

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
J. Morris
T. Phan
B. Pressman
M. Ramos
T. Smith

Legislation and Communications Committee

Meeting with Board of Directors *

December 10, 2024

10:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Meeting Schedule**

**08:30 a.m. FAM
10:30 a.m. LEG
11:30 a.m. Break
12:00 p.m. Sp Jt Exec
and BOD**

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: 862 4397 5848.

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: 815 2066 4276 or to join by computer [click here](#).

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

Teleconference Locations:

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

525 Via La Selva • Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Bluffton Library • 120 Palmetto Way • Bluffton, SC 29910

8700 Beverly Boulevard, Room 342 • Los Angeles, CA 90048

2680 W Segerstrom Avenue Unit I • Santa Ana, CA 92704

3008 W. 82nd Place • Inglewood, CA 90305

Conference Room 2nd Floor • 1545 Victory Blvd 2nd FL • Glendale CA 91505

* 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 Special Legislation and Communications Committee for November 19, 2024 (copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions) [21-4045](#)

Attachments: [12102024 Sp LEG 2A \(11192024\) Minutes](#)

3. **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION**

NONE

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

4. **OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION**

- 8-6 Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-4046](#)

Attachments: [12102024 LEG 8-6 B-L](#)
[12102024 LEG 8-6 Presentation](#)

5. **BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

NONE

6. **COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Report on Activities from Washington, D.C. [21-4047](#)

Attachments: [12102024 LEG 6a Federal Legislative Matrix](#)
[12102024 LEG 6a Presentation](#)

- b. Report on Activities from Sacramento [21-4048](#)

Attachments: [12102024 LEG 6b State Legislative Matrix](#)
[12102024 LEG 6b Presentation](#)

7. **MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

- a. External Affairs activities

[21-4049](#)

Attachments: [12102024 LEG 7a External Affairs Activities](#)
[12102024 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

SPECIAL LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

November 19, 2024

Vice Chair Kassakhian called the meeting to order at 12:41 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman (entered after rollcall, AB2449 “Just Cause”), Dennstedt, Jung (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Lewitt, Luna, McMillan, Morris, Pressman, Ramos (entered after rollcall, teleconference posted location), and Smith

Members absent: Directors Fellow, Garza, Gray, and Phan

Other Board Members present: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho, Dick, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, McCoy, Miller, Ortega and Quinn

Director Ackerman indicated she is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” regarding medical procedure. Director Ackerman appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee Staff present: Novoa, Stites, Sims, and Upadhyay

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

No member of the public in person or online.

Director Ackerman, Jung, and Ramos entered the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-6	Subject:	Authorize the General Manager to seek legislation for metropolitan to increase the local agency dollar threshold for public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$75,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.
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Presented by: John Vrasalovich, Unit Manager – Engineering Services

Motion: Amended motion to authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation for Metropolitan to increase the minimum threshold for competitive bidding on public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$150,000, and to seek the inclusion of an inflation escalator.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1) Camacho
- 2) Morris
- 3) Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

Director Ackerman using AB 2449 just cause, did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

Amended motion by Director Luna, seconded by Director Lewitt to approve the consent calendar item 7-6.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Kassakhian, Lewitt, Luna, McMillan, Morris, Ramos, and Smith

Noes: Director Jung

Abstentions: Director Pressman

Absent: Directors Fellow, Garza, Gray, and Phan

The motion for item 7-6 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 1 noes, 1 abstain, and 4 absent

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee held October 7, 2024.

Director Ackerman, using AB 2449 just cause, did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Kassakhian to approve items 2A.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Jung, Kassakhian, Lewitt, Luna, McMillan, Morris, Pressman, Ramos, and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Fellow, Garza, Gray, and Phan

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 4 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-3 Subject: Legislative Priorities and Principles 2025

Presented by: Christine Frey, Team Manager – Legislative Services

Ms. Frey provided an update on the annual review of staff recommended updates to the Legislative Priorities and Principles.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Report on Inspection Trip Program

Presented by: Rupam Soni, Section Manager - Member Services and Public Outreach

Ms. Soni provided an update on the inspection trip program and discussed the status of the program for 2024-2025.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

1.) Luna

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- b. Subject: Report on Solar Cup Program

Presented by: Sue Sims, Group Manager – External Affairs

Ms. Sims provided an update on the Solar Cup Program, program elements and resources, budget reductions for external affairs, primary activities, workload and looking forward.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) McMillan
- 2.) Dick
- 3.) Camacho

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

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

No Presentation – The Federal Tracking Matrix is Available Online.

- d. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

No Presentation – The State Tracking Matrix is Available Online.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs activities

Presented by: Sue Sims, Group Manager – External Affairs

Ms. Sims provided an update on the Goodbye Grass advertising campaign to promote turf and tree rebates and aired two radio ads, and the Education Team's visit to Eagle Mountain School, and GIS tracking of Community Partnering Program sponsorships.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:31p.m.

Chair Jung



- **Board of Directors**

- Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and Communications Committee***

12/10/2024 Board Meeting

8-6

Subject

Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

This letter presents the final 2025 legislative priorities and principles recommended by staff with input received for the Board of Directors' consideration and adoption.

Proposed Action(s)/Recommendation(s) and Options

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Adopt the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Adoption of these legislative priorities and principles supports staff's ability to address matters in a timely manner related to legislative and regulatory matters in 2025.

Option #2

Take no action

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Absence of these legislative priorities and principles could hinder staff's ability to respond in a timely manner to legislative and regulatory matters in 2025.

Alternatives Considered

Not applicable

Applicable Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

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

The draft 2025 priorities and principles were presented to the Legislation and Communications Committee as an information item on November 19, 2024.

Summary of Outreach Completed

The draft 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles (LPP) was presented to the Member Agency Legislative Coordinators Annual Planning Meeting on November 7, 2023, and to the Member Agency Managers' Meeting on November 15, 2023. Feedback on the priorities and principles was requested; input received was reviewed by staff and is provided to the Board for discussion and direction in the Summary of Comments – November 2024 (**Attachment 1**).

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves organizational, maintenance, or administrative activities; personnel-related actions; and/or general policy and procedure making that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (Public Resources Code Section 21065; State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) and (5).)

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

This board letter presents the 2025 LPP as recommended by staff for the Board's consideration. It lays out an integrated "One Water" collaborative approach on current, anticipated legislative water policy issues to effectively manage Southern California's watersheds, water resources, and water infrastructure to ensure long-term resilience and reliability for communities and ecosystems. Once adopted, staff use this document to determine Metropolitan's positions and advocate for these priorities and principles at the state and federal level through Metropolitan-sponsored legislation, engaging on bills, or pursuing state and federal funding. Updated legislative priorities and principles are presented annually to the Board of Directors. The final, board-approved annual LPP document is publicly available on the Metropolitan website.

For the coming year, which begins new two-year state and federal legislative cycles, staff has updated the document to reflect developments and new laws on the state and federal arenas, and to be consistent with internal Metropolitan initiatives, including the GM Business Plan, the Metropolitan Climate Action Plan, and the Board-led planning effort on the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W). The draft 2025 LPP was presented to the Member Agency Legislative Coordinators Annual Planning Meeting on November 7, 2024, and to the Member Agency Managers' Meeting on November 15, 2024.

Recommended updates to the language received after the November 19, 2024, Legislation and Communications Committee can be seen in the Summary of Comments – November 2024 (**Attachment 1**). All input received was reviewed by staff and presented to the Board for discussion and direction.

In November 2024, the Board authorized the General Manager to sponsor legislation for Metropolitan to increase the minimum threshold for competitive bidding on public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$150,000 and seek the inclusion of an inflation escalator.

The 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles below are respectfully submitted for adoption by the Board.

2025 Legislative Priorities

To help adapt to a changing climate, protect water resources, and partner with communities we serve, Metropolitan will work to support administrative/legislative actions and federal and state funding for the following priorities in 2025:

I. Top Legislative Priorities

1. Continue support for imported water supply resiliency and reliability, including planning for the Delta Conveyance Project, Sites Reservoir Project, Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements), and the development of post-2026 Colorado River operating guidelines.
2. Conserve existing water supplies and adapt to climate change by supporting demand management and water use efficiency, long-term non-functional turf conversion, and a federal tax exemption for water conservation rebates.

3. Advance Pure Water Southern California and other water recycling projects and long-term supply reliability improvements.
4. Support funding for regional conveyance and water storage improvements to ensure the region's water supply is adequate and reliable for all member agencies.
5. Protect drinking water quality and ensure access to safe and reliable drinking water, including upholding the polluter pays principle and supporting the ongoing cleanup of contaminated sites along the Colorado River.
6. Support adaptive management for ecosystem restoration in the Bay-Delta and Colorado River watersheds that takes into consideration evolving climate conditions, risk analyses, and best available science.
7. Improve water affordability, especially for disadvantaged communities, without burdening existing ratepayers.
8. Assist public agencies in the transition to zero-emission fleets and equipment, while ensuring operational reliability and maintaining emergency response capabilities.

