), Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (February 20), Metropolitan Administrative Services Section (February 21), International Facility Management Association (February 22), Mark Gold and UCLA students (February 23), and a general public tour (February 24).



Metropolitan's Pure Water Southern California tours provide the public with a greater understanding of how recycled water will help meet our region's future water needs

Education

- Interacted with more than 2,600 teachers, students, and adults through in-person and online meetings and events; distributed the quarterly education newsletter to 2,100 educators.
- Participated in California Environmental Education Foundation's Teacher Institute, MWDOC's Water Energy Education Alliance Leadership Roundtable, University of La Verne Business Council, and Water Replenishment District's Water Industry Workforce Development Group.
- Water Engineering 4 Good (WE4G) teams submitted social media video descriptions and social media posts of their water conservation projects.



Legislation and Communications Committee

External Affairs Monthly Activities & Highlights

Item 7a

March 11, 2024

Report on
Activities
from
External
Affairs

Subject

Report on Activities from External Affairs

Purpose

To provide management announcements and highlights for External Affairs

New Tree Rebate Press Conference



1/Prep

1. Remove grass and plants in a 2-foot-wide area of your lot.
2. Dig a hole that is as deep as the tree's root ball and 2 to 3 times as wide. Add 4 feet wide by 4 feet deep.
3. Remove the container from the tree by laying the tree down on its side and putting pressure on the sides of the container to loosen the root ball.

Good Example

- 1. Flip out from
- 2. Root ball
- 3. Check roots

Photo: iStockphoto.com/Andriy Hrytsiv

2/Plant

1. Place the tree in the following orientation to the direction you wish the tree to grow. You don't want to end up with a tree that is leaning or tilted to the left.
2. If the tree is started out in a container, the root ball is in plastic. If you are planting the tree in the ground, you can use the back of a shovel to break open the water to penetrate into the soil.
3. The root flare should be the same level as the soil.

Do not do this

Do not do this

- DO NOT
- DO NOT
- DO NOT
- DO NOT

3/Stake

1. Remove the nursery stake and tie the tree with soil.
2. Place stakes on either side of the tree, about 16 inches from the trunk. Then, position them to hold the tree straight when bent by the stakes.
3. Loosely loop the rubber ties around the tree at a figure 8. The tree should be able to move to 2 inches in the wind with the ties on. The ties should be placed about 2/3 of the way up the tree trunk.
4. Nail both ends of the ties to the stakes to secure.
5. Stakes and ties should remain up all the time. Do not remove them until the roots are established when you can stake the trunk and tie to ground, clean and remove.

Some planting stakes are an enclosed container that makes watering easier and convenient. You may want to use one of these for the tree.

Do not do this

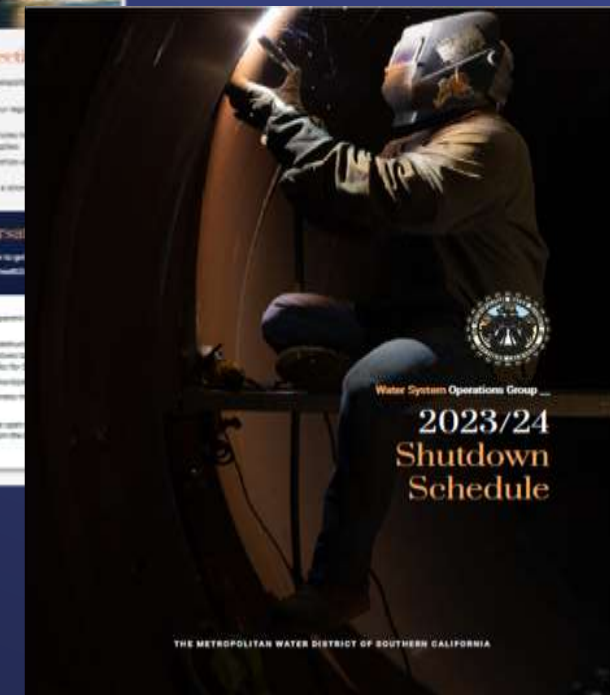
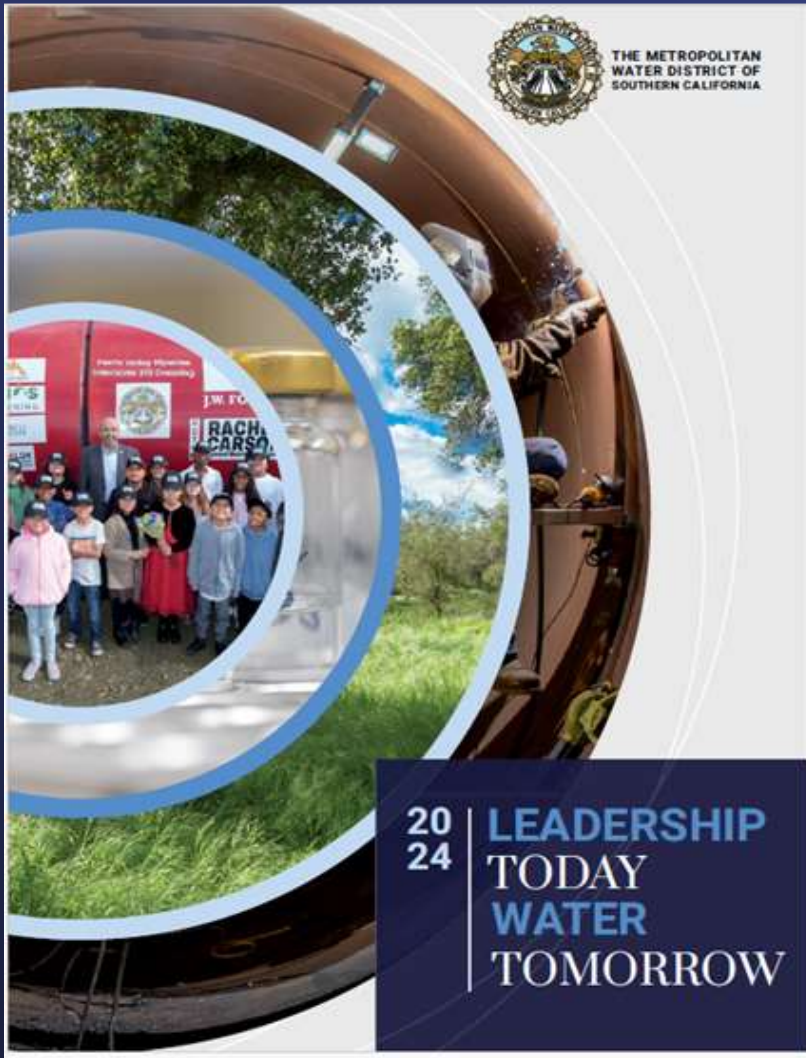
4/Water & Mulch

1. Slowly water the tree with a bucket or hose by pouring it onto the back of a shovel placed at the tree roots.
2. After watering, give the tree about 15 to 20 gallons of water.
3. Add soil to any area where water is soaking.
4. Spread no more than 5 inches of mulch 4 inches from the trunk.

Watered trees are more likely to survive than those that are not.

10 to 20 gallons of water after planting

Updated Outreach Materials Tell Our Stories



Pure Water Outreach

Congresswoman Nanette Barragán



Diamond Valley Lake Wildflower Trail Opening



