The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
September 14, 2026

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 35 **D. Alvarez** **(D – San Diego)** **Sponsor:** San Diego County	Chaptered Signed by the Governor, Chapter 89, Statutes of 2026	**Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.** This bill exempts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4) from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which establishes rulemaking procedures and standards for state agencies in California, to expedite funding allocations.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	AB 35 would streamline the funding process for Proposition 4 projects and allow Metropolitan, its member agencies, and partner agencies to access funds more quickly and accelerate project timelines. Proposition 4 funding includes multiple critical areas for Metropolitan, including funding for groundwater management, water recycling, Delta levees, and repairs to regional conveyance.
AB 259 **B. Rubio** **(D – Baldwin Park)** **Sponsors:** California Special Districts Association, Three Valleys Municipal Water District	Amended 04/21/2025 Two-Year Bill Dead	**Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.** This bill eliminates the sunset on provisions added to the Brown Act by AB 2449, a bill that provided additional flexibility with Brown Act meeting procedures in the event of a board member's physical absence in connection with a "just cause" or "emergency circumstances," allowing those members to participate in the meeting remotely consistent with the process detailed in the bill.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	By removing the sunset on the Brown Act provisions, AB 259 preserves flexibility for Metropolitan and member agency board members to meet remotely and continue providing the public with essential services.

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AB 794 **J. Gabriel** **(D – Encino)** **Sponsors:** Clean Water Action, Environmental Working Group	Amended 04/10/2025 Two-Year Bill Dead	**California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations** This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt an emergency regulation for water quality based on federal regulations in effect on January 19, 2025, regardless of whether the requirements were repealed or amended to be less stringent. The bill would prohibit an emergency regulation adopted pursuant to these provisions from implementing less stringent drinking water standards, as provided, and would authorize the regulation to include requirements that are more stringent than the requirements of the federal regulation. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2026, the SWRCB to adopt an emergency regulation and to initiate a primary drinking water standard for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).	**Oppose Unless Amended** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	While AB 794 aims to protect public health, its approach circumvents the established regulatory process for setting Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Metropolitan's Legislative Priorities and Principles call for using the best available science to protect public health and improve water quality when setting MCLs. The broad scope of this bill, which would allow the SWRCB to set through emergency action primary and secondary MCLs for any chemical with a federal MCL, sets a dangerous precedent and fails to align with well-established regulatory principles.

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AB 1881 **J. Ramos** **(D – Highland)** **Sponsor:** Indigenous Justice	Amended 08/27/2026 Enrolled	**California Indian Freedom Act of 2026** This bill requires all state governmental agencies, with the exception of the State Water Resources Control Board, to allow California Native American tribes to access sacred sites located on state lands for the exercise of their religious beliefs or spiritual practices, except as necessary to protect public safety and security. The bill would also require state governmental agencies to obtain prior, informed consent of a California Native American tribe before undertaking a project on state land that may pose a risk to tribal sacred sites. The bill would also prohibit state agencies from substantially burdening a tribe's spiritual practices on state lands unless the governmental agency demonstrates that application of the burden is both: (1) in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest; and (2) the least restrictive means of furthering that interest. California tribes would also have standing in any court or administrative proceeding to enforce this prohibition.	**Watch and Amend** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	While AB 1881 would expand protections for California tribes engaging in religious practices on state land, its broad language would likely result in indirect impacts to Metropolitan's priority projects and programs. The prior consent provisions of the bill provide California tribes with the discretion to withhold consent for actions that may risk altering sacred sites, which could impact critical water projects and programs. The private right of action created to enforce the bill's prohibition on substantially burdening a tribe's right to religious practice on state land could be utilized in any court or administrative hearing, likely leading to increased litigation and administrative proceedings. Metropolitan staff have requested amendments to refine the scope of the bill to a more practical approach that includes clear definitions and timelines. Among other things, these amendments would define what qualifies as public infrastructure and public service under the bill's state lands exemption language.

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AB 1894 **B. Rubio** **(D - City of Industry)** **Sponsors:** Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	Passed in Senate 08/17/2026 Enrolled	**Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water** This bill would prevent a public agency from prohibiting imported water deliveries for groundwater replenishment, as defined, due to invasive mussels if the importation complies with a specified invasive mussel control plan and unless there is substantial, documented evidence of a proven health and safety risk as a result of the invasive mussels.	**Support** Based on July 2026 Board Action.	AB 1894 seeks to respond to member agency challenges with a current LA County prohibition on receiving imported water due to concerns around the spread of invasive mussels. This proposal seeks to balance the importance of controlling the spread of invasive species while continuing to allow for deliveries of critically needed groundwater replenishment supplies.
AB 2032 **R. Ransom** **(D – Stockton)** **Sponsor:** San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority	Amended 08/13/2026 Enrolled	**Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: golden mussels** This bill would exempt a public or private entity that operates a water supply system from certain California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) invasive mussel permitting requirements until CDFW approves or denies the agency's control plan. This bill also requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the State Water Resources Control Board to quickly and efficiently respond to the threat of golden mussels.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	AB 2032 is an urgency measure that will help California water agencies respond rapidly and effectively to the growing threat posed by invasive mussels. Invasive mussels can spread quickly through water conveyance systems, threatening critical water infrastructure, water supply reliability, water quality, and aquatic ecosystems. AB 2032 provides water agencies with the regulatory flexibility necessary to implement invasive mussel control plans without unnecessary permitting delays while maintaining coordination with state regulatory agencies.