II. Metropolitan-Sponsored State Bills

1. Support administrative/legislative actions to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to eliminate the sunset date and allow Metropolitan to continue operating under its existing master reclamation plan. (Board approved in November 2023, MI 53444)
2. Support legislation for Metropolitan to increase the local agency dollar threshold for public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$150,000 and seek an inflation cost escalator. (Board approved in November 2024)

2025 Legislative Policy Principles

The 2025 Legislative Policy Principles guide and inform Metropolitan's engagement on state and federal legislative and regulatory activities. They are updated annually and are developed in consultation with Metropolitan's subject matter experts and through outreach with the member agencies.

The policy principles address six strategic areas that inform Metropolitan's integrated approach and the Board-led process for developing the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W). These policy areas include: (1) drinking water; (2) regional water resource management; (3) imported water supply; (4) sustainability, resiliency, and innovation; (5) infrastructure; and (6) system resiliency.

- I. Drinking Water – Metropolitan provides high-quality, reliable drinking water in an economically responsible way to the Southern California region that surpasses all federal and state drinking water regulations.

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

A. Water Quality and Treatment

1. Use best available science, occurrence and health effects data, and appropriate cost-benefit analyses or economic feasibility to protect public health and improve water quality. Apply these principles when setting maximum contaminant levels, health advisories, or notification/response levels, in addition to assessing laboratory capacity, analytical methods, and other regulatory standards or guidance levels.
2. Apply the "polluter pays" principle such that parties responsible for introducing contaminants in or near drinking water sources are held liable for cleanup, and not the drinking water, recycled water, and wastewater facilities that subsequently store, transport, or treat the water.
3. Comply with new regulatory standards, including treatment and mitigation measures, development of risk communication tools, and adequate time for implementation.

4. Protect source water quality, reduction of threats from invasive species, and mitigation of harmful algal blooms.
 5. Improvements to the State Water Resource Control Board's knowledge of CEC in waters of the state and drinking water, including support for the Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) Action Fund.
- B. Water Governance, Affordability, and Funding – Metropolitan supports efforts to provide access to safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water to all communities.
1. Improve water affordability throughout the region, especially for disadvantaged communities, without burdening existing ratepayers.
 2. Help for water systems to provide low-income ratepayer assistance programs in a way that is operationally feasible, sustainable, and maintains consumer confidence in retail agencies.
 3. Improve governance and long-term sustainability of non-compliant water systems, provide assistance for voluntary consolidations, and ensure that all receiving public water systems are consulted on potential consolidations. Increase local agency flexibility in determining fees for service and assessment amounts.
 4. Ensure the limited resources of the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund are prioritized for operation and maintenance costs, infrastructure improvements, and consolidation actions.
- II. Regional Water Resource Management – Metropolitan's One Water Vision and the Board-led CAMP4W process promote collaboration with member agencies to adapt to climate change and plan for future water supply needs in a reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible manner.

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

A. Conservation

1. Support tax exemptions and/or credits for water conservation or efficiency incentives, including but not limited to long-term conversion of non-functional turf, local stormwater capture, and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape.
2. Encourage equitable water use efficiency and recycled water use among agricultural, industrial, and urban sectors.
3. Support retail water agencies' ability to meet the objectives of Conservation as a California Way of Life in a manner that maintains flexibility and local control. Support efforts to ensure new statutes and regulations are based on science; recognize regional distinctions (such as climate, land use, population, and hydrology); consider water affordability; and assess potential impacts to wastewater operations and recycled water projects.
4. Advance leak detection and water loss reduction. Support the development and implementation of flexible water loss standards for both retail and wholesale water systems.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions for the long-term conversion of non-functional turf in commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes and ban installation of non-functional turf in new construction. Support federal/state funding for the long-term conversion of non-functional turf in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes.

B. Desalination and Groundwater Remediation

1. Support brackish groundwater and seawater desalination projects, consistent with the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio, California's Water Supply Strategy and Metropolitan's CAMP4W goals.
2. Facilitate salinity control projects, including but not limited to source control, treatment, and concentrate management.

3. Advance research, pilot tests, and demonstration studies that encourage the development of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient desalination technologies.

C. Recycled Water

1. Advance Pure Water Southern California and other water recycling projects.
2. Improve flexibility of the State's water recycling grant program.
3. Implement the National Water Reuse Action Plan and California's Water Reuse Action Plan while preserving local flexibility and encouraging local, state, and federal coordination, research, and innovation.
4. Facilitate advancing direct potable reuse projects in California, including but not limited to streamlining the planning, development, and implementation of local and regional potable reuse projects, as well as addressing research gaps, advancing scientific knowledge, and strengthening partnerships and outreach to further the development of potable reuse.
5. Promote voluntary on-site wastewater treatment systems if they comply with Title 22 and do not negatively affect municipal water recycling systems.
6. Maximize voluntary use of recycled water.

D. Local Supply Development

1. Protect and enhance flexibility and responsiveness in developing diverse, climate-resilient resource portfolios tailored to local needs.
2. Promote integrated water resources development by advocating for clear, concise, and expedited regulations and policies that are easily understandable by the regulated community and public.
3. Expedite the development of new local resources to help adapt to climate change and safeguard water system operations. Advance stormwater as a beneficial resource and facilitate the funding and permitting of stormwater capture projects to augment local and regional water supplies and promote holistic watershed health.
4. Advance Metropolitan's surface and groundwater storage and/or recovery programs with member agencies and other partners.

E. Watershed Management

1. Enhance watershed management to provide broad public benefits, such as improved water quality and water supply reliability, reduced wildfire risks, greater scientific understanding, and other environmental improvements.
2. Advance implementation of watershed management plans, including watershed research and multi-benefit forestry management projects.
3. Advance implementation of the California Water Resilience Portfolio and the Water Supply Strategy, consistent with Metropolitan's goals and objectives, to enhance watershed-scale coordination, management and planning, and support programs and funding that improve water resilience and watershed functions.

III. Imported Water Supply – Metropolitan provides imported water supplies to its member agencies from two primary sources: the Colorado River via the Colorado River Aqueduct and Northern California watersheds via the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the State Water Project (SWP).

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

- A. Bay-Delta Initiatives– Metropolitan is involved in several key regulatory and planning processes in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta related to the operation of the SWP. The goals are to improve both water supply reliability and ecosystems in the Delta estuary for threatened and

endangered species. To advance these goals, Metropolitan supports collaborative scientific efforts to enhance understanding of how to restore and manage the Bay-Delta while reducing reliance on it, consistent with the 2009 Delta Reform Act (Delta Reform Act).

1. Advance Delta Conveyance and EcoRestore in support of California's coequal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration and the Governor's California Water Resilience Portfolio.
 2. Improve scientific understanding of listed Delta fish and wildlife species and water project operations in the Delta, including data collection, real-time monitoring, and modeling. Promote the use of best available science to protect and restore aquatic species and habitats and enhance flexibility for water project operations while maintaining regulatory and statutory protections for species listed under the state and federal Endangered Species Act.
 3. Support implementation of state policies adopted as part of the Delta Reform Act and water management package, including clarification of the monitoring, reporting, and enforcement provisions related to in-Delta diversions.
 4. Protect water quality for beneficial uses and that are implemented in accordance with California water rights priorities.
 5. Advance the Delta Freshwater Pathway, improve levees (including levee modernization for the existing Delta levee system), levee maintenance programs (including real-time monitoring), and secure Delta flood-fighting materials and stockpiles.
 6. Modernize and effectively administer the California water rights system in the Delta watershed, including protecting stored water releases.
 7. Advance the Sites Reservoir Project and the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements), consistent with the Board's action for these efforts.
- B. Colorado River Resources – The Colorado River is a critical resource for the entire Southwest and many diverse ecosystems. Climate change has reduced the River's flow, and degradation of the Colorado River's water quality can cause economic, environmental, and human health impacts across the West. Metropolitan and other interested parties work to ensure we can continue to supply our communities with a safe and reliable water supply.
1. Support conservation and efficiency projects to enhance the resiliency of the Colorado River System and ensure that sufficient water is delivered to meet regional water supply needs. Support the cleanup of contaminated sites along the Colorado River. This includes, but is not limited to, uranium remediation in Moab, Utah; perchlorate remediation in Henderson, Nevada; hexavalent chromium remediation near Topock, Arizona; and a waste disposal site near Hoover Dam.
 2. Stabilize the financial position of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program), ensure continued coordination between states and federal agencies to further the Program goals, and maintain the safe operation of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Paradox Valley Unit salinity control project until a viable long-term alternative is implemented.
 3. Facilitate successful implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program by conserving Colorado River water and creating habitat for threatened and endangered species.
 4. Advance binational water conservation programs that benefit Colorado River supply augmentation and habitat restoration objectives.
 5. Support settlement of tribal reserved rights claims in the Colorado River Basin that are consistent with the evolving Law of the River.

