

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Agenda

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

LEG Committee

F. Jung, Chair
A. Kassakhian, Vice Chair
L. Ackerman
B. Dennstedt
A. Fellow
J. Garza
G. Gray
J. Lewitt
M. Luna
J. McMillan
T. Phan
B. Pressman
M. Ramos
T. Smith

Legislation and Communications Committee

Meeting with Board of Directors *

August 19, 2024

11:45 a.m.

Monday, August 19, 2024 Meeting Schedule

**09:00 a.m. EOT
11:15 a.m. Break
11:45 a.m. LEG
01:15 p.m. LEGAL
02:15 p.m. OWS**

Agendas, live streaming, meeting schedules, and other board materials are available here:

**<https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. Written public comments received by 5:00 p.m. the business days before the meeting is scheduled will be posted under the Submitted Items and Responses tab available here:
<https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>.**

If you have technical difficulties with the live streaming page, a listen-only phone line is available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 873 4767 0235.

Members of the public may present their comments to the Board on matters within their jurisdiction as listed on the agenda via in-person or teleconference. To participate via teleconference 1-833-548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 876 9484 9772 or to join by computer [click here](#).

MWD Headquarters Building • 700 N. Alameda Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

Teleconference Locations:

525 Via La Selva • Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Cedars-Sinai Imaging Medical Group • 8700 Beverly Boulevard • Los Angeles, CA 90048

City Hall • 303 W. Commonwealth Avenue • Fullerton, CA 92832

3008 W. 82nd Place • Inglewood, CA 90305,

Long Beach Water Department • 1800 E. Wardlow Road • Long Beach, CA 90807

Lobby Conference Room • San Diego County Water Authority • 4677 Overland Avenue • San Diego, CA 92123

7 Upper Meadow Lane • Oak Bluffs, MA 02568

Conference Room • 1545 Victory Boulevard, 2nd Floor • Glendale, CA 91201

* The Metropolitan Water District's meeting of this Committee is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee may participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee will not vote on matters before this Committee.

1. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))

**** CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION ****

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for July 8, 2024 (copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions) [21-3646](#)

Attachments: [08192024 LEG 2A \(07082024\) Minutes](#)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

NONE

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ****

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

NONE

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

NONE

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Update on Public Opinion Research and Outreach for Pure Water Southern California [21-3669](#)

Attachments: [08192024 LEG 6a1 Presentation](#)
[08192024 LEG 6a2 Presentation](#)

- b. Report on Activities from Sacramento [21-3670](#)

Attachments: [08192024 LEG 6b State Legislative Matrix](#)
[08192024 LEG 6b Presentation](#)

- c. Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

[21-3671](#)

Attachments: [08192024 LEG 6c Federal Legislative Matrix](#)
[08192024 LEG 6c Presentation](#)

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. External Affairs activities

[21-3672](#)

Attachments: [08192024 LEG 7a External Affairs Activities](#)
[08192024 LEG 7a Presentation](#)

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: This committee reviews items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors. Final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Committee agendas may be obtained on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. This committee will not take any final action that is binding on the Board, even when a quorum of the Board is present.

Writings relating to open session agenda items distributed to Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting are available for public inspection at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building and on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Requests for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Board Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

July 8, 2024

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Lewitt, McMillan, and Pressman (teleconference posted location).

Members absent: Directors Ackerman, Garza, Gray, Luna, Phan, Ramos, and Smith.

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong, Camacho, Erdman, Lefevre, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Peterson, and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Chapman, Zinke, Stites, Sims, and Novoa.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S JURISDICTION

Ms. Maura Monagan - LA Waterkeeper – Community Engagement

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Legislation and Communications Committee held June 10, 2024.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director McMillan to approve consent calendar item 2a.

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jung, Kassakhian, Lewitt, McMillan, and Pressman.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Ackerman, Garza, Gray, Luna, Phan, Ramos and Smith.

The motion for item 2a passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 7 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-3 Subject: Report on SB 1255 (Durazo, D – Los Angeles): Public water systems: needs analysis: water rate assistance program (June 3, 2024)

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided a legislative update on a legislative proposal regarding low-income water rate assistance, which would require an urban retail water agency to establish a low-income rate assistance program.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Jung
- 2.) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Update on Social Media Influencer Projects
- Presented by: Monika Medina, Principal Public Affairs Representative and
 Andrew Au, Principal Graphic Art Designer

Ms. Medina and Mr. Au provided an update on how Metropolitan is using social media influencers to promote water conservation and sustainability, and reach diverse audiences in cost-efficient ways, and introduced representatives of the Bob Baker Marionette Theater Company.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

1.) Jung

- b. Subject: Presentation on CAMP4W Outreach and Engagement
- Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer, Section Manager – Sustainability and
 Resilience

Ms. Schaffer provided an update on CAMP4W, activities to date, and future plans. She highlighted the main objectives, which are to demonstrate transparency, allow public voices in planning process, hear and understand priorities and concerns, explore partnerships and program ideas, and build relationships and trust.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Erdman
- 2.) Seckel

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- c. Subject: Quarterly State and Federal Regulatory Matrices
- Presented by: Shradha Upadhayay, Senior Environmental Specialist

Ms. Upadhayay provided an update on recently adopted federal and state rules. Federal: consumer confidence reports, PFAS MCLs, PFAS and CERCLA, State indoor heat illness prevention, hexavalent chromium, zero-emission forklift rule and conservation as a California Way of Life.

- d. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the Sacramento legislative calendar and key dates, Senate budget update, the climate resilience bond, and legislation, including (1) SB 1390 (Caballero): Groundwater recharge: floodflows: diversion, and (2) SB 366 (Caballero) : The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.

- e. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on the Water Resources and Development Act, appropriations update including the Interior and Environment Subcommittee and the Energy and Water Subcommittee and the National Defense Authorization Act.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs Management Announcements and Highlights

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on federal funding announcement for large-scale water recycling projects, mwdh2o.com website updates, Water Quality Lab 50th anniversary, Water Awareness month, and Tap Water Day; and showed a Drinking Water Week video.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Jung



Legislation and Communications Committee

Update on Outreach for Pure Water Southern California

Item 6a
August 19, 2024

Update on Outreach for Pure Water Southern California

Subject

Outreach for Pure Water Southern
California

Purpose

To provide an update on outreach for Pure
Water Southern California

Pure Water Southern California Program Area

- Millions of people impacted by 40+ miles of new infrastructure
- Up to 20 jurisdictions
- Over 180 languages spoken
- Community with diverse backgrounds and economic situations



Outreach Aligns with Program Progress

2015-16 Program Feasibility Report

- Outreach Planning
- Messaging & Strategies
- Presentations

2017-19 Demo. Facility Construction

- Learning Center
- Exhibits
- Tour Program
- Communication Materials

2020 -24 Environmental Planning Phase

- Expand Outreach
- CEQA Outreach & Support
- Partnerships
- Program Renaming & Rebranding

2023-24 State Funding for Program Development

- Program Management Outreach Collaboration
- City/Jurisdictional Outreach
- Engagement with property owners stakeholders

Partnership and Collaboration



MWD and LACSD Outreach Staff



West Basin MWD
Water Harvest



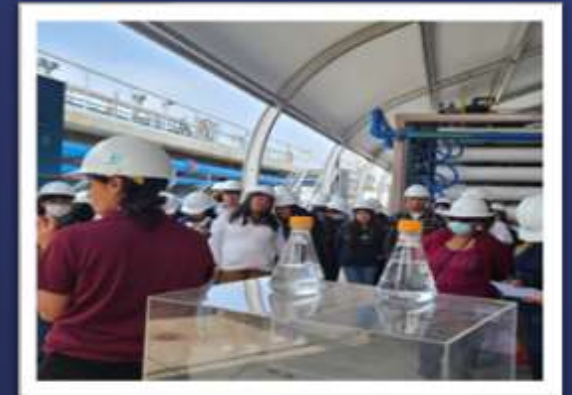
USGV MWD
Water Fest



LACSD Earth Day

Partnership with Community- Based Organizations

Allows us to leverage
trusted community
networks to enhance
culturally relevant outreach
and address diverse
community needs



Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center



Group & Public
Tours



Student Tours



Virtual Tours



Events

April 2024 At-a-Glance

Week 1

- Congressional Tour
- Carson Economic Development Commission Tour
- Cal Poly Virtual Tour
- MA Work Group
- Azusa City Briefing

Week 2

- LADWP Water Club Tour
- Eastern MWD Tour
- LACSD Earth Day Event
- Loyola Marymount Tour

Week 3

- UCLA Tour
- Occidental College Tour
- Loyola Marymount Tour
- LANI Forum with LADWP
- Bellflower City Council

Week 4

- Long Beach Utilities Tour
- United Arab Emirates Tour
- Groundwater Resources Assoc. Tour
- Parks Elementary Tour
- SBCC Earth Day Event



Meeting People Where They Are



E-newsletter



Social Media



Bilingual Materials



Community Events

Results of Our Outreach Efforts

Tours

11,000+
Participants

Events and Meetings

37,000
Attendees

Website

40,000
Users

Social Media

Hundreds of
thousands of
impressions

News

Millions
of Readers
and
Viewers



Millions of People Reached to Date

Pure Water Southern California

Future Outreach

- Continued Community Outreach and Engagement
- Expand Partnerships
- Workforce Development Opportunities
- Continue Preparing for Draft EIR Outreach
- Community Benefits Program
- Refine Outreach Messaging Based on Research
 - 2024 Public Opinions, Attitudes on Water Reuse



SETTING THE STANDARD

Commitment to Water Quality

Metropolitan and the Sanitation Districts are committed to delivering high-quality water that protects public health. At the program's demonstration plant, the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center, the agencies are studying a unique purification process that could increase efficiency in water recycling and improve water quality. The center features a three-step process that removes pharmaceuticals, pesticides, viruses, bacteria and other particles to produce highly purified water that meets or exceeds all water quality standards.



Our Water | Our Future

Water is too precious to use just once. That's why The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is partnering with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts on Pure Water Southern California, a regional water recycling program that would purify and reuse cleaned wastewater that currently flows into the ocean. At full scale, Pure Water Southern California would produce 150 million gallons of purified water each day.

By delivering a new, climate-resilient supply of locally available water, Pure Water Southern California would benefit the 19 million people living within Metropolitan's service area. It also would become one of the world's largest water recycling programs.





Legislation and Communications Committee

Update on Public Opinion Research for Pure Water Southern California

Item 6a

August 19, 2024







Public Views of the Pure Water Southern California Program

*Key Findings of Recent Opinion Research
August 2024*



OPINION
RESEARCH
& STRATEGY

Survey Methodology

Dates	May 19-30, 2024
Survey Type	Dual-mode Resident Survey
Research Population	Residents in Los Angeles County to be Served by the Pure Water Southern California Program
Total Interviews	1,010
Margin of Sampling Error	(Full Sample) $\pm 3.1\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level (Half Sample) $\pm 4.4\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level
Contact Methods	 Telephone Calls  Email Invitations
Data Collection Modes	 Telephone Interviews  Online Interviews
Survey Tracking	2017 and 2022
Languages	English & Spanish

(Note: Not All Results Will Sum to 100% Due to Rounding)

Qualitative Research Methodology

FM3 conducted four focus groups designed to:

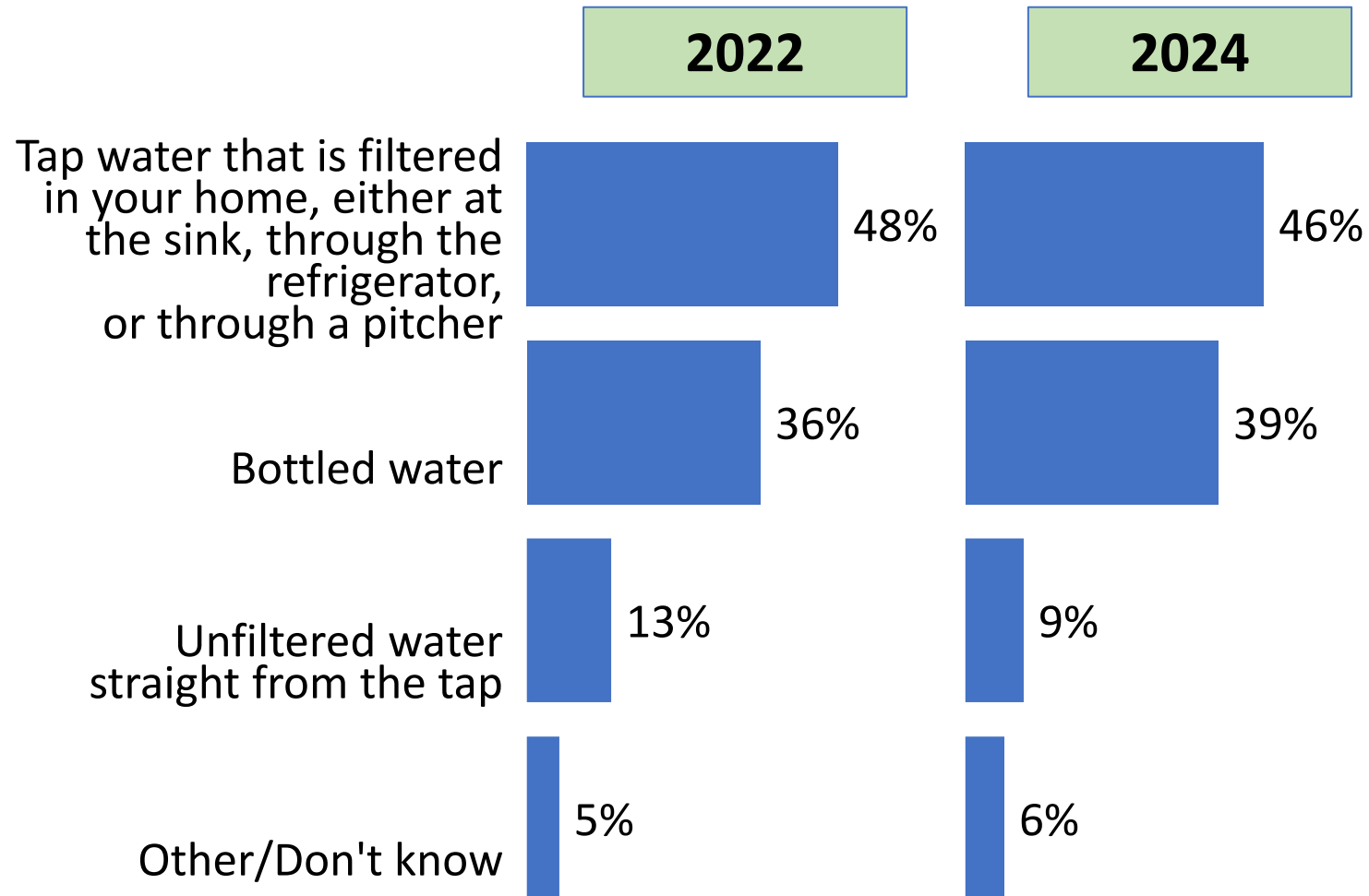
- Assess awareness and understanding of sources of water for the region;
- Gauge familiarity and comfort with recycled water, for non-potable and potable use, including direct potable reuse;
- Measure initial support for the Pure Water Southern California Program; and
- Review key messages and communications materials.