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AB 2218 **A. Kalra** **(D – San Jose)** **Sponsors:** Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Karuk Tribe.	Amended 07/02/2026 Enrolled	**Water policy: California Native American tribes.** This bill would establish a statewide policy addressing historic inequities in California Native American tribes' access to and control over water through financial assistance, consultation on water projects, plans, and policies, protection of tribal beneficial uses, and incorporation of indigenous knowledge to restore and protect ecosystems. AB 2218 would require state agencies to implement this policy when revising, establishing, or adopting permits, regulations, policies, and grant criteria to address identified inequities, as well as identify and offer financial assistance to the tribes. The bill creates a mediation process managed by the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs should a dispute between a California Native American tribe and one of those state agencies arise over the implementation of this policy. It also requires the State Water Resources Control Board to consult with California Native American tribes when investigating water rights on tribal ancestral lands.	**Watch and Amend** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	Under the existing CEQA process, Metropolitan engages in cooperative and productive consultations with California tribes to limit impacts of drinking water infrastructure projects and engage in mitigation when impacts do occur. AB 2218 would create an additional tribal consultation process for every state entity that issues a permit for a water-related project. This duplication risks confusion, delay, and increased costs for critical Metropolitan and State Water Project permits or projects. The bill is also silent on how it will fund the required financial assistance for California Native American tribes. Metropolitan staff have requested amendments to attempt to bring further clarity to the wide-ranging obligations the bill would place on water permitting and policy. The proposed amendments would require state agencies to consider implementing the bill's policies instead of mandating they implement the bill. The amendments additionally clarify that the bill's financial assistance requirement would not be imposed on state and local agencies and would ensure the bill does not result in impacts to existing water rights or permits.

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AB 2215 **L. Calderon** **(D – Whittier)** **Sponsor:** State Water Contractors	Amended 04/16/2026 Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee Dead	**Water rights: permits: State Water Project.** This bill would extend the timeline for the full development of the State Water Project water right permits to December 31, 2046, the same term as existing, validated contracts for the State Water Project water supply.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	AB 2215 would grant a necessary time extension to more fully modernize the State Water Project infrastructure in response to climate change. This bill is consistent with the Governor's Executive Order N-16-15 (CA EO), January 31, 2025, which ordered the minimization of administrative obstacles to maximize water supplies. This legislative proposal implements this order without weakening environmental protections and while protecting existing due process protections.
AB 2739 **E. Soria** **(D – Merced)** **Sponsors**: Irvine Ranch Water District, Rancho California Water District	Amended 08/21/2026 Enrolled	**Water: affordability and system stabilization.** This bill would require the Department of Water Resources (DWR), upon appropriation, to develop the Community Water Affordability Program and would establish the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund within the State Treasury. The program would provide funding in the form of grants to local water suppliers for water system repairs, rehabilitation and enhancements, water safety and quality, and other local water system infrastructure projects, for the purpose of reducing the amount of local ratepayer funding required for those projects.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	AB 2739 aims to establish a durable statewide funding framework to address water affordability by targeting key cost drivers and by creating a Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program and a system stabilization fund that can be used when funding is identified. This bill would support ratepayer affordability for our member agency retailers and also includes a fund that supports local infrastructure projects, which could be used to support upgrades to Metropolitan's water supply system and reductions in energy costs.

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SB 601 **B. Allen** **(D – Santa Monica)** **Sponsors:** California Coastkeeper Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife	Amended 07/10/2025 Dead	**Water: waste discharge** The intent of this bill is to restore Clean Water Act protections in California that were removed per the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* decision. However, the bill goes beyond restoring statutory protections and includes several provisions that expand regulatory requirements without the benefit of scientific analysis.	**Oppose** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	Currently, SB 601 poses risks to Metropolitan and its member agencies by: increasing costs of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) permits for discharges of water when dewatering or operating water supply infrastructure, potentially requiring all such water to be recycled regardless of cost to comply; exposing Metropolitan and its Member Agencies to citizen suits in state court, and, for certain nexus waters, both state and federal court; and creating uncertainty in discharge permitting as the bill's ambiguous provisions and implications are likely to be litigated.
SB 872 **J. McNerney** **(D – Pleasanton)**	Amended 08/13/2026 Enrolled	**Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.** This bill would establish the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund in the State Treasury and require funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be provided to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to support capital improvements to restore water conveyance capacity for state water conveyance systems affected by subsidence. Additionally, this bill would require funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be provided to DWR for levee improvements that would improve the sustainability of local or state water supplies, and projects that improve instream, riparian, flood plain, and wetland habitat.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	Appropriations to the proposed fund would help offset the capital costs of subsidence repairs and could reduce State Water Project (SWP) charges to contractors. The total cost of SWP subsidence repairs is estimated at $3 billion. Subsidence in the Central Valley has been caused by decades of overpumping of groundwater and was not caused by Metropolitan or the State Water Contractors. However, in the absence of state and federal funding, the costs for these critical repairs will be shifted to our agencies. Appropriations for improvements to levees within the Delta and other actions to t improve instream, riparian, floodplain, and wetland habitat could benefit Metropolitan directly by providing additional funding streams for levee improvements along district properties and indirectly through improvements within the Delta region.