C. State Water Project – About 30 percent of Southern California’s water comes from the SWP in an average year. Metropolitan works with state and federal agencies as well as other SWP contractors to manage threats to the project, address environmental needs, and augment water supplies through existing and potential collaborative transfers and groundwater banking agreements.

1. Address the impacts of subsidence on the SWP and prevent future damage caused by unsustainable groundwater pumping.
2. Repair and improve the joint state and federal facility and ensure that funding is equitably distributed between partners while maintaining SWP supply reliability.
3. Clean up contaminated groundwater storage basins used for Metropolitan water banking programs along the California Aqueduct.
4. Provide public share of costs, including recreation, flood protection, mitigation, environmental enhancement, and rehabilitation for multi-purpose SWP facilities.

IV. Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation – Metropolitan supports sustainable practices that improve water and power system resilience to help water agencies prepare and respond to a rapidly changing environmental landscape. Metropolitan strives to fulfill the needs of the current generation without compromising the needs of future generations in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

A. Carbon Neutrality

1. Facilitate implementation of Metropolitan’s Climate Action Plan to reduce Metropolitan’s greenhouse gas emissions and reach carbon neutrality by 2045.
2. Assist the Department of Water Resources in reaching carbon neutrality for the SWP by 2045 in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner.
3. Improve, develop, and promote innovative climate adaptation solutions, including science-based strategies and tools that restore healthy soils, conserve water, or capture carbon.
4. Assist public agencies in the transition to zero-emission fleets and equipment, while ensuring operational reliability and maintaining emergency response capabilities.

B. Water/Energy Nexus

1. Facilitate energy efficiency and storage projects, and programs to reduce greenhouse gases and develop renewable resources.
2. Remove barriers and encourage energy sector investments in water conservation and energy management programs.
3. Preserve Metropolitan’s ability to pursue a diverse set of supply options and oppose constraints on supply development, such as water resource loading orders based solely on energy intensity.
4. Ensure power costs are appropriate and proportional to the benefits received and that water system operations are not adversely affected by power-related legislation or administrative actions.
5. Use the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for water/energy nexus projects and maintain cap-and-trade allowances for Metropolitan and Department of Water Resources (i.e., State Water Contractors).
6. Maintain Metropolitan authority over energy-related matters relative to its system and operations (e.g., system reserve margin or resource adequacy requirements).

C. Renewable Energy

1. Define hydropower generation as renewable energy irrespective of a facility's nameplate generating capacity and include the provision of renewable energy credits for hydroelectric generation.
2. Enhance or expand hydropower at existing dams without adversely impacting the financial or operational aspects of those dams or impacting entities with rights to power from existing resources that directly or indirectly impact Metropolitan's service area.
3. Improve federal hydropower relicensing for existing facilities, including SWP resources.
4. Incorporate renewable energy resources for the SWP and the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) that contribute to the state's climate goals, such as pumped hydroelectric energy, without compromising the primary purpose of these water supply and delivery projects. Ensure consideration of transmission limitations, cost and portfolio availability, and prevent shifting of any unrelated impacts to SWP or CRA facilities.

D. Environmental Stewardship

1. Ensure environmental compliance by improving the clarity and workability of regulatory and reporting requirements, promoting consistency, and reducing duplication while also protecting public health and the environment.
2. Facilitate non-mitigation habitat restoration projects that benefit endangered and threatened species and ecosystem health.
3. Advance research and partnerships in water science, including snowpack and streamflow monitoring, stormwater runoff, drinking water quality, salinity control, source water protection, soil moisture monitoring, healthy soils, and watershed research.

E. Workforce Development and Safety – Metropolitan is committed to ensuring the resiliency of its workforce and to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as workplace violence prevention, to promote the physical and mental safety and well-being of its workforce and the communities it serves.

1. Improve educational opportunities in the water sector, including career technical education and workforce development.
2. Strengthen training programs and certification processes for water system staff.
3. Promote safe work environments.

F. Innovation – Supporting and promoting innovation and emerging technologies continues Metropolitan's longstanding tradition of creatively solving complex challenges.

1. Advance research and development of new and emerging technologies, such as satellite- and computer-based systems to monitor source water quality, ecosystem health, and threatened and endangered species. Support technologies that measure and predict water use, evaporation, and moisture monitoring; expand coordination with technology incubators, research institutions, and other stakeholders.
2. Promote open water data platforms and sharing, including improving access to agency data, streamlining the collection and submission of water agency data, and promoting collaboration among federal, state, and local stakeholders.

- V. Infrastructure – Metropolitan has a strategic priority to invest in key capital projects in its region to enable long-term, reliable water deliveries. Key projects identified in Metropolitan’s Capital Investment Plan focus on improvements to the CRA, treatment plants, and distribution systems.

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

- A. Initiate, expedite, and defray the costs of planning, financing, constructing, repairing, and rehabilitating water and power infrastructure projects, including but not limited to general obligation bonds, tax-exempt municipal bonds, grants, low-interest loans, and direct appropriations. Ensure equitable cost-sharing of water and power infrastructure projects.
- B. Expand funding programs, expedite project approval and reporting processes, and prevent project backlogs in state and federal funding or financing.
- C. Support the “beneficiaries pay” approach as a financing mechanism for statewide projects and programs and oppose public goods charges or other charges levied on water agencies for funding broader public benefits.
- D. Advocate for public share of costs, including mitigation, rehabilitation, and recreation, for multi-purpose water infrastructure.
- E. Support new or expanded water and power infrastructure or programs that complement existing water supplies and operations to ensure reliability for all member agencies.

- VI. System Resiliency – Metropolitan diligently maintains and significantly invests to safeguard a region-wide water supply and delivery system that is a cornerstone of Southern California’s \$1.6 trillion economy. Climate change and increasing weather extremes are serious challenges facing Metropolitan and its member agencies. Additionally, Metropolitan must be prepared to respond rapidly to natural disasters and security threats. Resiliency ensures the systems for water supply. Delivery and power remain strong, can return to service quickly, and are prepared to address future challenges.

Metropolitan supports administrative/legislative actions and funding that:

A. Climate Resiliency

- 1. Support local and regional drought resiliency projects to improve system flexibility; facilitate the integration of existing and planned local water supplies, distribution, and regional water facilities.
- 2. Advance planning and research into the potential risks of climate change on water and power resources and water quality and work to offset these risks.
- 3. Help offset the effects of climate change on imported and local water supplies through watershed protection and enhancement of water quality, supply, and demand-side management actions.
- 4. Recognize and help mitigate the significant differences in the capabilities and needs of communities and regions to respond to the impacts of climate change.
- 5. Help develop local drought contingency plans in areas of the state that have increased concern about wholesale water system delivery constraints.

B. Emergency Preparedness

- 1. Assist the water industry in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from extreme weather events and natural disasters, including earthquakes and wildfires, catastrophic accidents, and physical or cyber sabotage. These actions may include, but are not limited to, hazard mitigation and emergency response planning, funding, and post-emergency service restoration.

2. Assist the water industry in addressing the effects of wildfires and power outages, including the impacts of public safety power shutoff events.
3. Support the Federal Emergency Management Agency programs to assist with hazard mitigation and emergency repairs and improvements, including but not limited to dam safety, spillway improvements, and erosion control repairs.

C. Physical and Cyber Security

1. Support continued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversight of water system security in coordination with other federal and state agencies with expertise in security, including the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the Chemical Security Analysis Center.
2. Support enhanced physical security and cybersecurity for water and power infrastructure.
3. Support trade associations and coalition efforts to share information and develop standard guidance and best management practices to protect water and power critical infrastructure from cyber vulnerabilities.
4. Ensure Metropolitan's ability to reliably operate and maintain its facilities, infrastructure, and real property assets, including rights of way, and to protect against encroachment.

D. Chemical Security

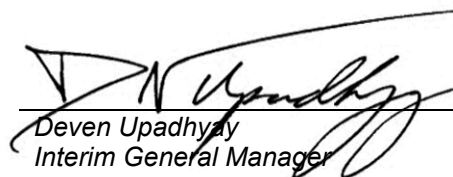
1. Improve supply chain reliability, achieve tax-exempt status for water treatment chemicals, and ensure consistent access to water treatment chemicals.
2. Ensure the continued use of gaseous chlorine to protect public health.

