THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Information

- **Board of Directors**
  One Water and Adaptation Committee (OWA)

8/18/2026 Board Meeting

9-2

Subject

Information on the proposed amendments to the Administrative Code to incorporate Board direction on climate action and adaptation

Executive Summary

In February 2023, the Board directed staff to integrate water resources, climate considerations, and financial planning into a Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W). In October 2023, the Board chartered a Joint Task Force of Board Members and Member Agency Managers to facilitate the development of CAMP4W in a timely and transparent process. Rooted in adaptability, Metropolitan's CAMP4W, through its implementation, will facilitate Metropolitan's continued reliability and resilience in the face of change and uncertainty while responding to real-world conditions, course correcting as needed, and achieving its core mission to provide safe, reliable water to its member agencies.

This is an information item on proposed amendments to Metropolitan's Administrative Code. The amendments would add new duties and functions to the OWA Committee to provide explicit oversight of climate adaptation planning and the Climate Action Plan (CAP) (including carbon neutrality goals). They also add a board policy through a new section under Division IV, Water Service Policies, Chapter 2, Regional Water Management, codifying climate adaptation as a core policy directive.

These changes build directly on prior board actions, including the 2022 adoption of the CAP, the development and 2025 approval of the CAMP4W Implementation Strategy, and the Board's emphasis on institutionalizing climate considerations in planning, prioritization, and investment decisions. These updates are important context to other policy provisions in the Administrative Code that address reliability, water planning and conservation.

The proposed amendments are to Division II (Procedures Pertaining to Board, Committees, and Directors) Chapter 4, Article 9 and to Division IV (Water Service Policies) Chapter 2.

See **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2**.

Fiscal Impact

None

Applicable Policy

By Minute Item 52776, dated April 12, 2022, the Board adopted the 2020 Integrated Water Resources Plan Needs Assessment.

By Minute Item 52823, dated May 10, 2022, the Board adopted the 2022 Climate Action Plan with a goal of carbon neutrality by 2045.

By Minute Item 52946, dated August 15, 2022, the Board adopted a resolution affirming Metropolitan's call to action and commitment to regional reliability for all member agencies.

By Minute Item 53381, dated September 12, 2023, the Board approved the use of Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 for planning purposes in the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water.

By Minute Item 53630, dated May 14, 2024, the Board concurred with the CAMP4W: Draft Year One Progress Report and Next Steps, with the understanding that staff would provide the Board updated data and other information before consideration and approval of any CAMP4W projects.

By Minute Item 53436, dated April 8, 2025, the Board approved the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water Five-year Implementation Strategy.

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

Proposed action item for September 2026

Details and Background

The Board has provided consistent direction on climate matters through the CAP (adopted 2022, with a goal of carbon neutrality by 2045) and the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W), including its iterative policy directives and the Five-Year Implementation Strategy approved in April 2025, as well as through its legislative policies and principles, Capital Improvement Plan, and resource planning efforts. These frameworks address both the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to immediate impacts (actions in response to drought, fire, flood, sea level rise, extreme heat, and compounding impacts). However, this recognition remains dispersed across separate sources rather than consolidated within a clear guiding policy.

Incorporating climate adaptation and action directives into the Administrative Code would consolidate these previously articulated commitments into one central policy statement, thereby establishing a clear and consistent reference point for staff, member agencies, and the public regarding the District's approach to climate considerations. Such consolidation helps ensure that future planning, budgetary, and operational decisions are informed uniformly and reliably by the Board's established climate policy direction, reducing the potential for inconsistent interpretation and reinforcing institutional accountability and follow-through.

Metropolitan Water District's Administrative Code also includes provisions governing water reliability, growth planning, conservation, local supply development, and integrated resource planning, yet lacks explicit directives addressing climate adaptation and action. The Code's existing provisions on supply reliability and long-term planning could be interpreted as assuming a relatively stable climate baseline, rather than experienced and accelerating changes in snowpack, precipitation patterns, sea level rise, and extreme weather events that are reshaping underlying planning assumptions. Codifying climate adaptation and action as an explicit policy directive would provide essential context for existing Code provisions, ensuring that reliability planning, conservation and local supply efforts and growth expectations are read and implemented through a climate-informed lens.

Amending the Administrative Code also codifies an agency-wide directive to integrate climate risk into capital investment, operations, and long-term contracts, and would signal institutional accountability to member agencies, regulators, and the public that the District is proactively managing climate risk.

The proposed changes would add new duties and functions to the OWA Committee specific to overseeing climate action and adaptation, and add the following policy statement to the Water Services Policies:

It shall be the policy of the District to consider climate risks and integrate climate adaptation and risk reduction strategies into its programs, policies, planning, and operations. The District will utilize the best available climate science and real-world conditions to evaluate risks and proposed investments to meet regional water needs.

The Board has previously approved policy direction that this action seeks to codify, and the revisions fit seamlessly with existing language on water supply reliability, local resources, conservation, and regional water management.

8/6/2026

Elizabeth K. Crosson *Date*
Chief Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Office

8/6/2026

Shivaji Deshmukh *Date*
General Manager

Attachment 1 – The Administrative Code of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (with changes marked) (Revised)

Attachment 2 – The Administrative Code of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (clean copy) (Revised)

Ref# sri12712701

ATTACHMENT 1

Proposed Metropolitan Administrative Code Amendments
Integrating Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water

Division II

PROCEDURES PERTAINING TO BOARD, COMMITTEES AND DIRECTORS

Chapter 4

Article 9

§ **2481. Duties and Functions. [One Water and Adaptation Committee]**

The OWA Committee shall have oversight over the planning, prioritization, and funding of any current or future regional demand management or any regional or local supply projects within the Metropolitan service area receiving funding from Metropolitan, such as the Regional Recycling Project and local projects funded through Metropolitan's Local Resources Program. The committee shall review and consider:

(a) Establishing policies and programs regarding climate action and adaptation, water conservation and reuse, watershed management, storm water capture and management, recycling, sustainable groundwater management and protection, underground storage, and use thereof;

(c) Overseeing development and implementation of Metropolitan's Local Resources Program and Conservation Program and other efforts to meet local supply, climate adaptation, and water use efficiency goals;

(m) Metropolitan Water Supply and Climate Adaptation Planning including the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water, the Integrated Resources Planning Process and completion of the Urban Water Management Plan and related policies; ~~and~~

(n) Environmental compliance and requirements, and informing the technical aspects and science factors in providing comments to regulatory agencies and legislation affecting the regulation of water supply operational facilities and the conditions that they operate under; and

(p) Overseeing the development and implementation of Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan and related initiatives to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

ATTACHMENT 1

Division IV

WATER SERVICE POLICIES

Chapter 2

§ 4212. Climate Adaptation.

It shall be the policy of the District to consider climate risks and integrate climate adaptation and risk reduction strategies into its programs, policies, planning, and operations. The District will utilize the best available climate science and real-world conditions to evaluate risks and proposed investments to meet regional water needs.

ATTACHMENT 2

Proposed Metropolitan Administrative Code Amendments
Integrating Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water

Division II

PROCEDURES PERTAINING TO BOARD, COMMITTEES AND DIRECTORS

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