One Water and Adaptation Committee

Amend the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to incorporate Board policy on climate action and adaptation

Item 8-4
September 15, 2026
Presented by: Liz Crosson

Item 8-4

Proposed Administrative Code Amendments

Subject

Amend the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to incorporate Board direction on climate action and adaptation

Purpose

This action would implement the Board's direction to integrate climate risk and adaptive management into Metropolitan's policies, planning and operations. These updates are important context to other policy provisions in the administrative code that address reliability, water planning and conservation.

Proposed Amendments to Two Sections of Metropolitan's Administrative Code

Proposed Action

1) Add new duties and functions to the One Water and Adaptation Committee to provide oversight of climate adaptation and the Climate Action Plan
2) Add a general policy statement on climate adaptation under Division IV, Water Services Policies to codify and integrate climate adaptation as a core policy directive

Background Information

Proposed Amendments Provide Context and Consolidation

- Proposed amendments consolidate previously articulated commitments into one central policy statement
- Establishes a clear and consistent reference point for staff, member agencies, and the public regarding the District's approach and commitment to addressing climate change
- Helps ensure Board climate policy direction guides future policy actions and decision-making
- Provides 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

Background Information

Board Direction on Climate Matters

The Board has provided consistent direction on climate matters including through the:

- Climate Action Plan (CAP) adopted in 2022, with a goal of carbon neutrality by 2045
- Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W), including its iterative policy directives and the Five-Year Implementation Strategy approved in 2025
- Legislative Policies and Principles
- Integrated Resources Plan Regional Needs Assessment
- Bay-Delta Policy Framework

Policy actions address both climate mitigation (GHG reduction; reducing our contribution to the problem) and adaptation (preparing for impacts now and anticipated from drought, fire, flood, sea level rise, extreme heat and compounding impacts)

Proposed Administrative Code Updates (revisions underlined)

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.

Proposed Administrative Code Updates (adding new section)

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.

Related Existing Administrative Code Provisions

Division IV
WATER SERVICE POLICIES
Chapter 2

§ 4210. Water Conservation.
It shall be the policy of the District to undertake and support water conservation programs. To that end, the District may develop and implement such programs and enter into agreements with member public agencies and other organizations to make more efficient use of water resources through water conservation programs so long as such agreements serve a beneficial purpose of the District.
M.I. 36775 - August 18, 1987; Section 4209 renumbered Section 4210 by M.I. 39412 - January 14, 1992.

§ 4202. Avoidance in District Service Area of Overlapping or Paralleling Governmental Authorities (Laguna Declaration).
(a) The District is prepared, with its existing governmental powers and its present and project distribution facilities, to provide its service area with adequate supplies of water to meet expanding and increasing needs in the years ahead. When and as additional water resources are required to meeting increasing needs for domestic, industrial and municipal water, the District will be prepared to deliver such supplies.
(b) …
Section 301.2 based on M.I. 14727 - December 16, 1952. Section 301.2 repealed, and Section 4201 adopted by M.I. 36464 - January 13, 1987, effective April 1, 1987; Section 4201 renumbered Section 4202 by M.I. 39412 - January 14, 1992.

Board Options

Option 1:

Amend the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to incorporate Board direction on climate action and adaptation

Option 2:

Do not amend the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to incorporate Board direction on climate action and adaptation

Board Options

Staff Recommendation

- Option 1

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
1928