Project and Milestone(s)

Not applicable



Susan Sims
Group Manager, External Affairs
12/3/2024
Date



Deven Upadhyay
Interim General Manager
12/4/2024
Date

Attachment 1 – Summary of Comments

Ref# ea12696407

	Agency	Section	Proposed – Nov 2024	Staff Response	Suggested Revision
		2024 LEGISLATIVE TOP PRIORITIES			
1	MA: Western and MWDOC		Add new bullet 2: Support reforms to the California Water Plan to establish long-term water supply targets and actions that support statewide development of new water supplies and resource management strategies to meet current and future water demands of the environment, urban sector and agriculture.	Agree as revised.	Support reforms to the California Water Plan to establish long-term water supply targets and actions that support statewide development of new water supplies and resource management strategies to meet current and future water demands of the urban sector and agriculture, without compromising existing access to core supplies and while meeting applicable environmental protections.
2	MA: Western		Move the previously listed second priority related to conservation down to the last priority. Western Water feels strongly with the implementation of the Making Conservation as a CA Way of Life regulations, the non-functional turf ban from the last session, and all the legislation from the last 6 years over conservation, that conservation should either be the last priority or removed from the list if nine priorities are too many.	No change. Removing conservation from top priorities is inconsistent with Metropolitan’s long held policy positions.	
3	MA: Western	Priority 3, also found in Section II.C.1	Change the wording in current Priority 3 regarding Pure Water SoCal to reflect similar language from Priority 1 related to the Delta Conveyance Project, as follows: 3.-Advance Continue support for planning of Pure Water Southern California and other water recycling projects and long-term supply reliability improvements.	Agree that language can be more consistent with Delta Conveyance project bullet (Priority 1). Development should not be limited to planning only.	Support the development of water recycling projects, including for Pure Water Southern California, to improve long-term water supply reliability.
4	MA: Western and MWDOC	Priority 8, also found in Section IV.A.4	In Priority 8, add language related to ensuring cost-effective transitioning the EV fleets, as follows: Assist public agencies in seeking outside funding and administrative actions to cost-effectively the transition to zero-emission fleets and equipment, while ensuring operational reliability and maintaining emergency response capabilities.	Agree with addition of “cost effective.” Support for legislative and/or administrative actions, and seeking funding is implicit in the entirety of the document.	Support cost-effective transition to zero emissions fleets and equipment, while ensuring operational reliability and maintaining emergency response capabilities.

		Section I: Drinking Water			
5	MA: SDCWA	B. Water Governance, Affordability, and Funding	Add NEW Bullet 5, to read: Work collaboratively with the member agencies on the pursuit of grant funding and joint lobbying activities to achieve implementation of MWD and member agency projects and programs that are part of the integrated resources planning identified in MWD’s CAMP4W process.	As submitted, this bullet does not articulate a legislative policy principle. Staff suggest incorporating the intent into bullet II.D.1, Regional Water Resource Management, Local Supply Development, as revised.	II.D.1 Protect and enhance flexibility and responsiveness in developing diverse, climate-resilient resource portfolios, as identified in CAMP4W and related initiatives , tailored to local needs that benefit overall regional reliability .
6	MA: MWDOC	B.2	2. Help water systems seek outside state funding and assistance to provide low-income ratepayer assistance programs in a way that is operationally feasible, sustainable, and maintains consumer confidence in retail agencies while maintaining flexibility and preserving local operational authority .	Staff note that funding should not limited to state sources. Support for legislative and/or administrative actions, and seeking funding is implicit in the entirety of the document.	2. Help water systems provide low-income ratepayer assistance programs in a way that is operationally feasible, sustainable, and maintains consumer confidence in retail agencies while maintaining flexibility and preserving local operational authority .
		Section II: Regional Water Resource Management			
7	MA: Joint comment from Burbank and Pasadena	Description of Section II	Metropolitan’s One Water Vision and the Board-led CAMP4W process promote collaboration with member agencies to plan for future water supply needs and the challenges ahead in a reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible manner. This involves protecting imported water supplies and quality, supporting local resource development, advancing water use efficiency, and supporting ecosystem protection and restoration and maintains flexibility and local autonomy .	Noted.	Metropolitan’s One Water Vision and the Board-led CAMP4W process promote collaboration with member agencies to plan for future water supply needs and the challenges ahead in a reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible manner while maintaining flexibility and local autonomy . This involves protecting imported water supplies and quality, supporting local resource development, advancing water use efficiency, and supporting ecosystem protection and restoration.
8	MA: MWDOC	Description of Section II	Metropolitan supports administrative and/or legislative actions and funding that:	Noted.	Changes can be made throughout LPP

Summary of Comments

9	MA: MWDOC	II.A.3	3. Support retail water agencies' ability to meet the objectives of Conservation as a California Way of Life in a manner that maintains flexibility and protects local agency decision-making, and local control . Support efforts to ensure that implementation of the new statutes and regulations are based on science; recognize regional distinctions (such as climate, land use, population, and hydrology); consider water affordability; and assess potential impacts to wastewater operations and recycled water projects.	Agree as revised. Metropolitan seeks to ensure that any new statute, not only regulation, is based on science.	3. Support retail water agencies' ability to meet the objectives of Conservation as a California Way of Life in a manner that maintains flexibility and protects local agency decision-making . Support efforts to ensure that implementation of the new statutes and regulations are based on science; recognize regional distinctions (such as climate, land use, population, and hydrology); consider water affordability; and assess potential impacts to wastewater operations and recycled water projects.
10	MA: MWDOC	II.A.4	4. Advance leak detection and water loss reduction. Provide continued advocacy for state and federal funding to support the Support the development and implementation of flexible water loss standards for both retail and wholesale water systems.	Staff agree with the deletion of "retail and wholesale" qualifiers. Support for legislative and/or administrative actions, and seeking funding is implicit in the entirety of the document.	4. Advance leak detection and water loss reduction. Support the development and implementation of flexible water loss standards for both retail and wholesale water systems.
11	MA: MWDOC	II.A.5	5. Support administrative/ legislative efforts to improve the effective implementation of the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and actions to implement existing statutory requirements for the long-term conversion of non-functional turf in commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes and for banning the ban installation of non-functional turf in new construction. Support federal/state funding for the long-term conversion of non-functional turf in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes.	Staff correction to original bullet. This document is intended to articulate policy level positions. Support for legislative and/or administrative actions, and seeking funding is implicit in the entirety of the document.	5. Support administrative/legislative actions for the long-term conversion of non-functional turf in commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes and a ban on installation of non-functional turf in new construction. Support federal/state funding for the long-term conversion of non-functional turf in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes.
12	MA: MWDOC	II.B.1	1. Support brackish groundwater and seawater desalination projects, and impaired groundwater treatment projects , consistent with the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio and 2022, California's Water Supply Strategy, and Metropolitan's CAMP4W goals.	Agree.	1. Support brackish groundwater and seawater desalination projects, and impaired groundwater treatment projects , consistent with the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio and 2022, California's Water Supply Strategy, and Metropolitan's CAMP4W goals.

13	MA: MWDOC	II.D.3	3. Expedite the development of new local resources to help adapt to climate change and safeguard water system operations. Advance stormwater as a beneficial resource and facilitate the funding and permitting of financially viable stormwater capture projects with demonstrated augment local and regional water supply benefits supplies and that promote holistic watershed health.	Agree as revised. The meaning of “financially viable” is determined by each local agency, not Metropolitan.	3. Expedite the development of new local resources to help adapt to climate change and safeguard water system operations. Advance stormwater as a beneficial resource and facilitate the funding and permitting o stormwater capture projects with demonstrated local and regional water supply benefits and that promote holistic watershed health.
		Section III: Imported Water Supply			
14	MA: MWDOC	III.B.1	1. Support conservation and efficiency projects to enhance the resiliency of the Colorado River System and ensure that sufficient water is delivered to meet regional-Metropolitan’s water supply needs. Support the cleanup of contaminated sites along the Colorado River by responsible parties. This includes, but is not limited to, uranium remediation in Moab, Utah; perchlorate remediation in Henderson, Nevada; hexavalent chromium remediation near Topock, Arizona; and a waste disposal site near Hoover Dam.	Agree.	1. Support conservation and efficiency projects to enhance the resiliency of the Colorado River System and ensure that sufficient water is delivered to meet regional Metropolitan’s water supply needs. Support the cleanup of contaminated sites along the Colorado River by responsible parties. This includes, but is not limited to, uranium remediation in Moab, Utah; perchlorate remediation in Henderson, Nevada; hexavalent chromium remediation near Topock, Arizona; and a waste disposal site near Hoover Dam.
15	MA: MWDOC	III.B.3	3. Facilitate Support efforts that facilitate successful implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program by conserving Colorado River water and creating habitat for threatened and endangered species.	Noted. No change.	
		Section IV: Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation			
16	MA: Joint comment from Burbank	Description of Section IV	Metropolitan supports policies and funding that encourage sustainable practices that improve water and power system resilience and adapt to a rapidly changing environmental landscape. Metropolitan strives to fulfill the needs of the current generation	Agree.	Metropolitan supports policies and funding that encourage sustainable practices that improve water and power system resilience and adapt to a rapidly changing environmental landscape. Metropolitan strives to fulfill the needs of the current generation without compromising the