Focus Groups

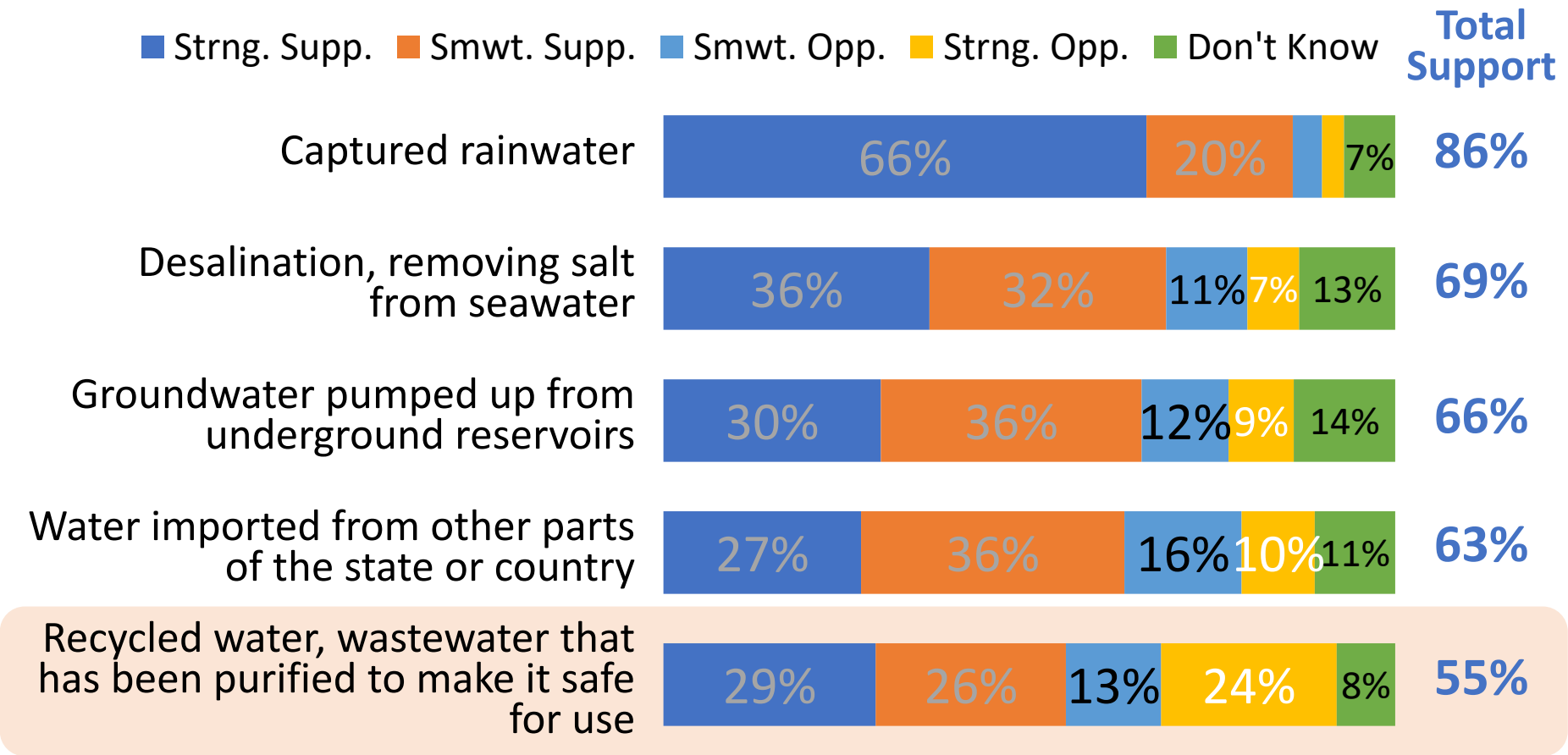
Date	Location	Target Group	Language
February 28, 2024	Pasadena, CA	Female San Gabriel Valley Residents	English
February 28, 2024	Pasadena, CA	Male San Gabriel Valley Residents	English
February 29, 2024	Cerritos, CA	Mixed Gender Gateway Cities Residents	English
February 29, 2024	Cerritos, CA	Gateway Cities Latino Residents	Spanish

As in 2022, most local residents drink either filtered tap water or bottled water.

Thinking about the water that you drink at home, do you most often drink:

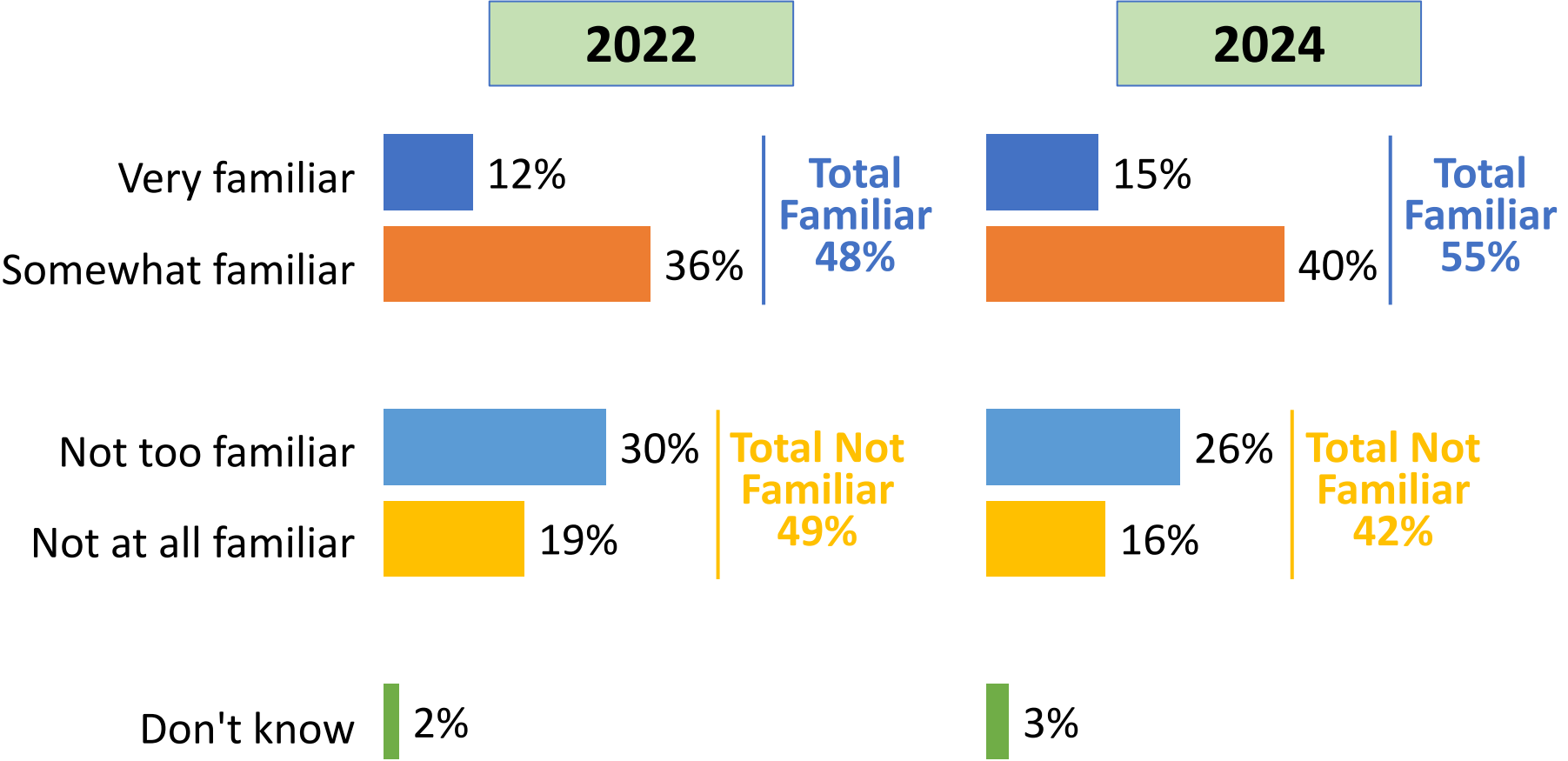


With the amount of rainfall over the last two years, captured rainwater appears top of mind, but majorities open to every other source of drinking water.



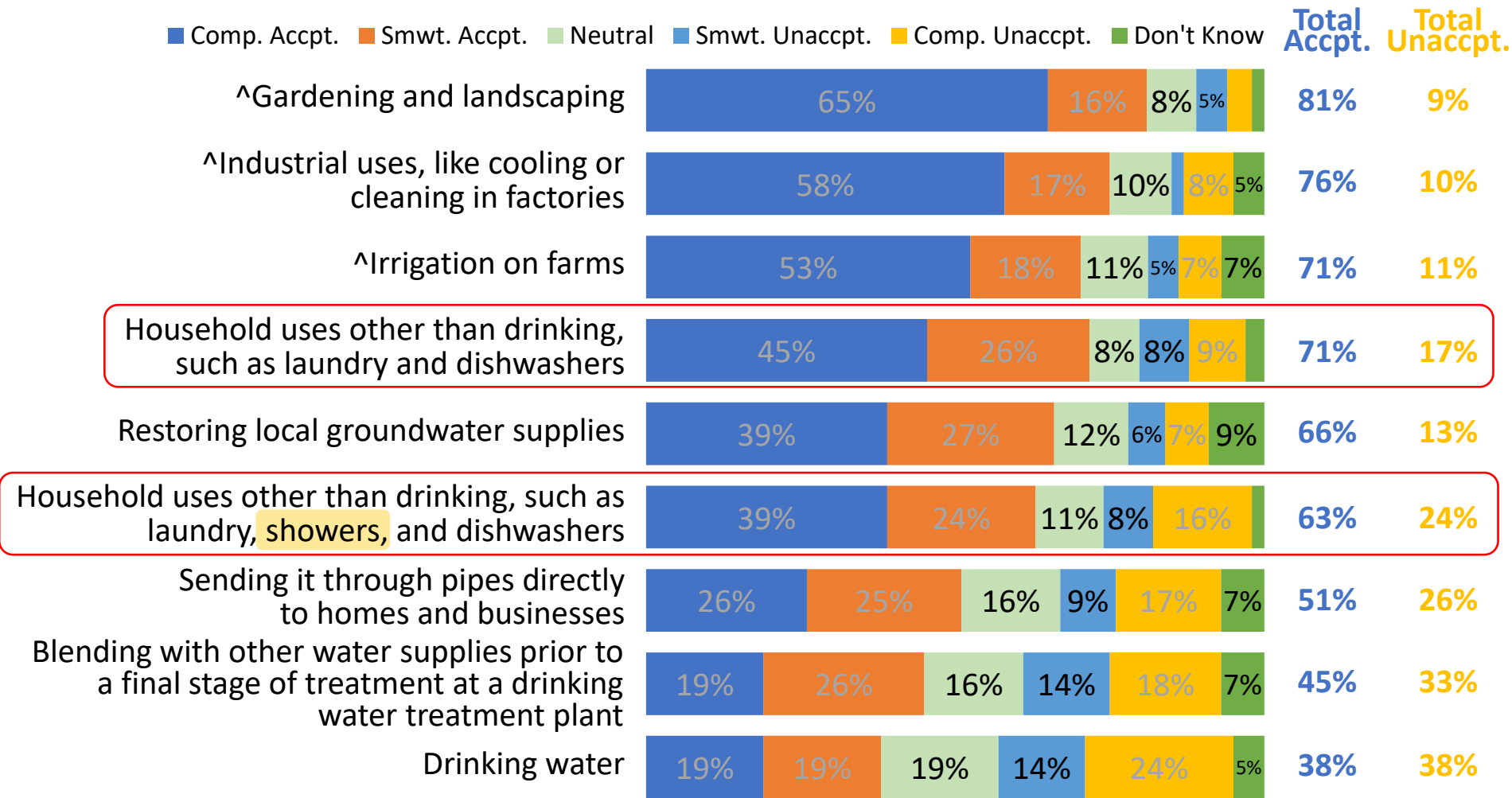
Q7. As you may know, there are many different ways that the Los Angeles area can get water to meet its future needs. I'm going to read you a list of potential sources of water for your region: please indicate whether, in general, you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose obtaining drinking water through each method.

Familiarity with recycled water has increased since 2022, with over half of local residents at least somewhat familiar with the concept.



Q8. How familiar would you say you are with recycled water: very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not at all familiar?

Residents remain most comfortable using recycled water for non-potable purposes.



