

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

J. Lewitt, Chair
A. Fellow, VC
Communication
A. Kassakhian, VC
Legislation
L. Ackerman
M. Camacho
B. Dennstedt
G. Gray, Emeritus
F. Jung
M. Katz
M. Luna
M. Ramos
G. Shepherd Romey

Legislation and Communications Committee

Meeting with Board of Directors *

May 12, 2025

11:00 a.m.

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

The listen-only phone line is available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 873 4767 0235.

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

Monday, May 12, 2025 Meeting Schedule

09:00 a.m. EOT
11:00 a.m. LEG
12:00 p.m. Break
12:30 p.m. OPE
01:30 p.m. OWA

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

Teleconference Locations:

Springhill Suites at the Dunes • 215 10th Street • Marina, CA 93933

8705 Gracie Allen Drive • Los Angeles, CA 90048

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

3008 W. 82nd Place • Inglewood, CA 90305

400 Cannery Row • Monterey, CA 93940

2 Mineral King • Irvine, CA 92602

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

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

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

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A Approval of the minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for April 7, 2025 [21-4526](#)

Attachments: [05122025 LEG 2A \(04072025\) Minutes](#)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

None

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

NONE

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

NONE

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Update on Community Partnering Program. [21-4527](#)

Attachments: [05122025 LEG 6a Presentation](#)

- b. Report on Activities from Washington, D.C. [21-4528](#)

Attachments: [05122025 LEG 6b Federal Legislative Matrix](#)
[05122025 LEG 6b Presentation](#)

- c. Report on Activities from Sacramento [21-4529](#)

Attachments: [05122025 LEG 6c State Legislative Matrix](#)
[05122025 LEG 6c Presentation](#)

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. External Affairs activities [21-4530](#)

Attachments: [05122025 LEG 7a External Affairs Activities](#)
[05122025 LEG 7a Presentation](#)

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

April 7, 2025

Chair Lewitt called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Katz, Lewitt, Luna, and Ramos.

Members absent: None

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong, Bryant, Cordero, Faessel, Garza, Kurtz, Lefevre, McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Ortega, and Seckel.

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

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

Joe Mouawad	EMWD General Manager	Item 7-9
Raul Avila	CMWD President of the Board	Item 7-9
Scott Quady	CMWD Vice President of the Board	Item 7-9

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

Director Gray entered the meeting.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee held March 10, 2025.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-9 Subject: Express support if amended for AB 523 (Irwin) Metropolitan water districts: alternative representative; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Rep, Legislative Services

Motion: Express support if amended for AB 523 (Irwin) Metropolitan water districts: alternative representative

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Dennstedt
2. Camacho
3. Kurtz
4. Ortega
5. Ramos
6. Luna
7. Garza
8. Ackerman
9. Cordero
10. Katz
11. Armstrong
12. Upadhyay
13. Lewitt
14. Fellow

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation for item 7-9 the following votes were taken.

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho to approve the consent calendar item 2A.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, Lewitt, and Ramos

Noes: None

Abstentions: Directors Katz and Luna

Absent: None

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 2 abstain, and 0 absent.

Director Dennstedt made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho, to approve the consent calendar item 7-9.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray, Kassakhian, Katz, Lewitt, and Luna
Noes: Directors Ackerman, Jung, and Ramos
Abstentions: None
Absent: None

The motion for item 7-9 passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 3 noes, 0 abstain, and 0 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby R. Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on FY25 Appropriations, House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing, Senate Environment and Public Works Nomination Hearing, and President Trump nominations and appointments.

b. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay L. Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the legislative calendar, invasive golden mussel in the Delta, and Metropolitan's sponsored bill AB 580 (Wallis) regarding an exemption from the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. He also discussed several member agency proposals, including AB 259 (Rubio) on open meetings and local agencies' teleconferences, SB 394 (Allen) addressing water theft on fire hydrants, and AB 810 (Irwin) addressing local government on internet websites and email addresses.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Katz
- 2.) Luna

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs activities
Presented by: Sue Sims, External Affairs Group Manager

Ms. Sims provided an update on community outreach, conservation advertising spending, multimedia, multilingual and community-based messaging for California Friendly Landscapes.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Director Luna requested us to follow legislation on AB52.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Jay Lewitt
Chair