	and Pasadena		without compromising the needs of future generations in an environmentally and economically responsible way and maintains flexibility and local autonomy.		needs of future generations in an environmentally and economically responsible way while maintaining local flexibility and local autonomy.
17	MA: MWDOC	Description of Section IV	Metropolitan’s CAMP4W process supports sustainable practices that improve water and power system resilience to help water Metropolitan and its member agencies collaboratively prepare and respond to a rapidly changing environmental landscape while maintaining flexibility and local control. Metropolitan strives to fulfill the needs of the current generation without compromising the needs of future generations in an environmentally and economically responsible way.	Agree as revised, to also include a staff correction to original description; the Office of SRI is broader than only the CAMP4W process.	Metropolitan supports sustainable practices that improve water and power system resilience to help water agencies collaboratively prepare and respond to a rapidly changing environmental landscape while maintaining flexibility and local control. Metropolitan strives to fulfill the needs of the current generation without compromising the needs of future generations in an environmentally and economically responsible way.
18	MA: MWDOC	IV.B.1	1. Facilitate the development of economically feasible energy efficiency and storage projects, and programs to reduce greenhouse gases and develop renewable resources.	No change. The meaning of “economically feasible” is determined by each local agency, not Metropolitan.	
		VI. System Resiliency			
19	MA: MWDOC	VI.A.2	2. Advance planning and research into potential risks of climate change on water and power resources and water quality and work to provide state and federal funding for infrastructure or other mechanisms to offset these risks.	Water quality is fundamental to Metropolitan as a drinking water agency and is affected by climate change. Support for legislative and/or administrative actions, and seeking funding is implicit in the entirety of the document.	Advance planning and research into potential risks of climate change on water and power resources and water quality, and work to advance infrastructure improvements and/or other mechanisms to offset these risks.

20	MA: MWDOC	VI.B.2	2. Assist the water industry in addressing the effects of wildfires and power outages, including and the impacts of public safety power shutoff events, including seeking outside state and federal funding for emergency distributed power generation and for the removal of regulatory barriers limiting the operations of emergency generators.	Support for legislative and/or administrative actions, and seeking funding is implicit in the entirety of the document.	Assist the water industry in addressing the impacts of public safety power shutoffs, power outages, and wildfires by facilitating procurement for emergency distributed power generation and working to remove regulatory barriers limiting the operation of emergency generators.
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Legislation and Communications Committee

Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025

Item 8-6

December 10, 2024

Item #8-6

Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025

Subject

Annual review of staff-recommended updates to the Legislative Priorities and Principles

Purpose

Seek Board approval and adoption

Next Steps

Continue Metropolitan advocacy with updated Board direction

Summary of High-Level Changes

- Streamline document
 - Reduce repetitive phrases
 - Eliminate lists of examples
 - Keep bullets intentionally more general to speak to policy issue & principle
- Reflect recent developments in law, regulations, and anticipated legislative activity
- Add new priority to address public agency transition to zero emissions fleet & equipment
- Add a new MWD-sponsored bill proposal(s)

Summary of High-Level Changes

- Revised 3 bullets in I:A Water Quality & Treatment to:
 - 2 – add recycled water
 - 3 – add treatment & mitigation measures
 - 5 – express support for CEC Action Fund
- I.B.1 was incorporated into the description
- Revised 1 bullet 5 in III.B. Colorado River Resources to express support for tribal settlement, consistent with the Law of the River

Summary of High-Level Changes

- Revised IV.E. Workforce Development and Safety
- Revised V. Infrastructure to add power infrastructure throughout; also include support for infrastructure that complements both existing supplies and *operations*.
- VI.A Climate Resiliency – combined bullets 1, 6
- VI.B Emergency Preparedness – add hazard mitigation throughout

Current Actions & Next Steps

- Presented to Member Agency Legislative Coordinators - November 7
- Presented to Member Agency General Managers - November 15
- Information item presented to Board - November 19
- Input Received & Reviewed
- Action Item to Board for adoption - December 10
- Post approved new LPP on website

Summary of Input Received & Staff Recommendations

- Summary of Comments (Attachment 1) includes input received, staff response & suggested revision
- Input from 5 MAs: Burbank, MWD OC, Pasadena, SDCWA, Western MWD
- Staff 'agree' or 'agree as revised' to 16/20 suggestions
- Theme of local control

Summary of Input Received & Staff Recommendations

- Expand “administrative/legislative” to “administrative and/or legislative”
- Change 1: Add new top priority supporting the establishment of long-term water supply targets while protecting current supplies and meeting applicable environmental protections
- Change 3: Make conforming changes to support development of water recycling projects, including Pure Water Southern California
- Emphasize support for local control throughout

Summary of Input Received & Staff Recommendations

- Change 5: Bullet II.D.1 - support advancement of projects identified in CAMP4W that benefit regional reliability.
- Change 10: Bullet II.A.4 - delete “both retail and wholesale”
- Change 12: Bullet II.B.1 – add “impaired groundwater treatment projects”
- Change 19: Bullet VI.A.2 – support advancement of infrastructure improvements to offset climate change risks
- Change 20: Bullet VI.B.2 – support for emergency distributed power generation & regulatory relief for use of emergency generators

Summary of Input Received – Changes Not Recommended

- Removal of conservation out of top priorities
- Language that does not articulate a legislative principle or fall within Metropolitan's scope
 - i.e. “economically feasible” or “financially viable” is to be determined by each local agency, not Metropolitan
- Non-substantive/stylistic language edits
 - i.e. “Facilitate” vs. “Support efforts that facilitate...”

Options for Board Action

- Option #1
Adopt the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025
- Option #2
Take no action

Options for Board Action

Staff Recommendation

Option #1



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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 permanent the temporary low-income household water assistance program established at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sustained federal assistance to help low-income household afford their water and wastewater bills would help residents in Metropolitan’s service area and its 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. Funds 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.

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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. The funding would 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.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Endangered Species Act Oversight	H.R. 9515 (Calvert, R-CA) S. 5012 (Padilla, D-CA)	11/20/24: Hearing held before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries. 11/19/24: Markup held before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024 Establishes an interest-bearing account for the non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP).	SUPPORT Based upon 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024	This innovative program addresses the needs of threatened and endangered species and provides reliability for water deliveries and hydropower production. The bill will allow the Bureau of Reclamation to hold the non-federal funds for the LCR MSCP in an interest-bearing account. The interest collected will be reinvested in LCR MSCP projects, contributing to the continued success of this program and helping offset the impact of inflation.
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.

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Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
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.

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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 program 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>

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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. 11/19/24: Markup held before 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.

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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. 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.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
December 10, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session

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>

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix
December 10, 2024 118th Congress, Second Session

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 its 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 6a
December 10, 2024

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Subject

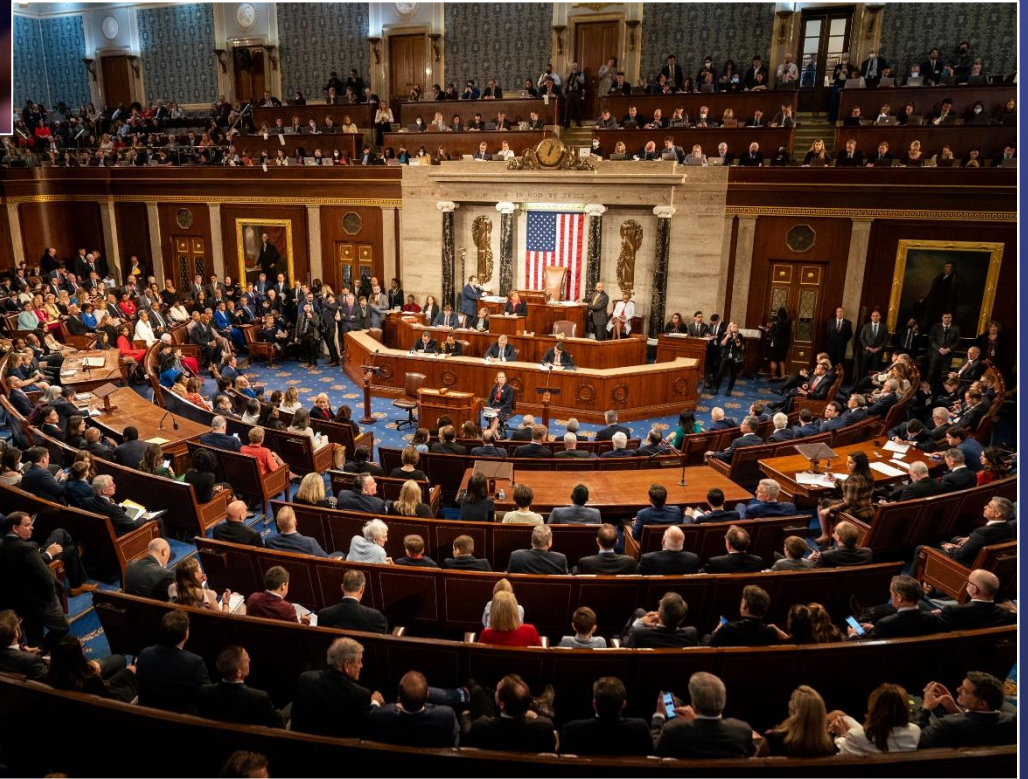
Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Purpose