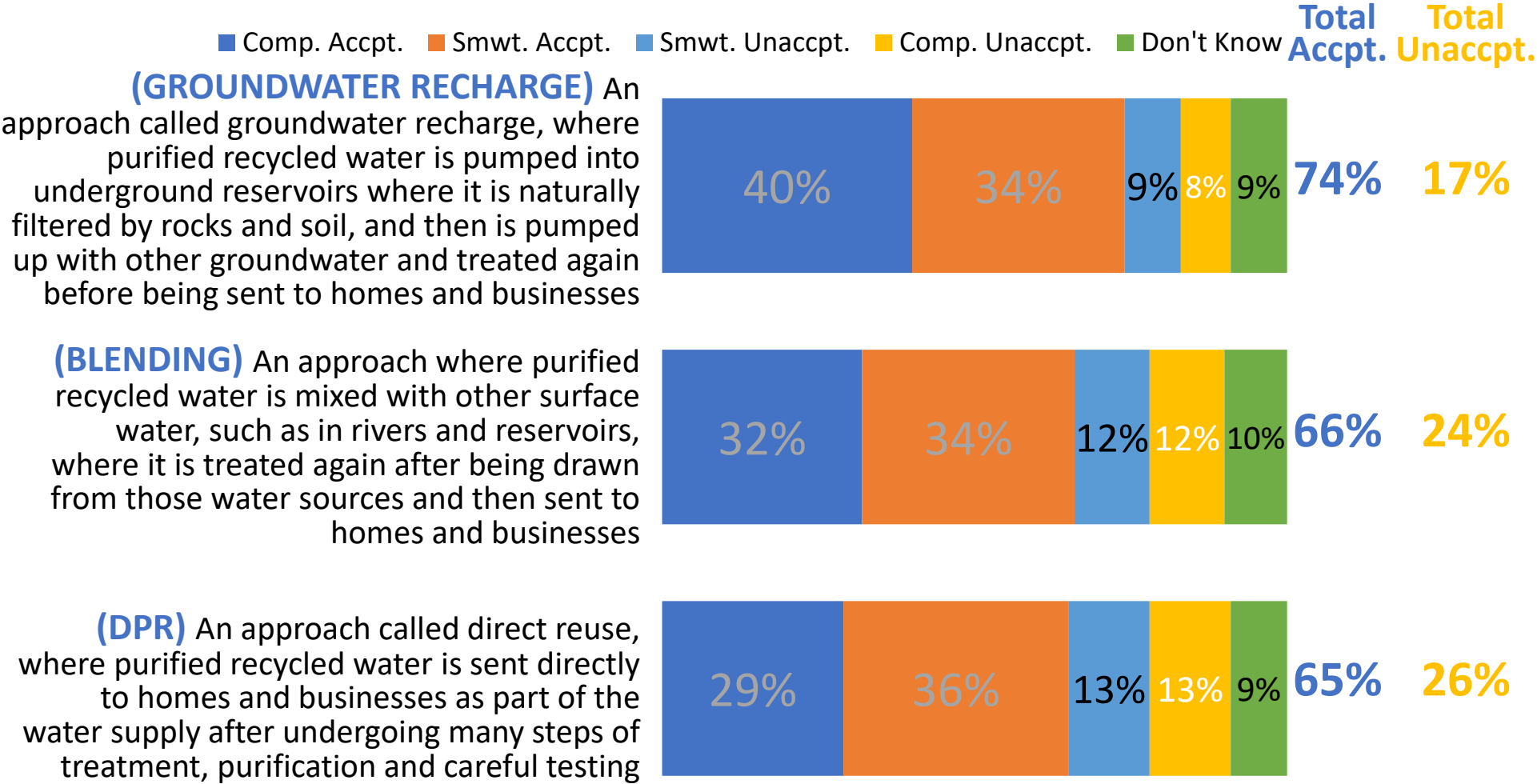
Q9. Recycled water refers to wastewater that comes from homes and businesses and is then treated to very high standards of purity so it can be reused. I am now going to read you a list of potential uses for recycled water that has been purified to drinking water standards established by the State of California. Please indicate whether you consider each item to be a completely acceptable, somewhat acceptable, somewhat unacceptable, or completely unacceptable use for purified recycled water. ^Not Part of Split Sample

Since 2022, there has been an increase in the proportions calling sending water directly to homes and businesses and restoring local groundwater “acceptable” uses.

Potential Use for Recycled Water	Total Acceptable			Total Unacceptable			Change in Total Acceptable (2022-2024)
	2017	2022	2024	2017	2022	2024	
Sending it through pipes directly to homes and businesses	--	42%	51%	--	35%	26%	+9%
Restoring local groundwater supplies	--	58%	66%	--	15%	13%	+8%
^o ^Industrial uses, like cooling or cleaning in factories	79%	71%	76%	9%	13%	10%	+5%
^o ^Irrigation on farms	84%	69%	71%	6%	14%	11%	+2%
Drinking water	59%	36%	38%	32%	47%	38%	+2%
^Gardening and landscaping	88%	80%	81%	7%	9%	9%	+1%
^o Blending with other water supplies prior to a final stage of treatment at a drinking water treatment plant	--	46%	45%	--	27%	33%	-1%

Q9. Recycled water refers to wastewater that comes from homes and businesses and is then treated to very high standards of purity so it can be reused. I am now going to read you a list of potential uses for recycled water that has been purified to drinking water standards established by the State of California. Please indicate whether you consider each item to be a completely acceptable, somewhat acceptable, somewhat unacceptable, or completely unacceptable use for purified recycled water. ^Not Part of Split Sample; ^o Worded Slightly Different in Previous Surveys

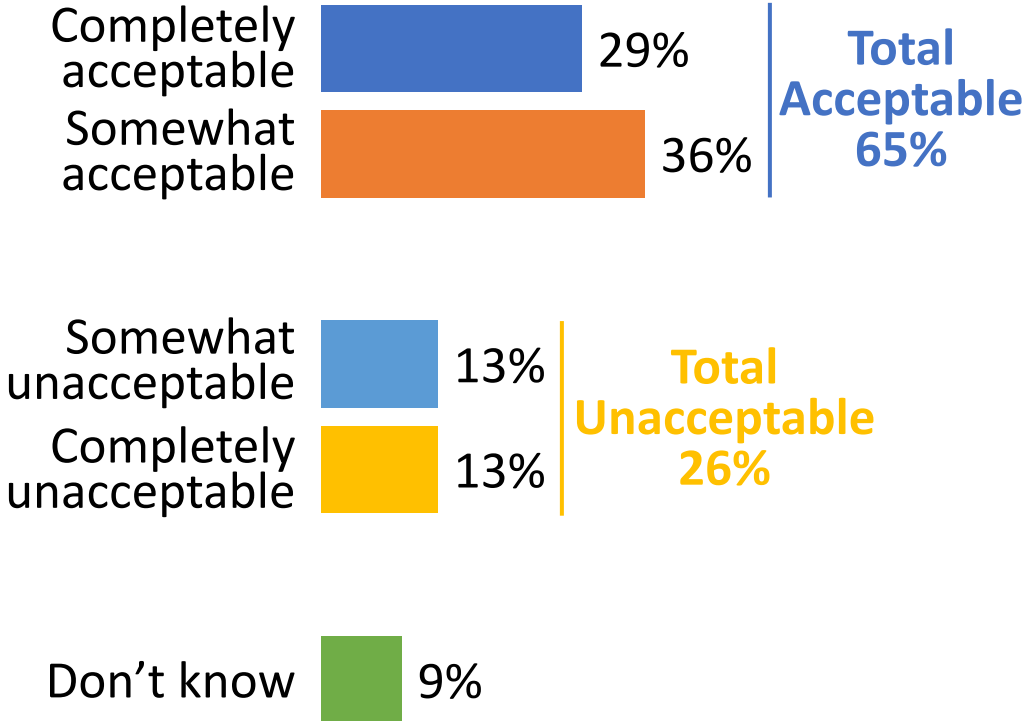
Residents are most likely to find groundwater recharge an acceptable method of delivering purified recycled water.



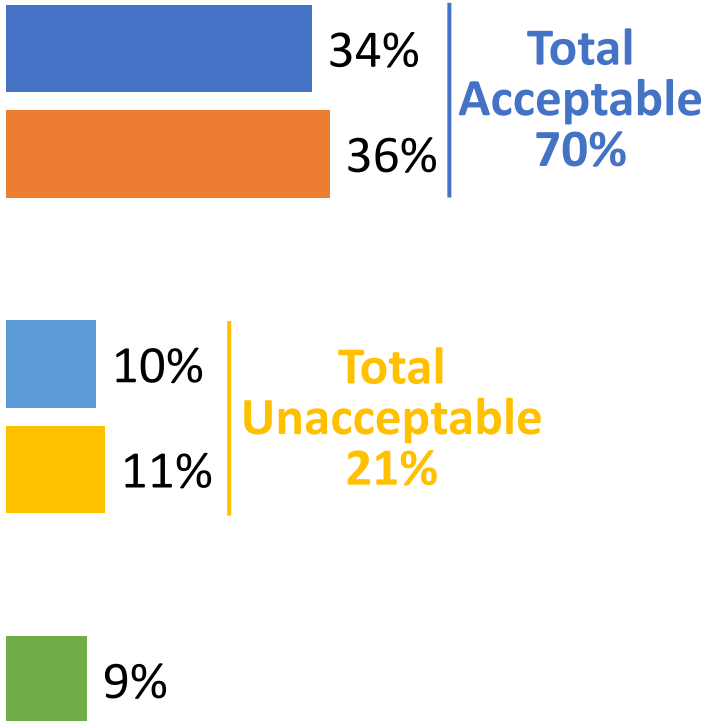
Q10. Purified recycled water can make its way to your home through a variety of methods. I am going to read you some ways in which purified recycled water may make its way to your home. Please indicate whether you consider each approach to be a completely acceptable, somewhat acceptable, somewhat unacceptable, or completely unacceptable way to deliver purified recycled water.

The acceptability of DPR increases slightly after residents hear more about Pure Water Southern California and its potential benefits.

(DPR) An approach called direct reuse, where purified recycled water is sent directly to homes and businesses as part of the water supply after undergoing many steps of treatment, purification and careful testing



I'd like to ask you again about the approach called direct reuse, where purified recycled water is sent directly to homes and businesses as part of the water supply after undergoing many steps of treatment, purification and careful testing.



Q10a. Purified recycled water can make its way to your home through a variety of methods. I am going to read you some ways in which purified recycled water may make its way to your home. Please indicate whether you consider each approach to be a completely acceptable, somewhat acceptable, somewhat unacceptable, or completely unacceptable way to deliver purified recycled water.
Q15. Do you consider this to be a completely acceptable, somewhat acceptable, somewhat unacceptable, or completely unacceptable way to deliver purified recycled water?

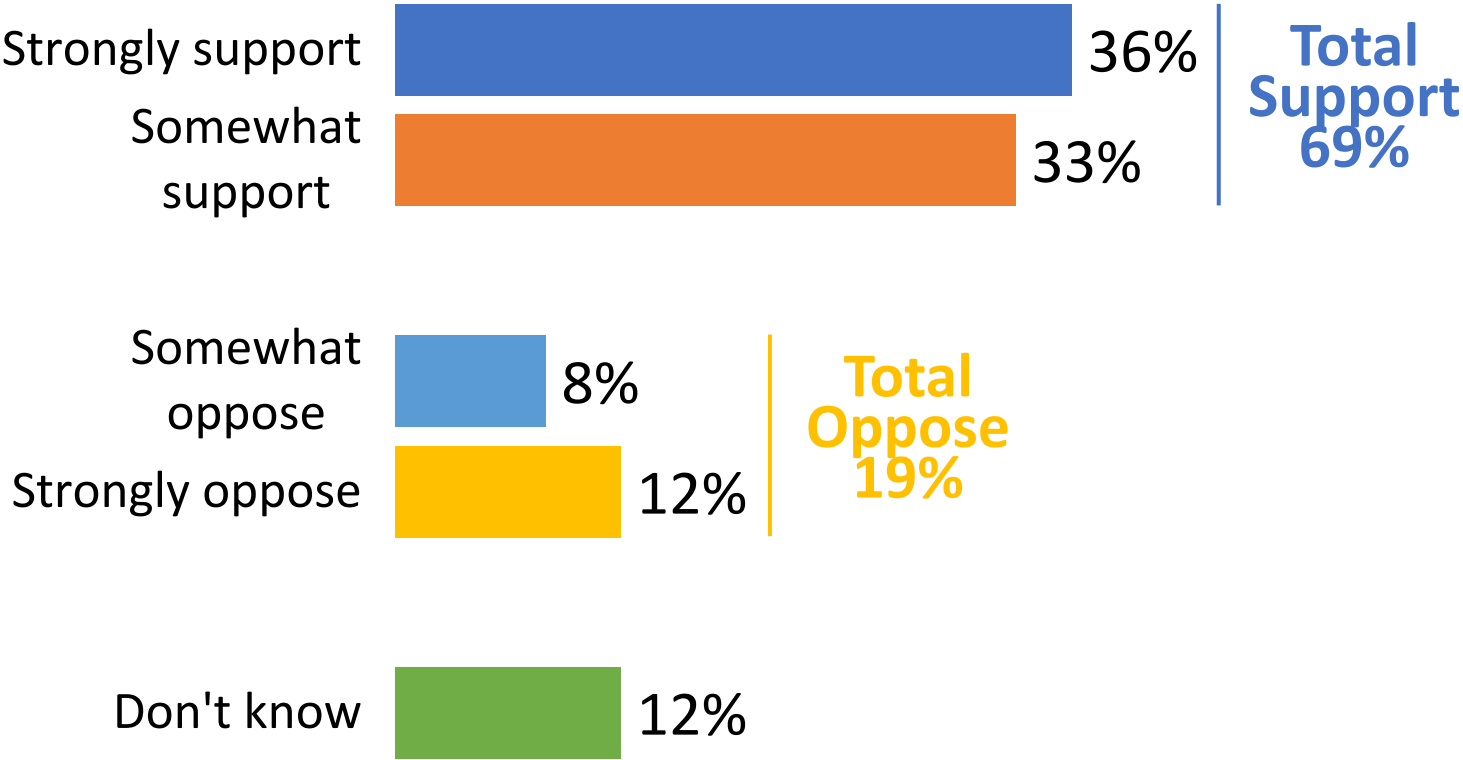
Survey respondents were provided a short description of the program.

The Metropolitan Water District and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts are introducing a new project to expand the use of recycled water in the region, called the Pure Water Southern California program. This program would clean and purify wastewater from homes and businesses at a facility near Carson, then re-introduce it back into our water supply — where it would be cleaned and purified again before being delivered to homes and businesses throughout the Los Angeles area.

Once fully implemented over ten to fifteen years, the program would provide 150 million gallons of water each day — enough for 1.5 million people. This would expand our local water supplies and reduce our reliance on water brought from other places hundreds of miles away.

