



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Committee Item INFORMATION

One Water and Adaptation Committee

1/12/2026 One Water and Adaptation Committee

6d

Subject

A pilot program for early retirement of alfalfa in the Palo Verde Valley

Executive Summary

This oral report will describe a concept for a potential new water conservation pilot project with farmers in the Palo Verde Valley. The project would involve farmers terminating their end-of-life alfalfa stands earlier in the year, resulting in seasonal water savings during the summer—a concept staff have named “alfalfa early retirement.” Metropolitan is currently working with the Palo Verde Irrigation District and identifying possible funding sources for a one-year pilot of this idea to take place next year.

Fiscal Impact

None currently, as the project is in its conceptual stage.

Applicable Policy

None

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

February 2026: Potential Info letter describing pilot project terms

March 2026: Potential Action letter seeking board approval to execute a pilot project