

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California State
Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
February 9, 2026**

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>AB 35 D. Alvarez (D – San Diego)</p> <p>Sponsor: San Diego County</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Natural Resources Committee on 1/14/2026</p>	<p>Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.</p> <p>This bill exempts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4) from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which establishes rulemaking procedures and standards for state agencies in California, to expedite funding allocations.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>AB 35 would streamline the funding process for Proposition 4 projects and allow Metropolitan, its member agencies, and partner agencies to access funds more quickly and accelerate project timelines. Proposition 4 funding includes multiple critical areas for Metropolitan, including funding for groundwater management, water recycling, Delta levees, and repairs to regional conveyance.</p>
<p>AB 259 B. Rubio (D – Baldwin Park)</p> <p>Sponsors: California Special Districts Association, Three Valleys Municipal Water District</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Local Government Committee on 4/21/2025.</p> <p>Two-Year Bill</p>	<p>Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.</p> <p>This bill eliminates the sunset on provisions added to the Brown Act by AB 2449, a bill that provided additional flexibility with Brown Act meeting procedures in the event of a board member’s physical absence in connection with a “just cause” or “emergency circumstances,” allowing those members to participate in the meeting remotely consistent with the process detailed in the bill.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>By removing the sunset on the Brown Act provisions, AB 259 preserves flexibility for Metropolitan and Member Agency board members to meet remotely and continue providing the public with essential services.</p>

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<p>AB 794 J. Gabriel (D – Encino)</p> <p>Sponsors: Clean Water Action, Environmental Working Group</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 4/10/2025.</p> <p>Two-Year Bill</p>	<p>California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations</p> <p>This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt an emergency regulation for water quality based on federal regulations in effect on January 19, 2025, regardless of whether the requirements were repealed or amended to be less stringent. The bill would prohibit an emergency regulation adopted pursuant to these provisions from implementing less stringent drinking water standards, as provided, and would authorize the regulation to include requirements that are more stringent than the requirements of the federal regulation. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2026, the SWRCB to adopt an emergency regulation and to initiate a primary drinking water standard for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).</p>	<p>Oppose Unless Amended</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>While AB 794 aims to protect public health, its approach circumvents the established regulatory process for setting Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Metropolitan’s Legislative Priorities and Principles call for using the best available science to protect public health and improve water quality when setting MCLs. The broad scope of this bill, which would allow the SWRCB to set through emergency action primary and secondary MCLs for any chemical with a federal MCL, sets a dangerous precedent and fails to align with well-established regulatory principles.</p>

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<p>SB 601 B. Allen (D – Santa Monica)</p> <p>Sponsors: California Coastkeeper Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 7/10/2025.</p> <p>Two-Year Bill</p>	<p>Water: waste discharge</p> <p>The intent of this bill is to restore Clean Water Act protections in California that were removed per the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2023 Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision. However, the bill goes beyond restoring statute and includes several provisions that expand regulatory requirements without the benefit of scientific analysis.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>Currently, AB 601 poses risks to Metropolitan and its member agencies by: adopting EPA’s drinking water standards for PFAS/PFOS, bypassing the state rulemaking process; increasing costs of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) permits for discharges of water when dewatering or operating water supply infrastructure, potentially requiring all such water to be recycled regardless of cost to comply; exposing Metropolitan and its Member Agencies to citizen suits in state court, and, for certain nexus waters, both state and federal court; and creating uncertainty in discharge permitting as the bill’s ambiguous provisions and implications are likely to be litigated.</p>