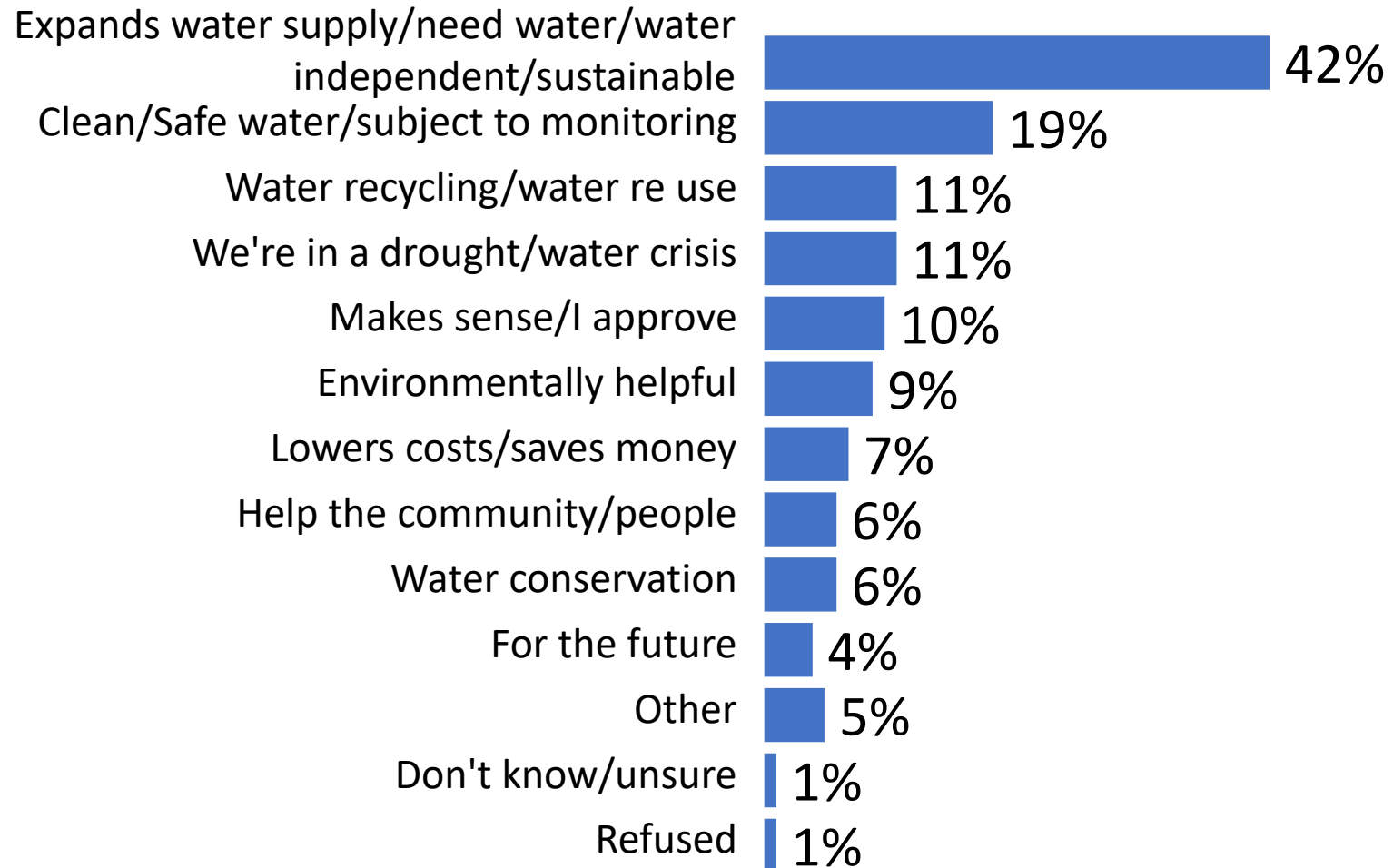
After the short description,
nearly seven-in-ten support the program.

*From what you have heard, would you support or oppose the Pure
Water Southern California Program?*



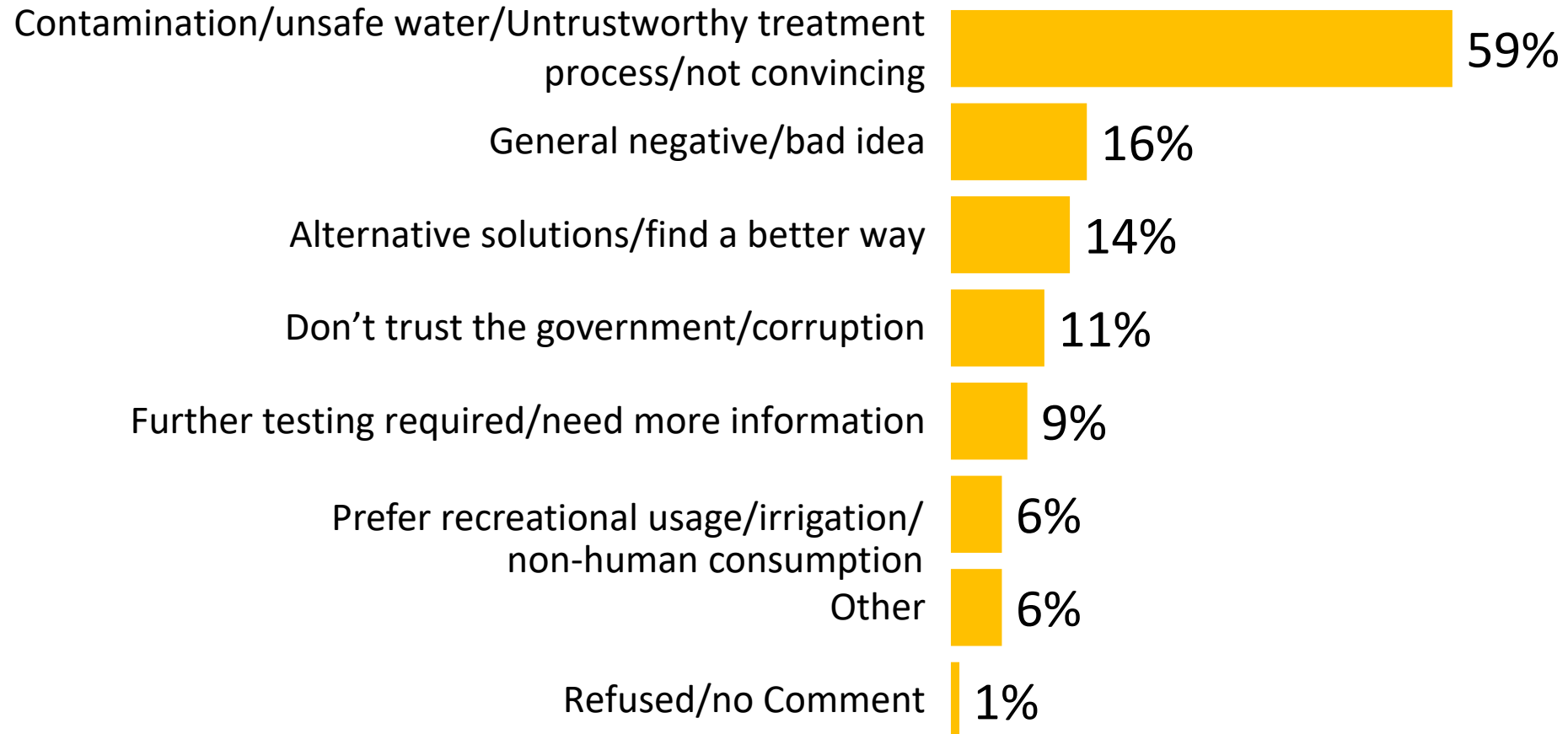
Taken together, the need to ensure a reliable local water supply is the leading reason to support the program.

*In a few words of your own, why would you **SUPPORT** this program?
(Open-ended; Asked of Supporters Only; n=697)*



The top reasons to oppose the program include distrust of treatment process and fear recycled water could be unsafe.

*In a few words of your own, why would you **OPPOSE** this program?
(Open-ended; Asked of Opponents Only; n=196)*



The most impactful message focuses on securing a reliable supply of water for future generations.

Ranked by Very Convincing	
44%	(FUTURE) We need to consider all options to ensure a reliable and locally-controlled supply of water for ourselves and future generations. In order to make sure our children and grandchildren have a reliable supply of water, we need to make investments in new, local water supplies today.
40%	(RESILIENT) With climate change and frequent drought, and groundwater supplies steadily being drained, it is important that communities in Southern California do not have to rely on a single source of water. This program creates a local supply of water that is drought-proof and reliable, even in case of emergencies like earthquakes that could potentially disrupt our current supplies from the Colorado River and Sierra Nevada.

Q13. I am going to read you some statements made by supporters of the Pure Water Southern California Program. Please tell me if you find it very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not convincing as a reason to support this program. *Split Sample

Highlighting monitoring is critical.

Ranked by Very Convincing	
39%	*(MONITORING) California's drinking water standards are among the strictest in the nation, with new State standards for using purified recycled water for drinking recently announced after ten years of careful planning and review. Water from this program would comply with those standards. Recycled water produced here in LA County will be regularly tested in real time with online sensors and in laboratories - and the quality of the water, once it has been purified, will be monitored by the State of California Division of Drinking Water.
39%	(ADOPTION) Several California communities, including those in Orange County, have already used recycled water for drinking and household use for more than 20 years. They have been taking advantage of the more reliable local water supply that recycled water provides, and there have been no reported health problems from its use. There's no reason LA County can't benefit from using more recycled water as other communities have.
38%	(ENVIRONMENTAL) Instead of letting wastewater from our homes and businesses flow out to the ocean, this program uses a state-of-the-art purification process to capture and recycle this water. The more recycled water we use, the less we have to take out of rivers and streams, and the less wastewater ends up in the ocean. That's good for rivers, streams, and the fish, plants and wildlife that rely on them.

Q13. I am going to read you some statements made by supporters of the Pure Water Southern California Program. Please tell me if you find it very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not convincing as a reason to support this program. *Split Sample

Messaging around the multi-stage treatment process is more effective when combined with comparing purity standards to those of bottled water.

Ranked by Very Convincing	
36%	(GROUNDWATER) Groundwater basins in the region provide 30% of Southern California’s water supply. However, we have seen levels drop to historic lows in recent years. This program will produce safe, high-quality water that can refill these basins and ensure our communities continue to have access to safe, reliable groundwater.
36%	*(PURIFICATION/BOTTLED) Public health is the top priority in this program. The water purification process uses state-of-the-art multi-stage technology, including reverse osmosis and advanced oxidation. The purification processes used in this program will produce water that meets even higher standards of purity than bottled water does.
36%	(COST EFFECTIVENESS) Over time, this program is far more cost-effective than alternative approaches like taking the salt out of seawater. With inflation on the rise and many families having a hard time making ends meet, we need to make the most of all of our water resources to avoid dramatic rate increases. Over time, this program will be one of the best ways to keep water rates as low as possible.

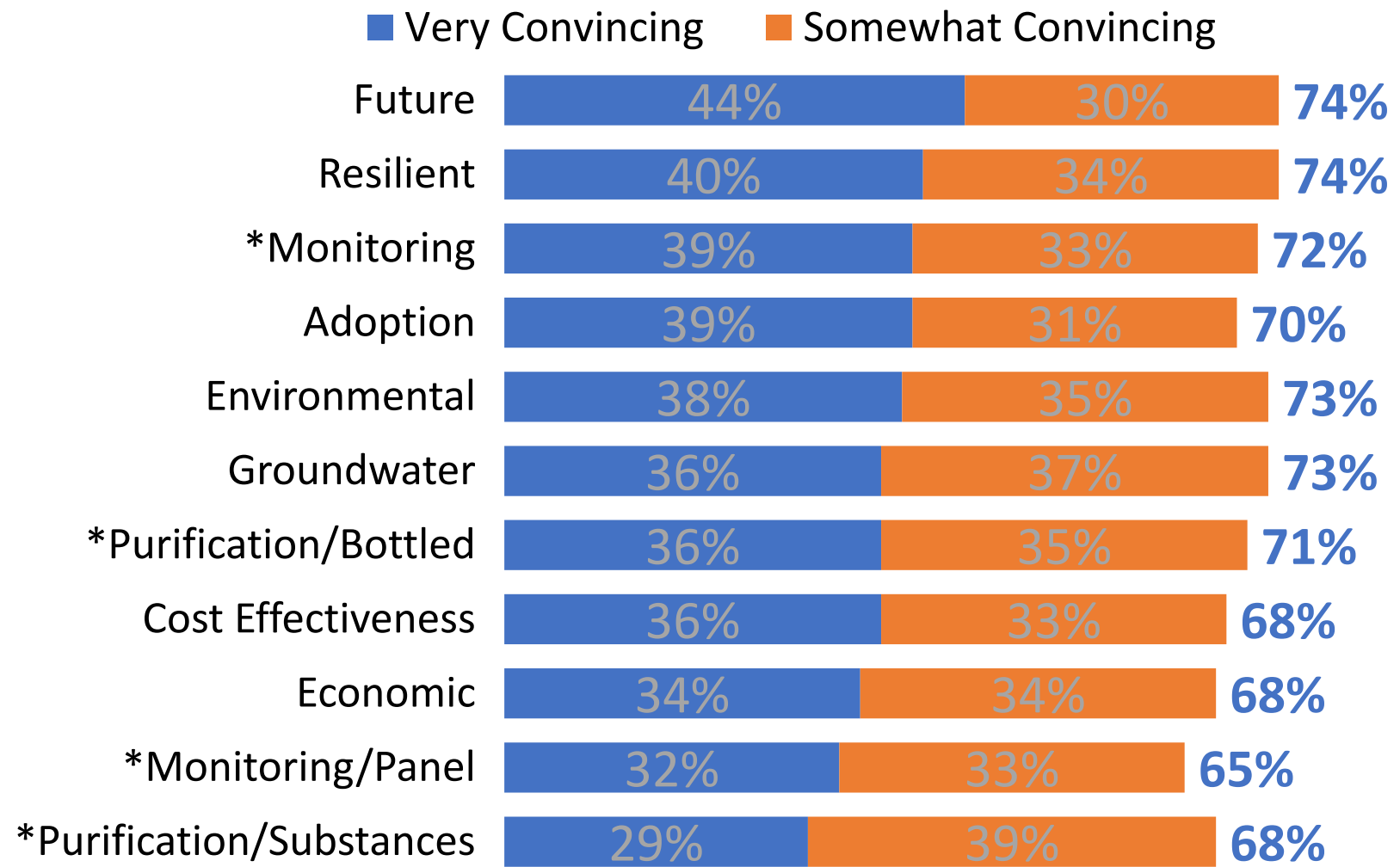
Q13. I am going to read you some statements made by supporters of the Pure Water Southern California Program. Please tell me if you find it very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not convincing as a reason to support this program. *Split Sample

A handful of messages are relatively less compelling.

