

One Water and Stewardship Committee CAMP4W Policies, Initiatives, and Partnerships Discussion

Item 6e August 19, 2024 Item 6e CAMP4W Policies, Initiatives, and Partnerships Discussion Subject Discuss the development of a Climate Adaptation Policy Framework for Board Approval in early 2025

#### Purpose

Seek input from the One Water and Stewardship Committee on the value of developing a Climate Adaptation Policy Framework that translates CAMP4W thematic priorities into Policies, Initiatives and Partnerships

#### Next Steps

Oct 2024 - Seek CAMP4W Task Force input on a Draft Climate Adaptation Policy Framework Dec 2024 – Present Climate Adaptation Policy Framework as a component of the Draft CAMP4W Master Plan CAMP4W Task Force Charter

# CAMP4W Task Force

Joint Task Force of Board Members and Member Agencies has been chartered to produce a regional plan (CAMP4W) that will develop and establish a master plan that includes:

- Climate and Growth Scenarios
- Time-bound Targets
- Framework for Climate Decision-Making and Reporting
- Policies, Initiatives, and Partnerships
- Business Models and Funding Strategies



Climate Decision-Making Framework focused on Projects and Programs

Integrated Elements: Time-Bound Targets, Evaluative Criteria and Investment Decisions function together



*Time-Bound Targets guide project development and inform scoring of projects* 

Time-Bound Targets

Evaluative Criteria and Project Scoring Adaptive Management: update resource development needs and Time-Bound Targets based on updated projections

Scores and Time-Bound Targets inform decision-making

Investment

Decision

Purpose of Climate Adaptation Policy Framework



Systemically enhance Metropolitan's ability to <u>adaptively manage</u>, strengthen regional climate resilience, and <u>further Metropolitan's mission</u> of providing its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of highquality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way

A Policy Framework to systemically integrate Climate Adaptation



# DRAFT Policy Framework Objectives

- 1. Systemically integrate climate adaptation to <u>increase preparedness</u> and <u>improve response</u>
- 2. Update existing and set new policies to strengthen the role of <u>adaptive management</u> and <u>climate adaptation</u> in Metropolitan's <u>initiatives and decision making</u>
- 3. Underscore the value of the Metropolitan Member Agency <u>cooperative</u> and other <u>partnerships</u> in achieving <u>regional climate</u> <u>resilience</u>

# Policy and Initiative areas identified in Year One Progress Report

#### SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Policies that focus on being equitable, forward-thinking, and environmentally sustainable can shape the direction Metropolitan takes into the future, impacting investment decisions and the footprint we leave behind.



While Metropolitan's Resource-Development targets identify the supply and storage needs for long-term reliability, the decision to specifically focus on areas experiencing inequity is driven by policy-based targets. Metropolitan's policy goals can further identify the types of measures it will prioritize towards meeting these goals. The IRP Needs Assessment assumes a certain amount of local supply will remain available overtime. By developing policies that focus on supporting Member Agencies in their efforts to protect, preserve, and share those supplies, Metropolitan will define its preference towards continuing to support local supply reliability as a key resource.



Metropolitan embraces Making Conservation a California Way of Life, by considering policies and programs that capture the true value of water efficiency and conservation to achieve our goals of long-term reliability, resilience and financial sustainability. This includes policies to support Member Agency compliance with SWRCB standards.



Assessing climate risks and expanding Metropolitan's current robust process of asset protection is critical. As our climate and risks shift, policies that direct Metropolitan to identify and address risks based on future conditions will help guide investment decisions. As an environmental steward, current and new Metropolitan policies can contribute to long-term environmental sustainability including reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy and water efficiency, pursuing renewable energy and reducing waste. Policies can support Metropolitan's management of surplus water such as during flooding events or when excess recycled water is available, by developing additional storage within existing basins and reservoirs and through new opportunities.



