Legislation and Communications Committee

2027 Legislative Priorities

Item 6a

September 14, 2026

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, II

2027 Legislative Priorities

Subject

Discussion on Metropolitan legislative priorities for 2027

Purpose

To gather input from the Board on proposed legislative priorities

2027 Legislative Priorities

Background

Metropolitan Legislative Priorities and Principles are approved annually by the Board of Directors.

At the beginning of each 2-year session, staff does a more comprehensive update to include new and emerging issues.

Staff is beginning the process earlier this year to seek board input on the proposed priorities and Community and Workplace Culture Committee recommendations for disadvantaged communities.

This presentation is focused on the top actionable priorities that we intend to lead in the coming year.

We will continue to address other important issues through our policy principles.

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Priorities Framework

- Strengthen Colorado River water supply resiliency and reliability
- Strengthen State Water Project water supply resiliency and reliability
- Mitigate golden mussels and other invasive species
- Support Metropolitan operations and capital improvements
- Conserve existing water supplies
- Enhance local water supply resiliency and reliability
- Protect drinking water quality and access

2027 Legislative Priorities

Colorado River

Strengthen Colorado River water supply resiliency and reliability by:

- ensuring all water sectors contribute to reductions,
- securing funding to incentivize long-term water savings and reduce demands, and
- protecting power operations at Lake Mead and the Colorado River Aqueduct Transmission System, including upgrading facilities.

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State Water Project

Strengthen State Water Project water supply resiliency and reliability by:

- securing funding to repair subsidence impacts on the California Aqueduct,
- aligning the State Water Project water right permits with the term of the SWP contracts,
- advancing pre-construction efforts for the Delta Conveyance Project and Sites Reservoir, and
- supporting alternative compliance strategies that facilitate multi-benefit solutions for the Bay-Delta watershed.

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System Resilience and Water Quality

- Help mitigate the spread of invasive species by creating new funding sources for containment costs and develop new treatment technologies.
- Support Metropolitan's ongoing operations and facilitate capital improvements to address aging infrastructure, adapt to climate change, and ensure Metropolitan's system is reliable for member agencies.
- Conserve existing water supplies through long-term turf conversion and tax exemptions for conservation rebates.

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System Resilience and Water Quality

- Enhance local water supply resiliency and reliability by reauthorizing and funding programs to defray the costs of water recycling, desalination, and storage projects, and advance pre-construction of Pure Water Southern California.
- Protect drinking water quality and support access to safe and reliable drinking water, including by upholding the polluter pays principle.

2027 Legislative Priorities

Board Input and Next Steps

- September: Community and Workplace Culture Committee to hold roundtable with member agencies on legislative priorities and principles for disadvantaged communities.
- October: CWC Committee will consider recommendations from the roundtable to advance to the Legislation & Communications Committee.
- November: Board considers an informational item with a more exhaustive list of proposed policy principles for the 2027 Legislative Priorities and Principles.
- December: Planned Board action to adopt 2027 Legislative Priorities and Principles.

2027 Legislative Priorities

Discussion

- Board direction: Staff welcomes input on the proposed priorities.

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