Legislation and Communications Committee

Update on Community Partnering Program

Item 6a

May 12, 2025

Conservation & Community

Subject

Community Partnering
Program

Purpose

Highlight the positive impacts
of the pilot program
providing larger
sponsorships



Community Partnering Program

Over Two
Decades of
Success

Program History Highlights

- Launched in 2000, competitive program
 - Improve coordination and evaluation for funding of special events, sponsorships, education grants, research grants, and memberships in community organizations
- 2003 – designated funding for native plant heritage gardens
- 2005 – narrowed scope, implemented year round application period

Community Partnering Program

Over Two
Decades of
Success

Program Recent History Highlights

- 2010 – limited to \$2,000 per sponsorship for educational institutions, local non-profit, and public agencies
- 2023 – Increased grant amount to \$3,000
- 2023 – Started a pilot program to award two \$10K grants to support broader, more impactful, and sustainable partnerships

Pando Populus

- Collaborated with Homeboy Industries, MTA
- Focused on underserved age group facing major life obstacles
- Created materials promoting water conservation, explored careers in water
- Honored Metropolitan with Pando “Earth Visionary Award”

2023-24 Pilot Program

Camp Pando

Building bridges into the community for a second chance.



Salesian Family Youth Center

2023-24 Pilot Program

Water Relationships Across Generations

Fostering a deeper understanding of each family's history with water.

- Fostered intergenerational dialogue about water through creative expression and social media engagement
- Developed water education workshops
- Organized Summer “Water Knowledge” Camp
- Received Salesian Gala “Community Impact” Recognition



Bob Baker Marionette Theater

2024-25 Pilot Program

Make Bob Baker Day Water Wise

Education and inspiration through the arts.



- Developed “Water is Life” stage presentation
- Created puppet show focused on education and indigenous knowledge
- Participated in event with over 10,000 attendees
- Engaged with families and guests




2024-25 Pilot Program

Tap Water Day

An informational resource for educators.

WeTap.org

- Produced a tap water teacher toolkit
- Designed activities for pre-K to high school students
- Collaborated with Member Agency Education Coordinators
- Established year-round resources and extended outreach opportunities





Celebrate Tap Water Day!

Reliable!
High Quality!
Great-Tasting Drinking Water!


Tap Water Day Is Everyday!
It's Just A Tap Away!

- Tap Water Day highlights our excellent drinking water supplied by water utilities. Fill up reusable water bottles at home and at public drinking fountains.
- A useful Teacher Toolkit is now available to inspire students to understand the reliable, high quality, great-tasting drinking water provided throughout our communities.

Celebrate Tap Water Day by Using the Teacher Toolkit.