Ranked by Very Convincing	
34%	(ECONOMIC) This program could provide nearly 50,000 jobs for the region in industries ranging from construction to retail, while boosting our economy during construction and operation. And it is cost-efficient — costing us the same or less than other ways of getting the same amount of water.
32%	*(MONITORING/PANEL) California's drinking water standards are among the strictest in the nation, with new State standards for using purified recycled water for drinking recently announced after 10 years of careful planning and review. These new regulations were determined by an independent panel of scientists and engineers to be protective of public health. Recycled water produced here in LA County will be regularly tested in real time with online sensors and in laboratories - and the quality of the water, once it has been purified, will be monitored by the State of California Division of Drinking Water.
29%	*(PURIFICATION/SUBSTANCES) Public health is the top priority in this program. The water purification process uses state-of-the-art multi-stage technology, including reverse osmosis and advanced oxidation to remove pharmaceuticals, pesticides, viruses, bacteria and other particles to produce highly-purified water.

Q13. I am going to read you some statements made by supporters of the Pure Water Southern California Program. Please tell me if you find it very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not convincing as a reason to support this program. *Split Sample

Nearly two-thirds find each message tested at least “somewhat convincing.”



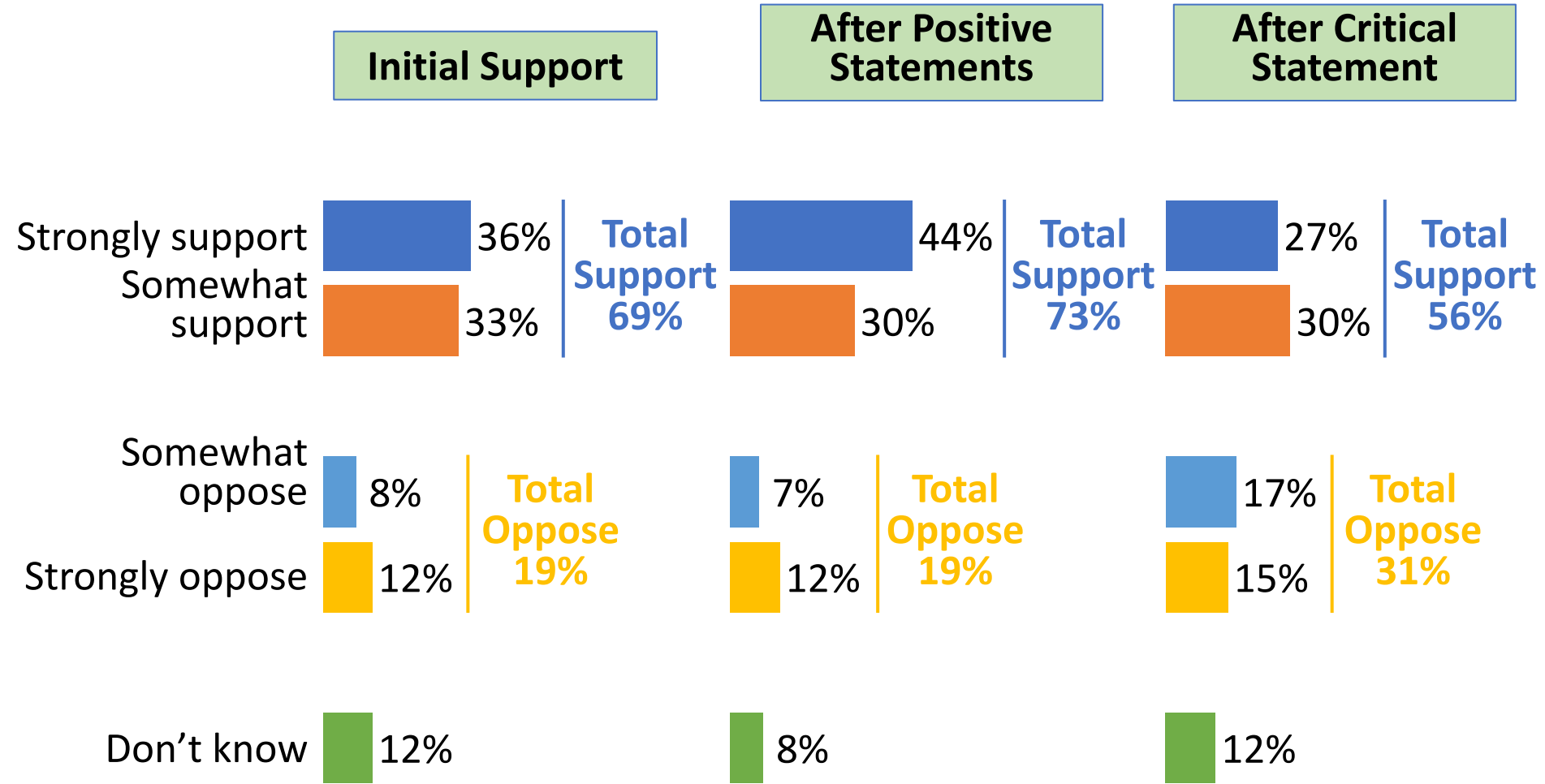
Q13. I am going to read you some statements made by supporters of the Pure Water Southern California Program. Please tell me if you find it very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not convincing as a reason to support this program. *Split Sample

Critical Statement

Recycled water contains everything that has been in the human body — including prescription and over-the-counter drugs, household products and chemicals, food additives, and much more. Opponents say a similar “toilet to tap” project was rejected two decades ago when local residents protested. Local authorities have a history of mismanaging water and not taking care of their own pipes and infrastructure and we can’t trust them to follow all of the complex procedures and maintain quality control of recycled water. Besides, this program will cost billions, which will show up on our monthly water bills — when we are already struggling with record inflation and gas prices.

Q16. Having heard this, I'd like to ask you one last time: do you support or oppose the Pure Water Southern California Program, which would provide 150 million gallons of purified recycled water each day as part of our regional water supply?

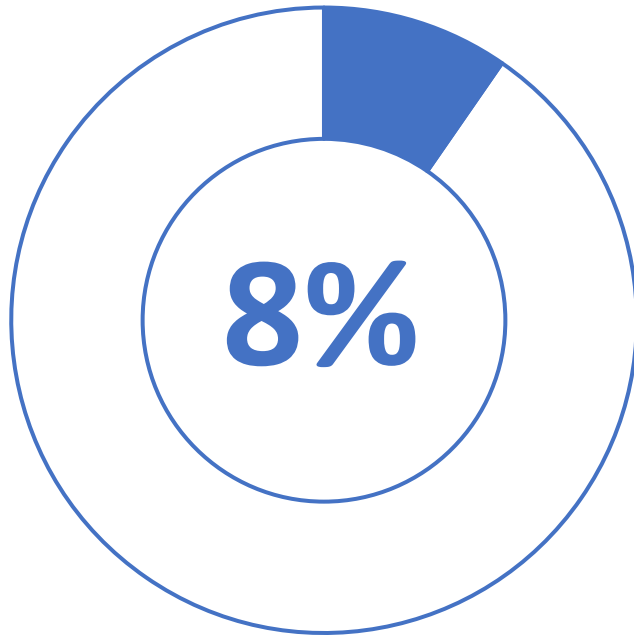
A solid majority continues to support the program after a statement from critics.



Q11, Q14 & Q16. Would you support or oppose the Pure Water Southern California Program?

Almost 10% of residents become at least one degree more supportive after messaging.

Positive Movers



These residents are disproportionately:

- **Non-College Educated Women**
- **Some College Education**
- **Household income Over \$150,000**
- **Latinas**
- **Women with no Children**

Key Findings

- Residents see a need for a diverse range of water sources, and support using a wide variety of them – including recycled water.
- Residents' familiarity with the concept of recycled water has increased by seven points since 2022.
- Most residents are highly comfortable with using recycled water for irrigation, agricultural and industrial uses.
 - Residents are also more comfortable with household uses other than drinking, when this does not include showers.
- Groundwater recharge is the most-favored method of delivering purified recycled water to homes.
 - At the same time, roughly two-thirds rate blending, and direct potable reuse as “acceptable.”
 - The acceptability of direct potable reuse increases to 70% after residents hear more about Pure Water Southern California and its potential benefits.

Key Findings (*Continued*)

A brief description of Pure Water Southern California wins support from nearly 7-in-10 residents – support which spans almost all subgroups of the population.

- Support increases slightly after positive messaging; however, we see a drop after a critical statement, with support for the program ending at 56%.

The idea of providing more reliable and local water supplies for future generations is the most appealing message, followed by water resiliency.

The critical statement hurts support for the program because it reminds residents of their concerns about water quality and safety.

- As was evident in the focus groups, the biggest obstacles to acceptance of the program are the “yuck factor” and lack of trust that the water will be monitored and tested correctly.

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OPINION
RESEARCH
& STRATEGY

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 400 B. Rubio (D – Baldwin Park) Sponsors: California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities	Chaptered Signed by Governor Chapter 201, Statutes of 2023	Local agency design-build projects: authorization. This measure would extend the existing sunset date to January 1, 2031, for the use of design-build as a delivery method for public works contracts.	Support Based on October 2021 Board Action	Metropolitan’s current authority to use design-build under AB 1845 (Calderon, CH. 275, 2022) will sunset on January 1, 2028. The provisions of this bill allow Metropolitan to use design-build for future projects through January 1, 2031.
AB 460 Bauer-Kahan (D – Orinda)	Amended 6/12/2024 Two-year bill Senate Appropriations Committee	State Water Resources Control Board: water rights and usage: civil penalties. This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board to adjust for inflation, by January 1 of each year, beginning in 2025, the amounts of civil and administrative liabilities or penalties imposed by the board in water right actions, as specified.	Support Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration, adopted April 2023	The bill now would provide for enhanced civil penalties for violations of any State Board regulation or curtailment order.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1337 Wicks (D – Oakland)	Amended 5/18/23 Dead	State Water Resources Control Board: water diversion curtailment. This bill would authorize SWRCB to adopt regulations for various water conservation purposes and implement these regulations through orders curtailing the diversion or use of water under any claim of right.	Oppose Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration, adopted April 2023	Regardless of whether there is a drought emergency, this bill would allow the State Board, by regulation, to permanently reduce permit rights (including SWP, Colorado River pre-1914 rights, or Delta Island license, pre-1914 or riparian right diversions) upon a finding that current diversions result in a waste or unreasonable use of water or that they harm public trust (fish and wildlife) resources. This would be a new broad power to the State Board that could permanently reallocate any water rights under any water year conditions without the protection or process of individual adjudications.
AB 1567 Garcia (D-Coachella)	Amended 5/26/2023 Two-year bill Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Clean Energy, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024. This measure would authorize a \$15.995 billion general obligation bond for the March 5, 2024, ballot to fund a broad range of resource-based programs that will assist California to improve its climate resiliency.	Support, if Amended Based on June 2023 Board Action	This measure is consistent with Metropolitan’s current policy priorities and supports the objectives of Metropolitan’s Climate Adaptation Master Plan. Metropolitan is seeking amendments to increase funding for recycled water, dam safety, regional conveyance, drought and conservation projects.
AB 1572 Friedman (D - Glendale) Co-sponsors: Metropolitan, Heal the Bay, National Resources Defense Council	Chaptered Signed by Governor Chapter 849, Statutes of 2023	Potable water: nonfunctional turf. This measure prohibits the use of potable water for the irrigation of non-functional turf located on commercial, industrial, institutional. This measure provides the State Water Resources Control Board with the authority to postpone compliance dates as prescribed.	Co-sponsor Based on April 2023 Board action	Based on input from the Board and member agencies, Metropolitan secured amendments to exclude multi-family residential buildings and protect the authority and local control of public water systems. Metropolitan is a co-sponsor of this measure.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1573 Friedman (D - Glendale) Sponsor: Earth Advocacy and California Native Plant Society	Amended 9/1/2023 Two Year Bill Senate Floor – Inactive File	Water conservation: landscape design: model ordinance. This measure would update the model water efficient landscape ordinance for new or renovated nonresidential areas to require at least 25% local native plants beginning January 1, 2026. This measure would also prohibit the use of nonfunctional turf in nonresidential landscape projects after January 1, 2026.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This measure is consistent with Metropolitan’s effort to reduce nonfunctional turf within its service area.
AB 1581 A. Kalra (D – San Jose)	Amended 6/27/2024 Senate Appropriations Committee	The Restoration Management Permit Act This bill would authorize the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to (1) issue a restoration management permit to authorize the take, possession, import, or export of any species or subspecies of fish, wildlife, or plants in association with a management or propagation project that, among other things, has the primary purpose of restoring native fish, wildlife, plants, or their habitat and (2) authorize any impacts to fish and wildlife resources as a result of activities otherwise subject to the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program, as provided. The bill would exempt these management or restoration projects from various legal requirements, including, among others, the above-described prohibitions regarding the take or possession of fully protected fish, as specified.	Support, if Amended	This bill proposes a one-stop-shop permitting process that would maximize its benefit to the environment by including environmental mitigation. The author’s office is currently negotiating language that would limit the scope to only include voluntary restoration projects, or projects that go beyond required mitigation. Metropolitan is requesting amendments that would allow projects undertaken as mitigation for regulatory compliance to be a “qualifying restoration project” under this proposed streamlining authority.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1648 Bains (D - Bakersfield)	Amended 3/16/2023 Dead	Water: Colorado River Conservation This measure would specifically prohibit Metropolitan and LADWP to offset federally required reductions on Colorado River resources with increased water deliveries from other regions of California, including the Delta, retroactively as of January 1, 2023.	Oppose Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This measure would impair Metropolitan's flexibility with its entire water portfolio, including the Integrated Water Resources Plan and the Annual Operating Plan. Metropolitan's reliability and its ability to meet demands would also be impaired by restrictions on partnerships with its State Water Project and Colorado River Basin stakeholders.
AB 1827 D. Papan (D – San Mateo)	Amended 4/4/2024 Senate Floor	Local government: fees and charges: water: higher-consumptive water parcels. The Legislature passed the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act in 1997 to provide guidance for implementation of the new constitutional provisions. AB 1827 (Papan) proposes to add Government Code section 53750.6 to the Act to clarify that the costs that may be recovered through retail water service fees may include the incrementally higher costs of water service due to (1) the higher water usage demand of parcels, (2) the maximum potential water use of parcels, or (3) projected peak water usage.	Support Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024.	Metropolitan's wholesale water service rates to its co-op members are not subject to Proposition 218 and therefore, the bill does not have an effect on Metropolitan. It will, however, provide clearer guidance for its member agencies that provide retail water service and any retail water service provider within Metropolitan service area.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2060 E. Soria (D – Fresno)	Amended 7/1/2024 Senate Appropriations Committee	<p>Lake and streambed alteration agreements: exemptions.</p> <p>This bill would exempt qualifying temporary permit diversions of water from streams at or near flood stage to groundwater storage from the requirements of Fish & Game Code section 1602. Section 1602 requires anyone proposing to substantially alter the bed, banks or natural flows of a stream, river or lake to notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If CDFW determines the proposed activity may have a significant adverse impact on fish or wildlife, it will require a Lake or Stream Alteration Agreement (LSAA) that functions as a permit for the activity, and which always requires mitigation, monitoring and reporting to CDFW. It is designed to prevent harm to fish and wildlife from covered activities. AB 2060 would exempt qualifying diversions from this requirement. The only “mitigation” required to qualify is installation of basic fish screens, with no requirement that they meet any standards, including those adopted by CDFW and the federal fish services.</p>	<p>Support if Amended</p> <p>Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration 2023 Water Rights Principles, adopted April 2023 and 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024</p>	<p>This bill was amended to ensure the temporary permit authorization is consistent with existing law on diversion authorizations for current water rights holders. Metropolitan is seeking additional amendments to ensure the inclusion of fish screens on all intakes, not just “temporary pump” intakes, and that the screens minimize both entrainment <i>and</i> impingement.</p>