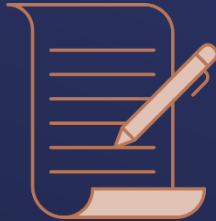
To provide a legislative update

Legislation & Communications Committee

Schedule



Legislative Update



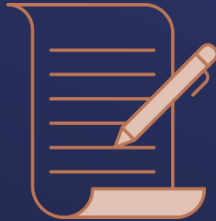
FY25 Appropriations

- Government funded until Dec. 20
- Additional disaster relief funding possible

FY25 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R.8070/S.4638)

- Funds Defense Department Program and Activities
- Passed House
- Passed Senate Committee

Legislative Update



Water Resources and Development Act (H.R.8812/S.4376)

- Authorizes Army Corps Programs and Projects
- Passed House
- Passed Senate

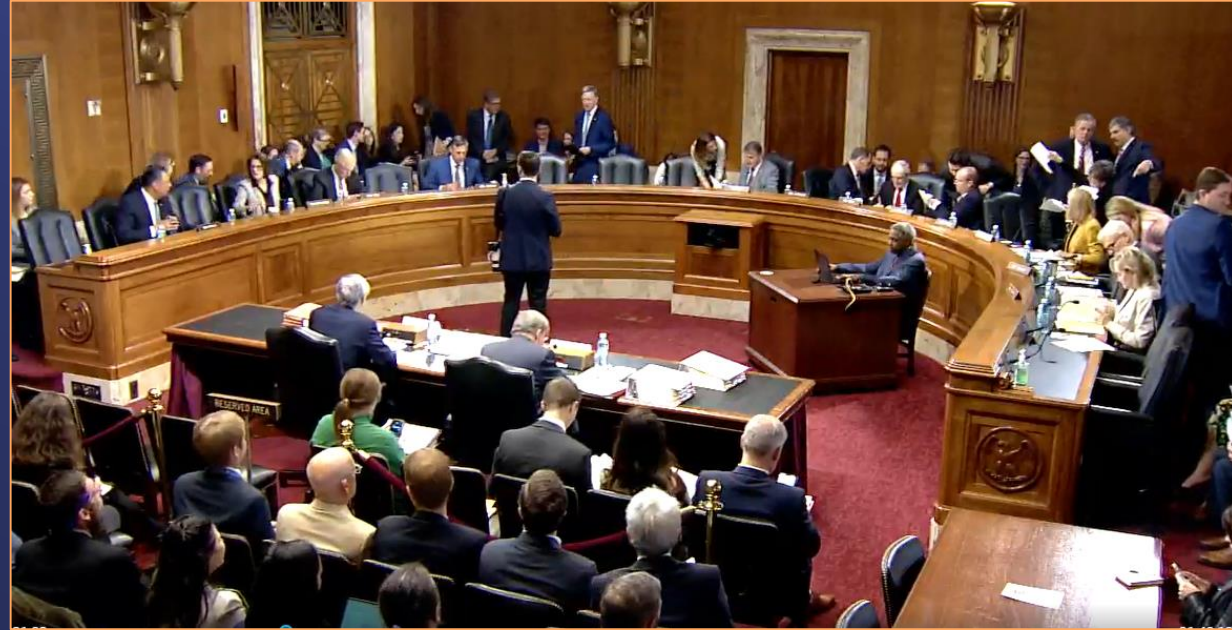
Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act (H.R.7872/S.2514)

- Increases Federal Cost Share for Salinity Control Projects
- Passed House Committee
- In Draft Senate Farm Bill

Two Metropolitan Supported Bills

Legislation & Communications Committee

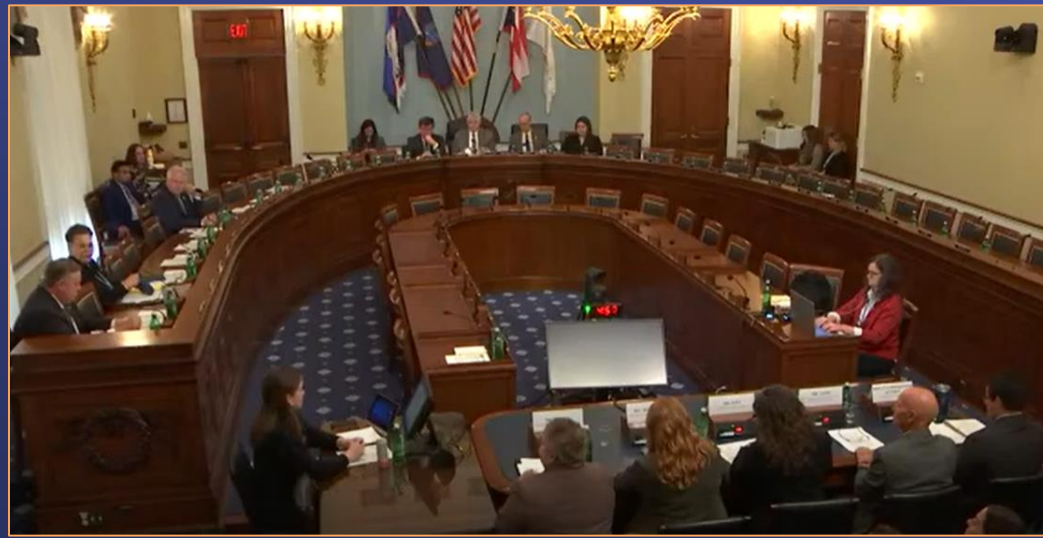
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Markup



- Help Hoover Dam Act, S.4016
- Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024, S.5012

Legislation & Communications Committee

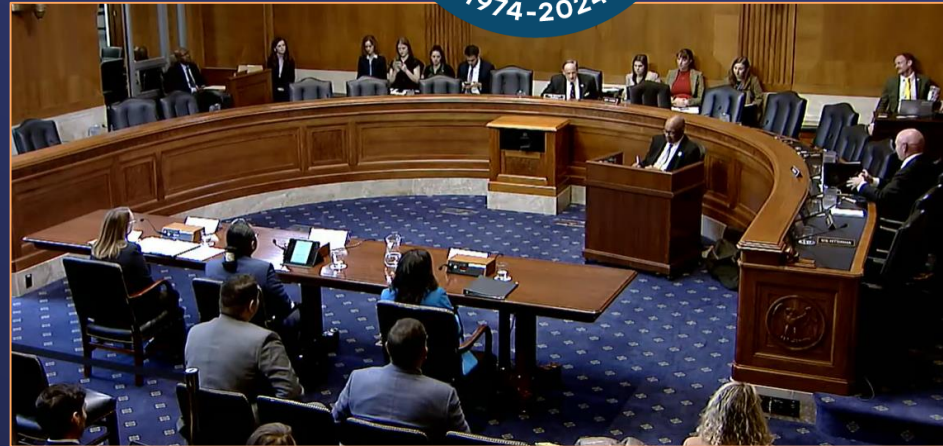
House Natural Resources Subcommittee Hearing



Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024, H.R.9515

Legislation & Communications Committee

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Hearing



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act



Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
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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)	Chaptered Signed by Governor, Chapter 342, Statutes of 2024	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 will provide for enhanced civil penalties for violations of any State Board regulation or curtailment order.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
December 10, 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 Dead	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
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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 Dead	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 Metropolitan staff further solicited input from member agencies and worked with the author’s office to develop amendments for an alternative NFT proposal, consistent with existing legislative policy principles, which was not adopted due to time constraints with end of session.
AB 1581 A. Kalra (D – San Jose)	Amended 8/23/2024 Pending Governor’s Signature	Conservation: Restoration Management Permit Act and California State Safe Harbor Agreement Program 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 negotiated language that would limit the scope to only include voluntary restoration projects, or projects that go beyond required mitigation. Metropolitan requested 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
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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)	Chaptered Signed by Governor, Chapter 359, Statutes of 2024	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.

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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2060 E. Soria (D – Fresno)	Amended 8/15/2024 Senate Inactive File Dead	Lake and streambed alteration agreements: exemptions. 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. 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.	Support if Amended 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	This bill was amended to ensure the temporary permit authorization is consistent with existing law on diversion authorizations for current water rights holders. Metropolitan was 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.

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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2257 L. Wilson (D – Suisun City)	Amended 8/5/2024 Pending Governor's Signature	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
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Bill Number Author	Amended Date Location	Title-Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2610 E. Garcia (D – Coachella)	Amended 4/10/2024 Dead	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
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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.

