



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Committee Item INFORMATION

Legislation and Communications Committee

6/8/2026 Committee Meeting

9-2

Subject

SB 707 Implementation: Public Outreach Efforts

Executive Summary

Senate Bill (SB) 707 was signed by Governor Newsom on October 3, 2025, with expanded public participation provisions effective July 1, 2026, for certain types of legislative bodies. Over the past few months Metropolitan has taken actions to ensure the District is fulfilling requirements to encourage participation in public meetings and provide agendas in specified languages with an accessible webpage. Staff plans to increase community outreach to underrepresented communities and non-English speaking communities regarding participation in Metropolitan's public meetings.

Fiscal Impact

None

Applicable Policy

SB 707 (Durazo) Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements updates the Ralph M. Brown Act in Title 5 of California's Government Code.

Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

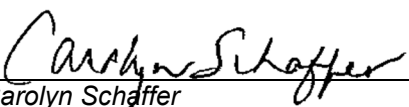
None.

Details and Background

Senate Bill (SB) 707 was signed by Governor Newsom on October 3, 2025, updating the Ralph M. Brown Act in Title 5 of the Government Code. The law requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body, as defined, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The provisions require, among others, that the eligible legislative body take specified actions to encourage residents to participate in public meetings, as specified. The agency is required to take actions to encourage residents, including those in underrepresented communities and non-English-speaking communities, to participate in public meetings. In addition, the agency must make reasonable efforts, as determined by the legislative body, to invite groups that do not traditionally participate in public meetings to attend those meetings. Agendas must be translated into all applicable languages, which for Metropolitan, based on data available at this time, includes Spanish, Mandarin and Armenian. An overview of the new requirements was provided to the Board at the January 13, 2026, board meeting.

Over the past few months Metropolitan has made adjustments to ensure the District is fulfilling the requirements of SB 707. This presentation provides an overview of efforts to strengthen public outreach and accessibility to Metropolitan's public meetings. Metropolitan's website, mwdh2o.com, has been enhanced with additional language translations and streamlined ways to request and access meeting agendas electronically. Staff has created communication tools and is implementing broader efforts to increase public awareness and engagement.

These improvements are designed to make it easier for diverse communities to access information and participate in the District's decision-making process.



Carolyn Schaffer
Group Manager, External Affairs

6/2/2026
Date



Shivaji Deshmukh
General Manager

6/2/2026
Date

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