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2257 L. Wilson (D – Suisun City)	Amended 6/20/2024 Senate Local Government Committee	Local government: property-related water and sewer fees and assessments: remedies. AB 2257 establishes a process for objections to be submitted by any party objecting to the proposed fee or assessment, notice to the public of the requirements, and prerequisites for suing an agency on the basis of the validity of the fee or assessment. The bill requires exhaustion of the administrative procedures provided therein before a plaintiff may file suit and it limits the administrative record that may be reviewed in that litigation to evidence presented to or available to the agency prior to the adoption of the fee or assessment.	Support Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	Metropolitan does not currently collect any fee or assessment on properties within its service area that is subject to Article XIII D. It does, however, have the authority to do so. Should it decide to adopt such a fee or assessment, it would be required to follow these proposed additional procedural requirements. Any litigation challenging such a fee or assessment would also be subject to the administrative remedy exhaustion and evidence limitation provided for by AB2257.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2610 E. Garcia (D – Coachella)	Amended 4/10/2024 Senate Appropriations Committee	Protected species: authorized take: Salton Sea Management Program: System Conservation Implementation Agreement. Current law authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife, if certain conditions are fulfilled, to authorize the take of species, including fully protected species, resulting from impacts attributable to implementation of the Quantification Settlement Agreement on specified lands and bodies of water, including the Salton Sea. This bill would additionally authorize the department, if certain conditions are fulfilled, to authorize the take of species resulting from impacts attributable to the implementation of the Salton Sea Management Program or implementation of any System Conservation Implementation Agreement between the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the Imperial Irrigation District to implement the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program, as provided, on the specified lands and bodies of water.	Support Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This bill will help to advance conservation agreements and collective conservation goals related to reducing reliance of the Colorado River in order to account for changes in climate and low water supplies by allowing IID to advance their short-term conservation goals between 2024 – 2026.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 122 Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 51, Statutes of 2023	Flood Flow Streamlining Provisions in this trailer bill provide that diversion of flood flows for groundwater recharge do not require an appropriative water right if specified conditions regarding the diversion are met. These provisions exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) specified actions related to the implementation of Colorado River water conservation agreements with the US Bureau of Reclamation.	Seek Amendments Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration 2023 Water Rights Principles, adopted April 2023	The no-permit authorization poses a significant concern to Metropolitan’s State Water Project supplies. There is no protest process, no requirement that diverters avoid harm to other legal water users with water rights senior to the flood flow diverter, and no protection of SWP and CVP rights to divert “excess flows” when they exist in the system up to the full capacity of the projects. Metropolitan will work with the Administration to address these issues as the program is implemented.
SB 124 Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 53, Statutes of 2023	Green Financing Programs for Federal IRA Funding This measure contains various provisions to implement the 2023 State Budget Act, which includes authorizing the State Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to access and utilize federal funding in the Inflation Reduction Act to finance projects that reduce greenhouse emissions.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	For the State Water Project, DWR’s direct investment in qualifying projects could lower its capital costs, which would ultimately be passed on to Metropolitan and other SWP contractors.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 146 Gonzalez (D-Long Beach)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 58, Statutes of 2023	Public resources: infrastructure: contracting. This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and authorizes DWR to use the progressive design-build (PDB) project delivery method for up to eight public works projects that exceed \$25 million. The Delta conveyance facilities and seawater desalination are expressly prohibited under this measure.	Support Based on October 2021 Board Action	By utilizing PDB and awarding a project contract prior to the completion of all design work, DWR can potentially reduce overall costs and execute shorter project delivery schedules. This could lead to reduced costs for SWP-related projects resulting in cost savings being passed on to Metropolitan.
SB 147 Ashby (D- Sacramento)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 59, Statutes of 2023	Fully protected species: California Endangered Species Act: authorized take This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and authorizes the take of fully protected species for certain infrastructure projects if specified conditions are met. Eligible projects include the maintenance, repair and improvement of the State Water Project, as well as critical regional and local water infrastructure.	Support and Amend Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	While this alternative may have benefits over current FPS regulations, the requirements are extensive and may make permit terms infeasible or cost prohibitive and could create other litigation risks for permittees.
SB 149 Caballero (D- Merced)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 60, Statutes of 2023	California Environmental Quality Act: administrative and judicial procedures: record of proceedings: judicial streamlining. This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and makes various changes to CEQA. This bill provides clarification for what is considered as part of the administrative record, as well as allowing a public agency to deny a request to prepare the record of proceedings. This bill also provides for expedited judicial review for specified energy and transportation projects.	Support and Amend Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	Administrative Records Streamlining: Overall, the provisions would be beneficial to Metropolitan as they could lower CEQA litigation costs and shorten litigation timelines. Expedited Judicial Review: The process for preparing the administrative record for any governor-certified infrastructure project must follow certain extensive and potentially costly specifications. While expedited judicial review is beneficial in concept, unless amended, the prerequisites may be infeasible or costly to implement.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 150 Durazo (D-Los Angeles)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 61, Statutes of 2023	Construction: workforce development: public contracts. This measure is part of the negotiated infrastructure trailer bill package and focuses on strengthening the state’s workforce and community benefits with infrastructure investments through California’s share of federal funds.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill is intended to help develop procurement models to enhance the state’s training and access pipeline for jobs while ensuring community benefits on infrastructure and manufacturing investments. This bill is consistent with Metropolitan’s policy and practice and could benefit the district by helping build the next generation of the state’s construction workforce.
SB 366 Caballero (D - Merced) Sponsors: California Municipal Utilities Association, California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance, California State Association of Counties	Amended 6/26/2024 Assembly Appropriations Committee	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets. This measure would revise the California Water Plan to require the DWR to update the California Water Plan by December 31, 2028, and every five years after, to include a long-term water supply target for 2050 and discussion on the development of specified water supply sources to meet demand.	Support, if Amended Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The intent of this bill is to help modernize California’s water management practices and provide long-term reliable supplies in response to the current climate challenges. Metropolitan is seeking amendments that include, but are not limited to, ensuring the 2050 target reflects statewide, regional, and local planning efforts and clarifying that the CA Water Plan should not establish a separate plan for complying with the Delta Plan, but should be complimentary and focus on supporting the co-equal goals of the Delta.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 659 Ashby (D – Sacramento) Sponsors: Sacramento Regional Water Authority	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 624, Statutes of 2023	California Water Supply Solutions Act of 2023. This bill would require DWR to develop a groundwater recharge plan by January 1, 2026, to create additional groundwater recharge capacity and include the plan as part of the 2028 update to the California Water Plan.	Support, if Amended Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles adopted December 2022.	This bill intends to elevate the importance of groundwater in the state’s planning efforts. Additional recharge capacities developed through implementation of this bill could potentially help in the successful implementation of projects such as Metropolitan’s Pure Water project, LADWP’s Operation Next project, and the Pure Water San Diego, potentially helping to maximize stormwater capture and increase sustainability of groundwater basins within Metropolitan’s service area.
SB 687 Eggman (D - Stockton)	Amended 5/2/2023 Dead	Water Quality Control Plan: Delta Conveyance Project. This measure will require the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt a final update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan before the Board considers a change in the point of diversion or any other water rights permit or order for the Delta Conveyance Project.	Oppose Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	Metropolitan supports updating the Water Quality Control Plan to protect beneficial uses in the Delta. This bill would result in halting or delaying planning efforts on the Delta Conveyance Project and potentially prevent the project from operating if approved.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 706 Caballero (D-Merced) Sponsors: CA State Association of Counties; County of San Diego; Design Build Institute of America Western Pacific Chapter; League of California Cities	Chaptered Signed by the Governor Chapter 500, Statutes of 2023	Public contracts: progressive design-build: local agencies. This bill would provide additional authority, until January 1, 2023, for cities, counties, and special districts to use progressive design-build (PDB) authority for up to 10 public works projects that are in excess of \$5 million. In addition, any local agency that uses this authorized progressive-design build process must submit a report to the Legislature.	Support Based on 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	Currently, PDB-eligible projects are limited to wastewater treatment facilities, park and recreational facilities, solid waste management facilities and water recycling facilities. This bill now authorizes cities, counties and special districts, including Metropolitan, to use PDB for public works projects. This supports Metropolitan’s priority of ensuring reliable water supply deliveries throughout its service area.
SB 867 Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor, Chapter 83, Statutes of 2024	Drought, Flood and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, Park Creation and Outdoor Access, and Clean Energy Bond Act of 2024. This measure would authorize a \$15.5 billion general obligation bond for a range of resource-based programs that will improve California’s climate resiliency. If approved, this measure would be on the March 5, 2024 statewide ballot.	Support, if Amended Based on June 2023 Board Action	This measure is consistent with Metropolitan’s current policy priorities and supports the objectives of Metropolitan’s Climate Adaptation Master Plan. Metropolitan is seeking amendments to increase funding for recycled water, dam safety, regional conveyance, drought, and conservation projects.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 903 N. Skinner (D – Berkeley)	Amended 4/11/2024 Dead	<p>Environmental health: product safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.</p> <p>Starting January 1, 2025, certain substances called perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) will be prohibited in new textiles, cosmetics, food packaging, and juvenile products in the state. This means that manufacturers and sellers cannot add PFAS to these products. A new bill, starting January 1, 2032, will also require the Department of Toxic Substances Control to determine if using PFAS in a product is necessary and unavoidable before it can be offered for sale. The department will keep a list of these determinations on its website and use any penalties collected for administering and enforcing these laws. By January 1, 2027, the department will adopt regulations to carry out this bill, including setting an application fee and creating an appeal process for penalties and decisions made under this law. A PFAS Oversight Fund will be created from the application fees to cover the department's expenses for administering this act, with funds allocated by the legislature.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024</p>	<p>From a source water protection standpoint, the bill creates provisions to reduce PFAS contamination and enhance protection of water quality and public health. By limiting PFAS in consumer products, the bill indirectly aims to reduce PFAS contamination in water sources, potentially decreasing treatment costs and complexity for water providers. The bill encourages the development and adoption of PFAS alternatives, potentially impacting the types of materials and products used within the water industry and by consumers, promoting safer water handling and packaging materials.</p>

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

SB 1072 S. Padilla (D – San Diego)	Amended 6/17/2024 Assembly Floor	Local government: Proposition 218: remedies. The California Constitution has rules for imposing taxes at a local level. It excludes certain fees and assessments if they meet certain criteria, such as not exceeding the benefit given to a property or the cost of the service provided. There is also a law known as the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act that outlines how local agencies must comply with these requirements. This bill, if passed, would require local agencies to correct any fees or charges for property-related services that violate these constitutional provisions and credit the amount of the violation against the revenues needed for the service. This bill supports the purposes and intent of Proposition 218 and the Omnibus Implementation Act.	Support Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	Metropolitan does not currently collect any revenue from any property related fees or assessments subject to Articles XIII C or D. However, Metropolitan does have statutory authority to collect such fees. If Metropolitan were to adopt such a fee or assessment in the future, the revenues from those fees or assessment would be subject to the limitation added by SB 1072.
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Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 1147 A. Portantino (D – Glendale)	Amended 6/19/2024 Assembly Appropriations Committee	Drinking water: bottled water: microplastics levels. SB 1147, introduced on February 14, 2024, would add Section 116376.2 to the Health and Safety Code and would require the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to study the health impacts of microplastics in drinking water, including bottled water, to evaluate and identify safe and unsafe levels of microplastics, and develop and deliver to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) public health standards and goals for safe microplastics levels in drinking water, including bottled water, by January 1, 2026. The bill would also require OEHHA to develop and deliver to the State Board definitions for the terms “safe level of microplastics” and “unsafe level of microplastics” by January 1, 2026.	Support, if Amended Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	As originally proposed, this bill would circumvent the existing statutory and regulatory process by mandating a new process without ensuring a well-established scientific foundation, which is critical for developing, standardizing, and validating microplastics analytical methods and procedures. Amendments were adopted to address concerns about the appropriate bifurcation of responsibilities between the State Board and OEHHA for studying and setting standards for microplastics. Metropolitan is working with the author to further amend the bill to ensure consistent standards in microplastics testing and to remove the date certain timeline

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 1169 H. Stern (D – Los Angeles)	Chaptered Signed by the Governor, Chapter 77, Statutes of 2024	Los Angeles County Flood Control District: finances. This law, known as the Los Angeles County Flood Control Act, sets up a district responsible for managing and preserving flood and wastewaters in the county. It permits the district to borrow money from certain sources to fund flood control work and repay the loan within 20 years with a maximum interest rate of 4.25% annually. The district must also collect enough taxes from property owners each year to cover the loan payments. Currently, the district is limited to borrowing a maximum of \$4.5 million and issuing bonds up to the same amount. This proposed bill would extend the loan repayment period to 35 years with a maximum interest rate of 5.5% annually. It would also remove the borrowing and bond limits for the district. The bill justifies these changes by stating the need for a special law for the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.	Support Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	Support for this bill will help with Los Angeles County’s flood control program and is consistent with the Board’s policy to support development of local resources and conservation efforts.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 1390 A. Caballero (D – Merced)	Amended 6/26/2024 Assembly Appropriations Committee	Groundwater recharge: floodflows: diversion. Under current law, all water in the state belongs to the people, but individuals can gain the right to use it through a legal process. This process requires the water to be used for a purpose that is helpful or beneficial. However, if certain conditions are met, using floodwater for groundwater recharge does not require a specific legal right. These conditions include receiving notice from a local or regional agency that there is a risk of flooding, and filing a report with the State Water Resources Control Board once the diversion is finished. This applies to diversions that began before January 1, 2029. This bill would extend these requirements to diversions that began before June 1, 2032. It would also add additional conditions that must be met for the diversion to be allowed, such as the local agency declaring that the diversion is in line with specific plans or emergency operations plans. The diversion must also stop within 90 days unless it is renewed, and the final report must include information about the methods used to predict and prevent flooding. Finally, the diversion must not harm any prior water rights holders in the area.	Support Based on Metropolitan Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration 2023 Water Rights Principles, adopted April 2023 and 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	SB 1390 has been amended to clarify which agencies may make the declaration that flood flow conditions exist and when they are required to declare they no longer exist. The amendments include language to protect Metropolitan’s SWP supplies, which also supports our operations to maintain water quality standards in the Delta. .