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SB 935 **S. Choi** **(R – Irvine)**	Chaptered Signed by the Governor, Chapter 102, Statutes of 2026	**Local agency design-build projects: authorization.** This bill would repeal the sunset date of January 1, 2031, authorizing local agencies to use the design- build procurement process for public works construction projects more than $1,000,000 indefinitely.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	Repealing the sunset date for alternative project delivery processes is aligned with Metropolitan's policy to streamline procurement of public works construction contracts.
SB 952 **J. Laird** **(D – Santa Cruz)** **Sponsor:** State Water Contractors	Amended 08/06/2026 Chaptered Signed by the Governor, Chapter 175, Statutes of 2026.	**State Water Project: renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources.** Existing law mandates that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) achieve a power portfolio that consists of 100% of renewable and zero-carbon energy by 2035. This bill would require DWR to also consider portfolio diversity, resource type, location, and hours of typical peak operation when procuring eligible resources to satisfy state agency obligations imposed on the State Water Project; and allow DWR to shift energy credits from one year to the next if DWR procures more energy than necessary in a given year.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	SB 952 is an important affordability measure for the 27 million customers within the SWP service area, as it would clarify generation attributes DWR may consider for procurement and create certainty for DWR by allowing excess energy procured in low water years be applied to years when SWP energy needs are high. Metropolitan pays a significant portion of the State Water Project's energy cost. This proposal provides a continued commitment to environmental sustainability while adding flexibility that maintains affordability.
SB 1125 **C. Menjivar** **(D – San Fernando Valley)** **Sponsors:** Clean Water Action, Community Water Center, Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability.	Amended 08/19/2026 Enrolled	**Water Rate Assistance Program.** This bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Program and the Water Rate Assistance Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to help provide water affordability assistance for drinking water to low-income residential ratepayers. This bill would authorize the State Board to provide for the deposit of the following moneys into the Fund: federal or state funding; voluntary contributions, including gifts, grants, or bequests; and returned funds. The bill also allows the State Board to move forward with a partial implementation of the program if they determine that the Legislature appropriated enough money for a partial program.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	SB 1125 proposes a viable, reasonable path forward for Low-Income Rate Assistance that protects existing programs and limits the administrative burden on water suppliers. This bill is intended to be a companion measure to AB 2739 (Soria) and would guide the State Board's implementation of a low-income water rate assistance program. Water rate assistance would provide needed relief at the local retail level, leading to improved revenue stability for local water systems.

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SB 1326 **A. Wahab** **(D – Hayward)** **Sponsors:** Federated Indians Graton Rancheria, United Auburn Indian Community, Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians.	Amended 06/11/2026 Dead	**California Environmental Quality Act: tribal cultural resources: mitigation measures** This bill would revise the existing AB 52 (Gatto, 2014) tribal consultation requirements under CEQA to expand the definition of a tribal cultural resource to include: anything listed in a local tribal register and provided to the lead agency, included or eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources or National Register of Historic Places, included in a local register of historical resources, or locations identified by the Native American Heritage Commission as a sacred place, including tribal cemeteries or burial areas. The bill would also require, when requested by a tribe, a lead agency to consider avoidance and preservation of a tribal cultural resource in place. If avoidance and preservation of the resource in place are not possible, the bill would require the lead agency to document the basis for that determination with substantial evidence and, when feasible, to adopt mitigation measures to avoid or minimize significant adverse impacts and incorporate culturally appropriate mitigation in consultation with the tribe.	**Watch and Amend** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	In its consultation with tribes, Metropolitan works to ensure tribal voices are heard in the CEQA consultation process. By adding resources identified in a local tribal register to the definition of tribal cultural resources in CEQA, without specifying standard criteria for identification or a definition of local tribal register, SB 1326 could greatly increase the number of resources subject to AB 52's heightened requirement to avoid and minimize significant adverse impacts to the resource, when feasible. Without defined eligibility criteria for a tribal culture resource in law, lead agencies and the public would not have the opportunity to understand the nature of the resource. Metropolitan staff have requested amendments to include eligibility requirements for designating cultural landscapes and sites and objects included in a local tribal register as tribal cultural resources under CEQA.