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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.

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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 8/22/2024 Pending Governor’s Signature	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 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 has taken a support position following the adoption of several amendments to address concerns, including the removal of language that would require the CWP to make recommendations for the Delta Reform Act and inclusion of language to ensure that the CWP does not impose on local and regional planning efforts.

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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.

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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.

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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>

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SB 1072 S. Padilla (D – San Diego)	<p>Chaptered</p> <p>Signed by Governor, Chapter 323, Statutes of 2024</p>	<p>Local government: Proposition 218: remedies.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles, adopted January 2024</p>	<p>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.</p>
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State Legislative Matrix
December 10, 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 8/22/2024 Pending Governor's Signature	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 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 Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
December 10, 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
December 10, 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 8/22/2024 Dead	<p>Groundwater recharge: floodflows: diversion.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Support</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>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.</p> <p>.</p>



Legislation and Communications
Committee

Report on Activities from Sacramento

December 10, 2024
Item 6b

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

Jan 1: Statutes take effect.

Jan 6: Legislature reconvenes.

Jan 10: Governor's proposed FY 2025/26 state budget introduced.

Newsom Calls Special Session to “Trump Proof” California

Sacramento Legislative Highlights



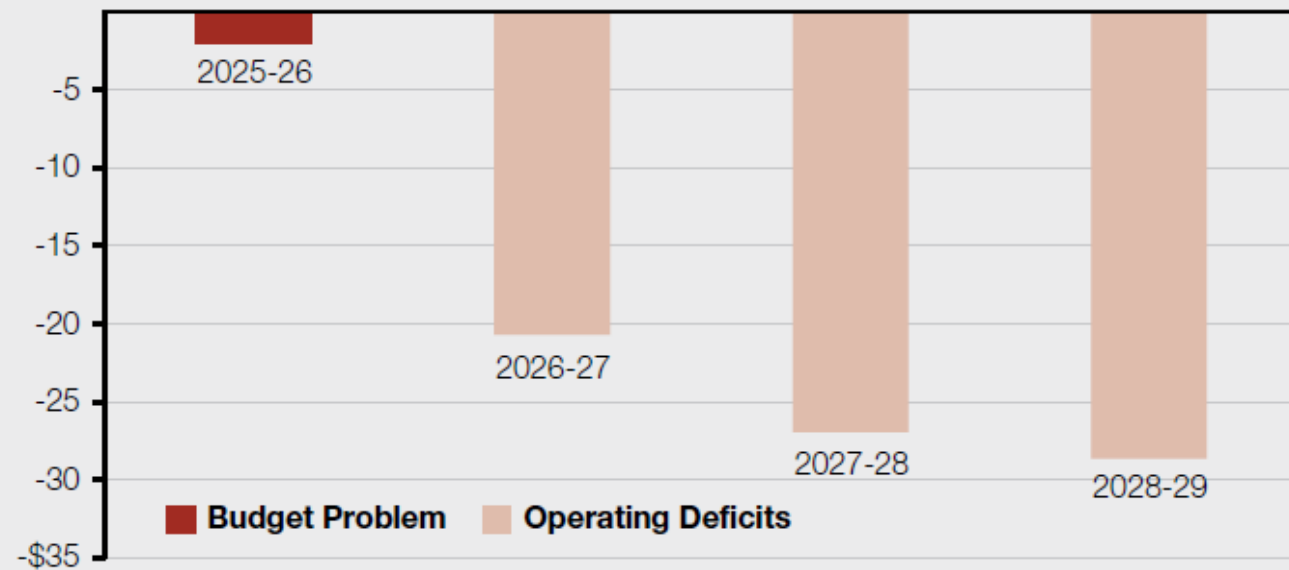
Sacramento Legislative Highlights

California Budget Update

Figure 5

State Faces Growing Multiyear Deficits

(In Billions)



LAO

November 2024 Election Highlights

Sacramento Legislative Highlights







THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

External Affairs

- External Affairs Monthly Activities Report for December 2024

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Highlights

Education staff facilitated the first student tour of the Hinds Pumping Plant and Village for 27 students from the Eagle Mountain School, many of whom are family members of Metropolitan employees. With a surprise visit from Admiral Splash, the students participated in hands-on activities, while learning about water careers and conservation. (November 5)



Education staff visited Eagle Mountain School, attended by many family members of Metropolitan employees and one of the smallest districts in California. They conducted a series of classroom activities and held a field trip. Desert staff hosted a luncheon for students.

Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Camacho, Directors Alvarez, Dennstedt, Erdman and Luna, Interim GM Upadhyay and other Metropolitan staff attended, and Metropolitan sponsored, the Southern California Water Coalition dinner, which featured Senate President pro Tempore Emeritus Toni Atkins as the keynote speaker. (November 7)



Chair Ortega accepted the Harriett Wieder Award on behalf of Senator Alex Padilla; Metropolitan Vice Chair Camacho and Directors Alvarez, Dennstedt, Erdman and Luna

Working with Bay-Delta Initiatives staff and the Board Office, External Affairs convened two panels and roundtable participants for a Joint Board/One Water Committee workshop on the Delta Conveyance Project. (November 18)

Date of Report: 11/26/2024

GM Monthly Report November 2024



Assemblymember McKinnor (center) and her staff toured the Pure Water Southern California facility.

Metropolitan welcomed Assemblymember McKinnor (D-Inglewood) and several staff members for a briefing and tour of the Pure Water Southern California facility. (November 25)

Federal

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee advanced two Metropolitan supported bills, the Help Hoover Dam Act and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act by unanimous consent. Both bills now await a vote by the Senate. The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries also held a legislative hearing on the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024.

State

Proposition 4, the California Climate Bond, passed with nearly 60percent voter approval. Metropolitan had a support position and will be engaged in follow-up work as the provisions of the bond are implemented in the Legislature.

Local

This month, staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 59 webinars, meetings, and events with community organizations and associations on Metropolitan activities and issues. Staff also provided briefings to the district office staffs of Assemblymember Gabriel (D-Encino) and Assemblymember Schiavo (D-Chatsworth).

Media and Communications

Responded to So Cal Water Wars reporter John Earl regarding investigations of General Manager Hagekhalil.

Set up interview between iHeart radio show “EJ in LA” and Water Resource Management’s Guerrero regarding turf rebates and conservation programs.



Coordinated response to Public Records Act request from Los Angeles Times reporter Ian James regarding external EEO allegations.

Responded to questions from LA Times regarding Metropolitan board consideration of funding Delta Conveyance Project planning and pre-construction costs as well as costs for Pure Water Southern California.

Drafted and finalized a revised fact sheet and FAQs on community fluoridation.

Issued press release announcing federal grant for Pure Water Southern California.

Creative Design

Published Project Labor Agreement report.

Designed new logo for Ethics Office and posters/flyers to announce Ethics survey

Designed invitations for reception at Colorado River Water Users Association conference and the district’s 2024 holiday card.



GM Monthly Report November 2024

Created new flyer for Central Library Services to promote awareness of an upcoming survey to query employees about their knowledge of assets available to staff.

Taped Chair Ortega for a tribute video for the Phillip Pace Board Room dedication event in January 2025

Social Media



Social media posts in November highlighted employees, celebrated heritage events, honored American heroes and promoted conservation programs.

The Goodbye, Grass conservation campaign series performed exceptionally well on various media platforms despite a crowded and competitive advertising landscape. The series has delivered 5 million impressions and nearly 32,000 clicks to bewaterwise.com.

Spotlighted Inspection Trip Manager Garica, Resident Engineer Emami, HR Principal Benefits Analyst Romero, and IT Team Manager Natarajan as part of the district's Water Champions employee series.

Featured a photo of Gene Camp with a thank you to veterans on Veteran's Day.

Highlighted photos and video of an ofrenda in Metropolitan's Headquarters rotunda created by employees from the Hispanic Employees Association for Dia de los Muertos, generating the highest organic engagement on Instagram during the month.

Website

Completed the IntraMet stage migration with all files moved and tested into a new server. Added a new and expanded Diversity Equity and Inclusion webpage to the IntraMet. Registered more than 51,000 visits to mwdh2o.com, with careers, job listing and board pages the most visited. Logged 54,000 views on bewaterwise.com with the Goodbye Grass campaign landing page the most viewed.

Community Outreach

Sent mailers to residents and businesses in Los Angeles and Torrance for work on Second Lower Feeder. Gave presentation on Second Lower Feeder to Los Angeles, Public Works Board (November 6).

Conducted community outreach regarding the San Diego Pipeline 1 and 2 shutdown.

Events

Sponsored the North American Lake Management Society International Symposium.