Legislation and Communications Committee

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Item 6b

August 19, 2024

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Subject

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Purpose

To provide an update on relevant state legislative issues

Sacramento Legislative Calendar

Legislative Calendar

Aug. 16: Last day for fiscal committees to meet

Aug. 19 – 31: Floor session only

Aug. 23: Last day to amend bills on the Floor

Aug. 31: Last day for each house to pass bills. Final
Recess upon adjournment of session

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

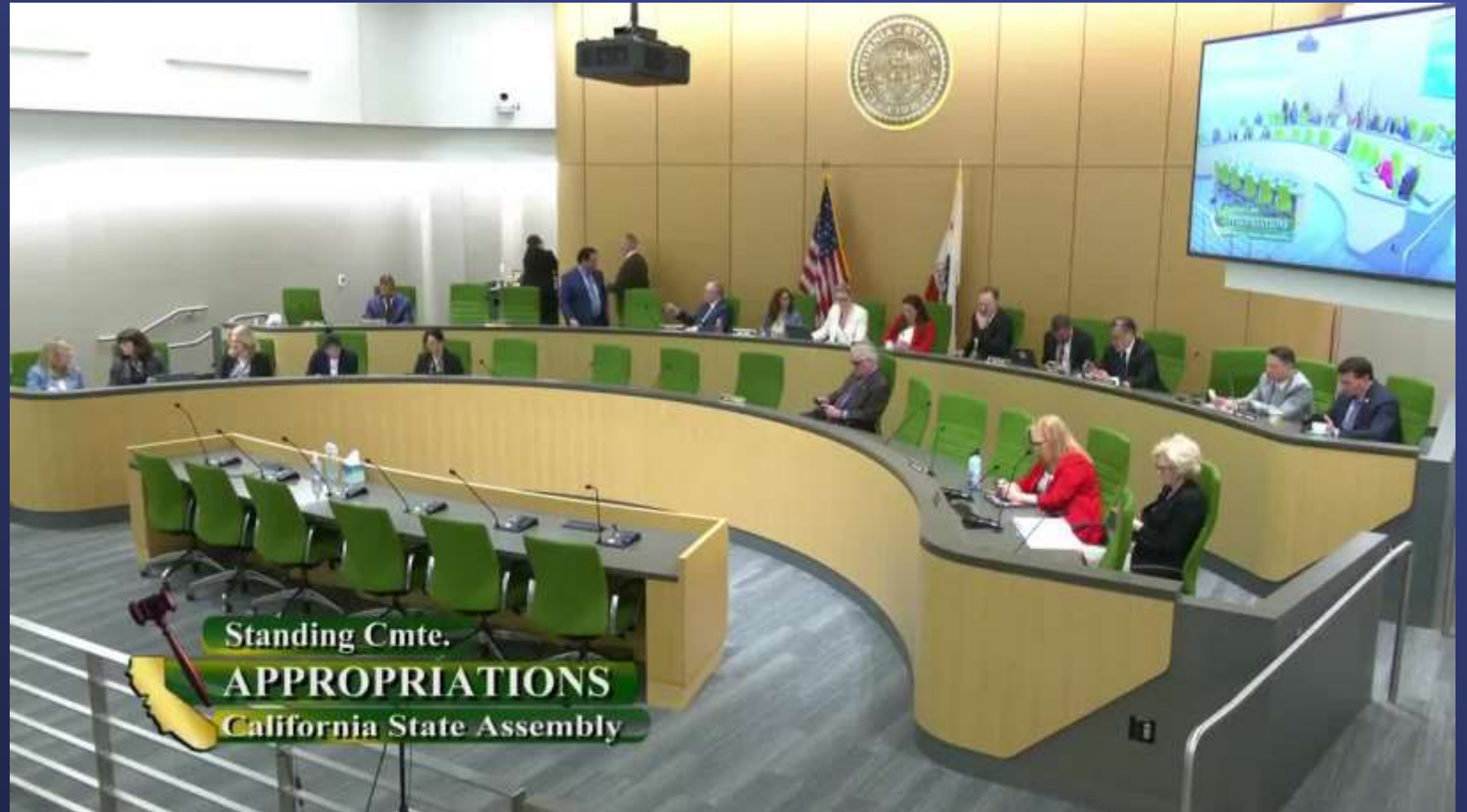
Proposition 4 – 2024 Climate Bond

- \$10 billion bond on November 5, 2024 ballot
- Board letter in September for consideration of Metropolitan position



Appropriations Suspense File

Sacramento Legislative Highlights



Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Flood Flow Streamlining: Support

- SB 1390 (Caballero): Groundwater recharge: flood flows: diversion.

Low Income Rate Assistance: Watch

- SB 1255 (Durazo): Public water systems: needs analysis: water rate assistance program.

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

California Water Plan: Support if Amended

- SB 366 (Caballero): The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Non-Functional Turf

- AB 1573 (Friedman): Water conservation: landscape design: model ordinance





Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Assistance for Disadvantaged Communities	H.R. 8032 (Sorenson, D-IL) S. 3830 (Padilla, D-CA)	4/16/24: Referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure. 2/28/24: Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.	Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act Establishes a permanent, nationwide water assistance program to help low-income households with their water and wastewater bills.	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This bill makes the temporary low-income household water assistance program established at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic permanent. Sustained federal assistance to help low-income household afford their water and wastewater bills would help residents in Metropolitan’s service area and Metropolitan’s member agencies.
Conservation	H.R. 3490 (Gallego, D-AZ)	5/19/23: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.	Water Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2023 Authorizes a new grant program to help wastewater and drinking water systems detect leaks and reduce water loss.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill directly benefits Metropolitan and its member agencies by creating a grant program to help cover the costs for conveyance leak detection and reduce supplier-side water loss. It could be used for a variety of investments including smart water network technologies, real-time sensing technologies, real-time decision support, and advanced metering infrastructure.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
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August 20, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Conservation	S. 2166 (Padilla, D-CA)	7/19/23: Hearing held before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.	Voluntary Agricultural Land Repurposing Act Authorizes a grant program at the Bureau of Reclamation to provide States and Indian Tribes with funding to establish programs to voluntarily repurpose agricultural land to reduce consumptive water use.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This new program would provide federal funding to support California’s Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program. It would provide funding to help agriculture lands transition out of production and instead be used for habitat restoration, renewable energy projects, or other purposes. The program would support Metropolitan’s work in the Central Valley and along the Colorado River.
Conservation	H.R. 5016 (Levin, D-CA) S. 2654 (Padilla, D-CA)	7/27/23: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. 7/27/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.	Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2023 Creates new US EPA grant programs for water efficiency and conservation measures, water loss control programs, and water efficient plumbing code adoption.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill directly benefits Metropolitan and its member agencies by creating new grant programs to help both water agencies and consumers reduce water loss. The new programs will supplement on-going work by Metropolitan and its member agencies and promote water conservation throughout Metropolitan’s service area.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Endangered Species Act Oversight	H.R. 872 (Calvert, R-CA)	2/21/23: Referred to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries.	Federally Integrated Species Health Act or the “FISH Act” Transfers the authority to oversee ESA-related responsibilities for anadromous fish from the Secretary of Commerce to the Secretary of the Interior.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This would simplify ESA consultations by consolidating those functions/authorities to one federal agency (US Fish and Wildlife Service) rather than two under the current law (the second being National Marine Fisheries Service). This would directly benefit Metropolitan's interests in the Delta related to SWP operations and facilities, as well as Delta islands activities.
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 1837 (Kustoff, R-TN) S. 1453 (Wicker, R-MS)	3/28/23: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. 5/4/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.	House Title: Investing in Our Communities Act Senate Title: Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure Act or the LOCAL Infrastructure Act Both bills amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The ability to advance refund bonds on a tax-exempt basis would benefit Metropolitan and its member agencies by allowing municipal issuers to lower borrowing costs to take advantage of favorable interest rates.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	S. 2162 (Feinstein, D-CA)	7/19/23: Hearing held before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.	<p>Support To Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities Act” or the “STREAM Act</p> <p>Authorizes funding for a variety of Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure investments including storage, water recycling, desalination, and ecosystem restoration projects for 5 years. It also authorizes a new assistance to provide drinking water to disadvantaged communities and creates a new low interest loan program to help finance western water projects.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>This bill would benefit Metropolitan and its member agencies by providing more funding for water infrastructure projects and ecosystem restoration projects. For example, the bill would accelerate the development of local water recycling projects by authorizing \$300 million for the Title XVI- WIIN water reuse grants program and raising the per-project funding cap from \$20 million to \$50 million. Additionally, the bill authorizes \$250 million for environmental restoration projects, including helping imperiled species adapt to climate change. This new program could support Metropolitan’s science projects in the Delta.</p>

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
August 20, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 7776 (Lee, D-NV) S. 4016 (Sinema, I-AZ)	6/12/24: Reported out favorably by the House Natural Resources Committee. 3/21/24: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Help Hoover Dam Act Amends the Boulder Canyon Project Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expend money in the Colorado River Dam fund.	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This legislation gives the Bureau of Reclamation authority to utilize stranded funds paid by the Hoover Dam power contractors for operations, maintenance, repair, and clean up actions at Hoover Dam. The bill would benefit Metropolitan and its member agencies by providing a new source of funding for needed work on Hoover Dam.
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 7990 (Napolitano, D-CA)	4/15/24: Referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.	Large Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization and Investment Act of 2024 Extends Reclamation’s large-scale recycled water program for six years, increases the cost threshold for large-scale projects from \$500M to \$1 B, and authorizes \$1B for the program.	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This bill would benefit Metropolitan and our member agencies by re-authorizing Reclamation’s large-scale recycled water program. This program provides federal assistance for large regional recycled water projects.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	H.R. 8030 (Peters, D-CA) S. 4134 (Padilla, D-CA)	04/16/24: Referred to the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce. 04/16/24: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.	Drought Relief Obtained Using Government Help Today Act of 2024 (DROUGHT Act) Increases the maximum WIFIA loan a project can receive from 49% to 90% of the total cost if it is being built in either a state that has experienced D2 level droughts for 4 weeks in the past 3 years, a county for which a Governor has declared a drought emergency during the last 3 years, or serves a historically disadvantaged community.	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This legislation would benefit Metropolitan and our member agencies by increasing the cap on WIFIA loans from 49% of a total project's costs to 90% under some circumstances. WIFIA is an EPA program that provides low interests loans for water projects that cost over \$20 million.
Source Water Protection	H.R. 1181 (Garamendi, D-CA)	2/27/23: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment	Federal Water Pollution Control Permitting Terms Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) with respect to permitting terms.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This legislation would extend the maximum term for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits issued under the Clean Water Act from 5 to 10 years, for public agencies that have demonstrated compliance with existing permit conditions. This change is designed to better reflect the construction schedules for public agencies.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 3439 (Panetta, D-CA) S. 1715 (Feinstein, D-CA)	6/23/23: Referred to the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and Workforce, Energy and Commerce and Natural Resources. 5/18/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.	Wildfire Emergency Act of 2023 To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and for other purposes.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill has water supply, water quality, and ecosystem benefits for the Colorado River watershed and State Water Project watershed. Proper forest management and wildfire prevention promotes runoff, helps protect water quality, and improves habitat.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 1236 (Crow, D-CO) S. 540 (Bennet, D-CO)	3/22/23: Referred to the House Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources. 2/28/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.	Protect the West Act of 2023 Establishes a \$60 billion fund at the Treasury Department for use by the Secretary of Agriculture for restoration and resilience projects, wildfire risk reduction projects and habitat restoration projects.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill would benefit Metropolitan and its member agencies by funding projects to improve watershed health. It creates a grant program for restoration and resilience projects to improve forest conditions, rangeland health, watershed functions, or wildlife habitat. Additional grants would provide funding for partnership projects to reduce wildfire risk, restore habitat, and expand access to the outdoors. State agencies, local and tribal governments, and special districts may use these funds along with partner organizations.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 7872 (Curtis, R-UT) S. 2514 (Bennett, D-CO)	6/12/24: Reported out favorably by the House Natural Resources Committee. 7/26/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.	Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act Amends the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The bill directly benefits Metropolitan and its member agencies by ensuring continued federal funding for salinity control projects along the Colorado River. This bill increases the federal cost share for projects to reduce the salt load in the Colorado River. The states have insufficient funds to meet the current cost share requirements because project costs are increasing, and the state contribution is funded by hydropower power revenue which is declining. The cost share change is needed to maintain the current program.
Water Project Authorizations	H.R. 924 (Harder, D-CA)	2/10/23: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment.	Stop the Tunnels Act Prohibits the Corps of Engineers from issuing a permit for the Delta Conveyance Project.	OPPOSE Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This bill prevents the Army Corps from issuing a Clean Water Act section 404 permit for the Delta Conveyance Project. Metropolitan has invested in the planning and permitting process for this project and if enacted this bill would stop the permitting process from moving forward.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water Project Authorizations	H.R. 2419 (Costa, D-CA) S. 2161 (Feinstein, D-CA)	5/8/23: Referred to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Oceans. 7/19/23: Hearing held before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.	Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Act This bill authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to provide financial assistance to mitigate the impacts of subsidence on California’s water delivery system.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	This legislation would authorize repairs to the Friant-Kern Canal, Delta-Mendota Canal, and California Aqueduct to restore conveyance capacity lost due to subsidence.
Water Science	S. 466 (Peters, D-MI)	2/16/23: Referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Federal PFAS Research Evaluation Act Directs the National Academy of Sciences to study and report on a federal research agenda to advance the understanding of PFAS.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	Metropolitan supports research studies to understand the occurrence of PFAS in the environment. This bill directs the National Academy of Sciences to conduct studies to determine the research efforts needed to further the understanding of human exposure to, and toxicity of PFAS, as well as treatment of PFAS contamination in the environment, and the development of safe alternatives to PFAS.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water Science	H.R. 2429 (Lee, D-NV) S. 1118 (Cortez-Mastro, D-NV)	<p>5/8/23: Referred to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Oceans.</p> <p>12/14/23: Reported out favorably by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.</p>	<p>Open Access Evapotranspiration Data Act</p> <p>Establishes the Open Access Evapotranspiration (OpenET) Data Program to provide satellite-based evapotranspiration data from across the western U.S. to Federal agencies, States, and Indian Tribes. Authorizes \$23 million per year for five years for this program.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022</p>	<p>The OpenET platform is currently supported by NASA and private philanthropy. Dedicated federal funding and support will improve the quantification of evaporation and consumptive water use and help provide data users with field- scale estimates of evapotranspiration over user- defined time periods. This information will help Metropolitan measure consumptive water use in Palo Verde and throughout the Colorado River basin, including areas where there is currently little data available.</p>