Healthy ecosystems can impact water quality, water supply, and infrastructure resilience. Policies can drive investment to make the ecosystem more resilient to fires, flooding and other risks, protect the water quality coming from the watershed, influence supply reliability, and protect infrastructure from risk of loss or damages. Metropolitan is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, through policies such as mitigating impacts to disadvantaged communities or engaging underrepresented communities in workforce development, and those that consider affordability and Metropolitan's role as a wholesaler. Preparing for a future with increased climate extremes drives the need for critical policies surrounding workforce development goals and Metropolitan's process for protecting employees operating under extreme or otherwise risky conditions.



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# DRAFT Policy Framework Structure

#### **CAMP4W** Themes

Reliability	Resilience	Financial Sustainability	Affordability	Equity
<b>Board Policy Statements (Overarching Direction)</b>				
Policy Statement to integrate climate adaptation into water supply reliability efforts	Policy Statement to achieve climate resilience of resources and infrastructure	Policy Statement to ensure short and long- term revenues to adapt to climate change	Policy Statement to account for financial impacts of climate adaptation investments	Policy Statement acknowledging the role and importance of communities in climate adaptation

### **Initiatives (Specific Implementation Actions)**

Policies, Programs, Actions, Studies, Research, Partnerships etc. to implement Climate Adaptation Policies

Themes	Example Policy Statements (DRAFTS)
Reliability	Long-term regional water supply reliability requires ongoing consideration of climate risks and integration of climate adaptation strategies into Metropolitan programs, policies, planning, workforce development, budgeting, land management, purchasing, and operations
Resilience	Metropolitan will integrate climate risk and vulnerability assessments for climate- related hazards including drought, extreme heat and precipitation, sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire using the best available climate science and climate change information into planning, implementation and operations
Financial Sustainability	Metropolitan will reduce short-term and long-term climate-related financial risks through its existing reserve policy for emergency response and through enabling investments that help reduce the risks of climate change
Affordability	Supporting retail customer affordability ensures financial sustainability for all water agencies to make necessary water project and program investments
Equity	Increasing community equity and engagement positively impacts Metropolitan's programs, projects, outcomes and partnership and funding opportunities

Themes	Example Policy Statements (DRAFTS)	
Reliability	Long-term regional water supply reliability requires ongoing consideration of climate risks and integration of climate adaptation strategies into Metropolitan programs, policies, planning, workforce development, budgeting, land management, purchasing, and operations	

#### Example Initiatives:



Revise design standards to address climate risks



Strengthen local/regional water and climate resilience programs



Strengthen imported supplies



Partner with Member Agencies

Themes	Example Policy Statements (DRAFTS)	
Resilience	Metropolitan will integrate climate risk and vulnerability assessments for climate- related hazards including drought, extreme heat and precipitation, sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire using the best available climate science and climate change information into planning, implementation and operations	

#### Example Initiatives:



Manage vulnerabilities to power infrastructure



Collect and track latest climate data



Review workforce safety measures for climate risks



Maintain updated fire management plans for critical facilities

Themes	Example Policy Statements (DRAFTS)
Financial Sustainability	Metropolitan will reduce short-term and long-term climate-related financial risks through its existing reserve policy for emergency response and through enabling investments that help reduce the risks of climate change

Example Initiatives:



Identify partnership opportunities to share costs and benefits of adaptation strategies

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Themes	Example Policy Statements (DRAFTS)	
Affordability	Supporting retail customer affordability ensures financial sustainability for all water agencies to make necessary water project and program investments	

#### Example Initiatives:



Develop water conservation programs, rebates and incentives to increase participation by DACs

Work with Member Agencies to identify funds for statewide low-income rate assistance

Themes	Example Policy Statements (DRAFTS)	
Equity	Increasing community equity and engagement positively impacts Metropolitan's programs, projects, outcomes and partnership and funding opportunities	

#### Example Initiatives:



Develop environmental justice and community benefits policy



Develop community engagement standards

# Process for Climate Adaptation Policy, Initiatives, and Partnerships Development

August 2024 High Level Policy Framework Discussion (One Water Committee) October 2024 Draft Policy Framework Discussion (CAMP4W Task Force)

#### December 2024

Include Policy Framework in Draft CAMP4W Report for Task Force & Board Consideration

#### 2025 <del>→</del>

Continue to pursue policies, initiatives, partnerships that advance Climate Adaptation Policies