Member agency and workshop events this month included: CAMP4W Workshop #3 (November 12); Member Agency Managers Meeting (November 15); Business Model Workgroup (November 15); Treated Water Cost Recovery Workshop (November 21)

Tour of Weymouth Water Quality Lab and Treatment Plant for students from East Los Angeles College. (November 18)

GM Monthly Report November 2024

Inspection Trip to Hoover/CRA with Directors McMillan and Luna (November 1-3); SWP Trips with Directors Lefevre and Morris (November 1-3), and Directors Kurtz and McCoy (November 8-10).

Pure Water Southern California

Conducted tours for staff from West Basin and Central Basin, Cal Poly Pomona, and South Bay District 5 Board, in addition to one public tour.

Presentations to West Basin Caucus (November 6) and Pico Rivera City Council (November 12).

Met separately with representatives from Shell Oil and Northbrook Properties on possible conveyance alignments.

Education

Interacted with over 3,900 teachers, students and adults through in-person and online field trips, community events, and meetings.

Metropolitan staff attended and Metropolitan sponsored the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles “She Leads” event. Staff provided water conservation materials to attendees. (November 9)



CRA inspection trip guests with Directors McMillan and Luna at Copper Basin



Met with the Water Energy Education Alliance Leadership Roundtable, Water Replenishment District’s Water Industry Workforce Development, Long Beach Community College Water Industry Advisory Council, Strategic Energy Innovations Green Schools, and Pando Populus.

Hosted an information table at the University of La Verne’s STEM Career Day.

Issued the Fall 2024 edition of the digital H2Know Newsletter, with an article on the California Environmental Education Foundation and the availability of Water Journeys and Discover Diamond Valley Lake field trips.

Education team activities and partnerships in November 2024

In partnership with Department of Water Resources, Municipal Water District of Orange County, Project WET, and the Orange County Department of Education, staff conducted an all-day climate change workshop for 24 middle and high school teachers.



Legislation and Communications Committee

External Affairs Activities

Item 7a

December 10, 2024

Report on Activities from External Affairs

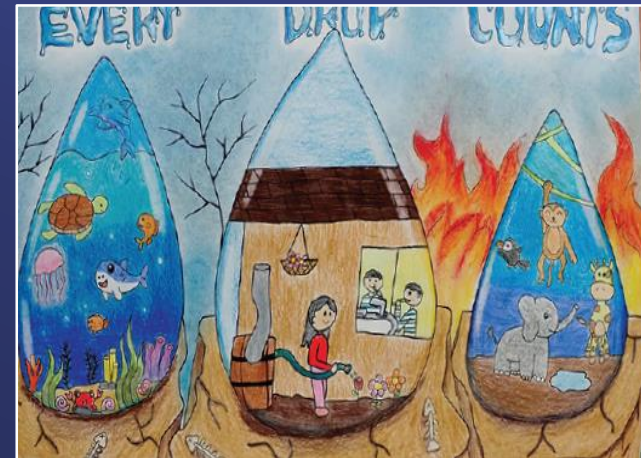
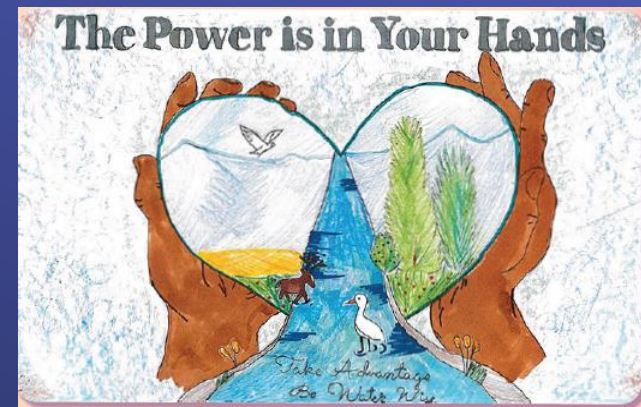
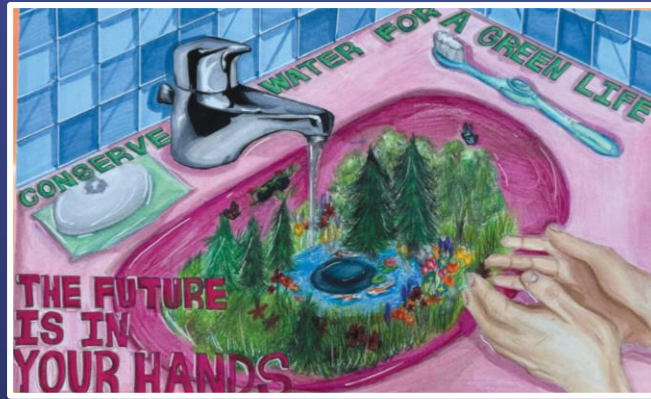
Subject

Report on Activities from External Affairs

Purpose

To provide management announcements and highlights for External Affairs

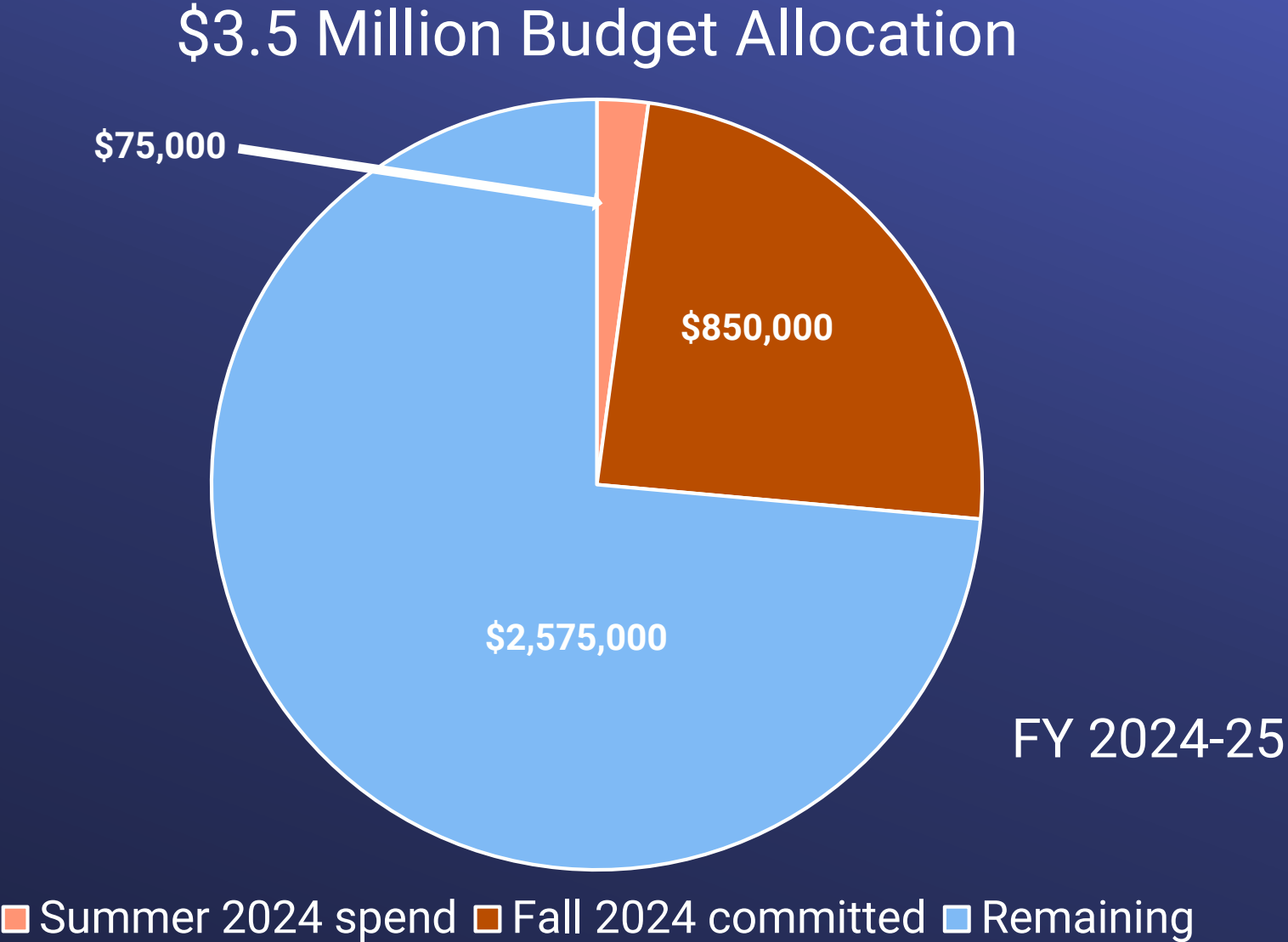
2025 Student Art Calendar



- 37 student artists will be honored
- Selected from nearly 300 submissions
- In-person celebration at Metropolitan Headquarters

Legislation & Communications
Committee

Conservation Advertising Spend.



Community Outreach and Reports



- CAMP4W Outreach with Community Organizations
- Annual Membership and Sponsorship Reports Posted