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Federal Legislative Matrix
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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water Science	H.R. 3027 (Porter, D-CA)	6/14/23: Hearing held before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries.	Reclamation Climate Change and Water Program Reauthorization Act of 2023 Extends the authorization for Reclamation’s basin studies program for ten years.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The Basin studies bring together technical experts, state and local water managers, conservation groups, and other stakeholders to assess water supply and demand imbalances at the river basin level. This benefits Metropolitan and its member agencies by ensuring consistent operations using science and awareness of the. In addition to the Colorado River basin, Reclamation has conducted these studies in other watersheds across the West including the Los Angeles and Santa Ana basins in Metropolitan’s service area and the Sacramento-San Joaquin system.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water System Security	H.R. 1367 (Schakowsky, D-IL) S. 660 (Markey, D-MA)	3/6/23: Referred to the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. 3/6/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.	Water System Threat Preparedness and Resilience Act of 2023 Establishes a new EPA grant program to increase drinking water and wastewater system threat preparedness and resilience, by helping cover the dues to join the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC).	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The WaterISAC is a source of information and best practices for water systems to protect against, mitigate, and respond to natural hazards, as well as physical and cyber security threats. Metropolitan, and many of our member agencies, are members of WaterISAC. This new program could help cover our dues or be used to help smaller agencies who lack access to WaterISAC participate in the program.
Water System Security	H.R. 7944 (Curtis, R-UT) S.1430 (Lummis, R-WY)	4/11/24: Referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure. 5/3/23: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.	Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act Provides exemptions to drinking water and wastewater facilities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) for PFAS chemicals designated as hazardous substances.	SUPPORT Based upon 2023 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted December 2022	The bill follows the “polluters pay” principle for cleanup of PFAS under CERCLA by shielding drinking water and wastewater systems from cleanup liability when they properly dispose of water treatment byproducts containing PFAS.



Legislation and Communications Committee

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Item 6c

August 19, 2024

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Subject

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Purpose

To provide a legislative update

Legislation & Communications Committee

Schedule



Congress in Recess until September 9

Appropriations Update



Senate markup of FY 25 Interior, Environment & Related Agencies Appropriation Bill



House Passage of FY 25 Interior, Environment & Related Agencies Appropriations Bill



Water Recycling



Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

July 12, 2024

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner Touton:

We write to urge the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to increase the Title XVI Grant Program's per-project funding cap from \$30 million to \$40 million in order to account for inflation. As the West continues to recover from the impacts of long-term drought while also preparing for inevitable future droughts, it is imperative that the federal government continues to invest in local water supplies to meet the demands of recycled water in the West. Increasing the per-project funding cap by adjusting for inflation would ensure that the BOR is bringing every tool and resource to bear to stretch limited water supplies and bolster drought resilience.

As you know, BOR's Title XVI grant program has successfully allowed water providers in the West to leverage federal funding to finance necessary water recycling and water reuse infrastructure. For over thirty years, water reuse has been an incredibly valuable tool in the West to boost local water supplies and become more drought-resilient. Unfortunately, over the last few years, water infrastructure projects across the nation have been experiencing significant cost increases. A 2023 WateReuse Association survey of its members with Reclamation-approved Title XVI feasibility studies showed that the cost of their water recycling and reuse projects increased – on average – by around 80 percent since the time of feasibility study completion.

The *Reclamation Recycling and Water Conservation Act of 1996* established a \$20 million per project cap for the Title XVI program, but the law also provided Reclamation with the authority to increase the program's per project cap to keep pace with inflation. We applaud you for being the first Commissioner to use this authority when you raised the program's per project cap from \$20 million to \$30 million in 2022. However, given the significant increase in inflation and project costs in recent years, we urge you to again use your authority and raise the program's per project cap to \$40 million. According to the Consumer Price Index, \$20 million in 1996 dollars equates to approximately \$40 million in today's dollars.

As Western water agencies undertake efforts to adapt to climate change, the federal government must do all it can to encourage these water purveyors to bolster the resiliency of their systems and reduce dependency on imported water supplies. Water recycling is a critical component of achieving these objectives. By using your authority to increase the WIIN Title XVI grant program's per-project funding cap to \$40 million, the Bureau of Reclamation can offer water providers in the West the opportunity to more affordably invest in the necessary infrastructure to prepare for the next inevitable drought.

Senate Energy and Water Report Language:

WIIN Title XVI Cost Share.—The Committee directs Reclamation to index the project Federal cost share cap for eligible projects as authorized in section 4009(c) of the WIIN Act to inflation.

Legislative Update.



WRDA



NDAA



Senate Committee Mark-Up





External Affairs Group

- External Affairs Monthly Activities Report for July 2024

Summary

This report provides a summary of External Affairs' group activities for July 2024.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Highlights

Chair Ortega and Acting GM Chapman spoke to the Burbank City Council to discuss regional and local community priorities, including water supply conditions, CAMP4W, and budget issues. (July 16)

Partnered with Inland Empire Utilities Agency in hosting a Community Leader's Briefing, featuring State Senator Rubio (D-Pomona). Chair Ortega provided opening comments, and Board Vice Chair Camacho, Director Fellow, and AGM Zinke were in attendance. (July 18)



Chair Ortega, AGM Chapman, Director Ramos Burbank City Council members



Senator Rubio and IEUA President Tule spoke with a large gathering of attendees at Metropolitan's Community Leaders Briefing breakfast



Director Fellow and Metropolitan staff at a CAMP4W community meeting

Metropolitan staff, including Chief SRI Officer Crosson, joined Director Fellow and Upper District GM Love for a community briefing on Metropolitan's Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water. (July 19)

Date of Report: 04/29/2024

GM Monthly Report July 2024

Hosted Water Education for Latino Leaders UnTapped 2024 Fellowship cohort for a tour and briefing at Pure Water Southern California to kick off a six-month program on water issues. (July 20)

Chair Ortega, Directors Crawford, De Jesus, Dennstedt, and staff attended the Southern California Water Coalition Quarterly Luncheon. (July 26)

Federal

GM Upadhyay and Metropolitan staff provided a briefing on the latest water supply conditions and status of discussions on future operations of the Colorado River to Representative Napolitano. (July 23)

Chair Ortega, GM Upadhyay, and Metropolitan staff met with Bureau of Reclamation Deputy Commissioner Palumbo and Reclamation staff to discuss Metropolitan's large-scale water recycling funding award and the status of Colorado River discussions. (July 24)

State

The State Legislature passed the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024. This measure is now headed to the ballot for a vote in November. The bond includes a total of \$10 Billion, with \$3.8 Billion committed to water categories.

Local

This month, staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 51 webinars, meetings, and events with community organizations and trade associations, board members, and federal and state elected officials on Metropolitan activities, issues, and other water-specific topics. Highlights included:

- Sponsored VICA After Dark. LA Councilmember Raman was a speaker at the event. (July 30)
- Metropolitan was a sponsor of the Orange County Business Council's Legislative Summit, which featured state legislators including Senators Archuleta, Min, Newman, and Blakespear as well as Assemblymembers Ta, Umberg, Dixon, and Valencia. (July 31)

Media and Communications

Coordinated interview between Courthouse News reporter Edvard Pettersson and Interim General Manager Upadhyay regarding Pure Water Southern California and climate change adaptation.

Arranged interview with Circle of Blue reporter Brett Walton and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp regarding discussions on new ways of farming with Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Set up interview of External Affairs' Soni on KBLA-1580 "A More Perfect Union" on Pure Water Southern California as part of Metropolitan's Climate Justice partnership with the station.

Arranged interview of Chair Ortega for H2KnowItAll podcast coordinated with Rowland Water District.

Set up interview for Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp with Verabril, a production company based in Spain filming a documentary about treated water, water scarcity, and its solutions.

Coordinated Chief SRI Officer Crosson's appearance on Talking Water Podcast, with LADWP's Pettijohn.



Members of the 2024 WELL Cohort touring the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Innovation Center

GM Monthly Report July 2024

Press Releases

- Board action to provide \$3 million to eight planning studies and pilot tests to develop new local supplies, under Future Supply Actions Funding Program.
- Increasing turf rebate to \$3 per square foot for commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors and \$4 for public agencies.
- Fostering greater accessibility to Metropolitan's Apprenticeship Program for mechanical and electrical technicians.

Creative Design

- Installed updated displays on conservation and Southern California water issues in Metropolitan's room at DWR's Vista del Lago Visitors Center.
- Completed Spanish language version of the district's Annual Water Quality Report.
- Posted "A Legacy of Service"—a commemorative piece celebrating the 50th anniversary of the formation of Metropolitan's Water Quality Branch.
- Designed Equal Employment Opportunity Office logo.
- Launched a targeted digital marketing campaign with ACWA's QuenchCA campaign to increase public awareness of Metropolitan's investments to bring new and reliable water sources to State Water Project dependent communities.



Updated displays have been installed in the Metropolitan room at Vista del



Social Media

- Highlighted Employee Resource Group activities, including Pride at Metropolitan participation in the San Fernando Valley's Pride March and the Hispanic Employee Association's scholarship celebration.
- Featured five Metropolitan employees who have participated in the Apprenticeship program.
- Posted a video slideshow featuring Metropolitan's approach to storing a record amount of water in preparation for the next drought.
- Received more than 1.7 million impressions and an engagement of over 156,000 for a Facebook posting of a recent photo of Lake Mead that went viral.

GM Monthly Report July 2024

- Featuring the district's work in the community with video reels on Pure Water Southern California, the CAMP4W, and Metropolitan's participation in Angel City Football Club's Pride Month Fan Fest.

Website

- Reported more than 55,000 visits to mwdh2o.com, with careers, job postings/descriptions, and Apprenticeship/Internship webpages the most popular.
- Logged more than 19,000 visitors to bewaterwise.com, with pages hosting native plants profiles, the watering calculator, and the Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program the most visited.
- Added Ethics Office link to website's footer navigation for easier public access to lobbying information.
- Migrated Intramet development site to a newer server, replacing 20 year old system.

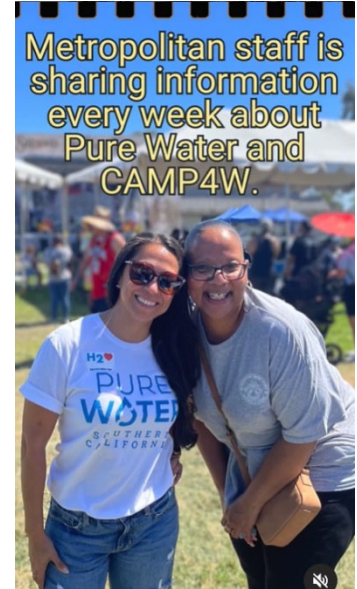
Community Outreach

Supported Science, Engineering, and Water Wise Night at the San Diego Children's Discovery Museum and Black Math Collective's Math and Water Testing Camp Program through the community partnering program.

Notified homes and businesses in Lake Forest of upcoming construction on the Allen McColluch Pipeline; contacted homes and businesses about geotechnical activities related to relining of the Second Lower Feeder.

Pure Water Southern California

- Provided tours of Napolitano Innovation Center to Crescenta Valley Water District (July 11) and Coca-Cola employees (July 25).
- Met with property management company RRBROS Inc. (July 10) and City of Pico Rivera (July 11) to discuss Pure Water program and potential operations and facilities.



Education

- Interacted with 1,700 teachers, students, and adults through in-person and online meetings and events.
- Hosted three Coro Youth Fellows for a two-week project to create an outreach plan to promote Metropolitan's education programs to more teachers and schools.
- Displayed student traveling art exhibit at Walnut Valley Water District, Glendale Water and Power, and Rowland Water District.
- Partnered with the REACH program at LaVerne University for a tour of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District's water treatment facility. The program provides first-generation college students opportunities to learn about utilities in Southern California.
- Participated in meetings with the Water Energy Education Alliance Leadership Roundtable, University of La Verne's Business Council, and WRD's Water Industry Workforce Development.
- In partnership with Pando Populus, engaged students at CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Los Angeles, and El Camino Community College on a water-focused sustainability competition.
- Provided resource materials on Pure Water Southern California and Water Quality for a STEM summer workshop on water for middle school students at USC.



REACH students Tour of Three Valleys MWD Facility

GM Monthly Report July 2024

- Provided a boat tour of Diamond Valley Lake for teachers who were participating in a workshop hosted by Eastern Municipal Water District.



Legislation and Communications Committee

External Affairs Activities

Item 7a
August 19, 2024

Report on Activities from External Affairs

Subject

Report on Activities from External Affairs

Purpose

To provide management announcements and highlights for External Affairs

Legislative Proposals

- Annual Bill Proposal Process
- Coordinating with Member Agency Legislative Coordinators for Concepts
- Input by September 1



Legislation & Communications
Committee

Achievements in Water Storage



PR NEWS

Experiential and
EVENT PR AWARDS



**METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA**

A Pivotal Moment Ending California's Drought"

Legislation & Communications
Committee

Conservation Messaging

Summer Social Media Campaign

**WATER CONSERVATION
IS A TEAM SPORT**

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Legislation & Communications
Committee

Education and Partnerships



Community Partnering Program Black Math Collective

MWD Education Program 40th Anniversary