TapWater DAY





**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, First Session
May 12, 2025**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Conservation	<p>H.R. 1871 Huffman (D-CA) Moore (R-UT)</p> <p>S. 857 Curtis (R-UT) Padilla (D-CA)</p>	<p>3/05/25: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.</p> <p>3/05/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.</p>	<p>Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act</p> <p>Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for conservation subsidies to include water conservation or efficiency measures and stormwater management measures.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.</p>	<p>This bill makes rebates that homeowners receive for water conservation improvements to their home, including smart irrigation systems and turf removal, exempt from federal taxes. If enacted, Metropolitan and its member agencies would no longer need to provide tax forms at the end of the year to customers that have received \$600 or more in water conservation rebates.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, First Session
May 12, 2025**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Endangered Species Act Oversight	<p>H.R. 831 Calvert (R-CA) Lee (D-NV) Titus (D-NV) Horsford (D-NV) Stanton (D-AZ) Ciscomoni (R-AZ)</p> <p>S. 291 Padilla (D-CA) Schiff (D-CA) Cortez Masto (D-NV) Rosen (D-NV) Kelly (D-AZ) Gallego (D-AZ)</p>	<p>1/31/25: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.</p> <p>1/29/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.</p>	<p>Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2025</p> <p>Establishes an interest-bearing account for the non-federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP).</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.</p>	<p>The LCR MSCP 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. This bill would benefit Metropolitan because we are a member of California’s LCR MSCP participant group.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, First Session
May 12, 2025**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Endangered Species Act Oversight	H.R. 1894 Calvert (R-CA) Costa (D-CA) McClintock (R-CA) Issa (R-CA)	3/06/25: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.	Federally Integrated Species Health Act or the “FISH Act” Transfers the authority to oversee Endangered Species Act (ESA) related responsibilities for anadromous fish from the Secretary of Commerce to the Secretary of the Interior.	SUPPORT Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	This bill would consolidate the management and regulation of anadromous fish under the ESA at the Fish and Wildlife Service. Currently, ESA authority is split between FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). California’s water delivery system and its fisheries would benefit from having a single federal agency responsible for anadromous species management.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, First Session
May 12, 2025**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Financing Tools for Water Infrastructure Projects	<p>H.R. 3158 Lee (D-NV) Amodei (R-NV) Stanton (D-AZ) Ciscomani (R-AZ) Horsford (D-NV) Titus (D-NV) Ansari (D-AZ) Calvert (R-CA) Cisneros (D-CA) Schweikert5 (R-AZ)</p> <p>S. 1570 Cortez Masto (D-NV) Kelly (D-AZ) Gallego (D-AZ) Rosen (D-AZ) Padilla (D-CA) Schiff (D-CA)</p>	<p>5/01/25: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.</p> <p>5/01/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.</p>	<p>Help Hoover Dam Act</p> <p>Amends the Boulder Canyon Project Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expend money in the Colorado River Dam fund.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.</p>	<p>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.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, First Session
May 12, 2025**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	S. 350 Padilla (D-CA) Daines (R-MT)	1/30/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Wildfire Emergency Act of 2025 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 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	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.
Source Water Protection	H.R. 1267 Perez (D-WA) Maloy (R-UT)	2/12/25: Referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure.	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 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	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.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, First Session
May 12, 2025**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	<p>H.R. 1459 Crow (D-CO)</p> <p>S. 670 Bennet (D-CO) Wyden (D-OR) Hickenlooper (D-CO) Gallego (D-AZ) Rosen (D-NV)</p>	<p>2/20/25: Referred to the House Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources.</p> <p>2/20/25: Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.</p>	<p>Protect the West Act of 2025</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.</p>	<p>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.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, First Session
May 12, 2025**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Source Water Protection	H.R. 2093 Calvert (R-CA) Garamendi (D-CA) Rouzer (R-NC)	3/14/25: Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.	Federal Water Pollution Control Permitting Terms Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) with respect to permitting terms.	SUPPORT Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	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.
Water Project Authorizations	H.R. 338 Costa (D-CA) Valadao (R-CA)	1/13/25: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.	Every Drop Counts Act Amends the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to raise the cap for eligible groundwater storage projects from 30,000 AF per year to 150,000 AF per year.	SUPPORT Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	Increasing the size of groundwater storage projects eligible to apply for this funding could benefit Metropolitan and our member agencies. The proposed cap of 150,000 AF per year is more than twice the annual storage capacity of the AVEK High Desert Water Bank. The revised program would create a new funding opportunity for larger scale groundwater storage projects in the Central Valley.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Federal Legislative Matrix: 119th Congress, First Session
May 12, 2025**

Topic	Bill/Author	Status	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on MWD
Water Project Authorizations	H.R. 1311 Harder (D-CA)	2/13/25: Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure.	Stop the Tunnels Act Prohibits the Corps of Engineers from issuing a permit for the Delta Conveyance Project.	OPPOSE Based upon 2025 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	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.



Legislation & Communication Committee

Report on Activities From Washington, D.C.

Item 6b

May 12, 2025

Report on
Activities
from
Washington,
D.C.

Subject

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Purpose

To provide a legislative update.

House Committee Action

Legislation & Communications Committee

Budget Reconciliation Update



Judiciary Committee

- All “major” proposed rules must be approved by Congress
- Expands congressional review of “major” existing rules

Natural Resources Committee

- \$2B to raise Reclamation’s water storage facilities
- \$500M for Reclamation’s water conveyance repairs

FY 26 Budget Proposal



Reduced Funding for Water Infrastructure

- 55% cut to EPA's budget
 - State revolving funds slashed from ~\$3B to \$300M
- 30% cut to DOI's budget
 - Reduced funding for Reclamation programs that do not “build or maintain water infrastructure”
- Federal oversight of all fish species transferred to DOI

Senate
Energy &
Natural
Resources
Nomination
Hearing



Dr. Andrea Travnicek
Nominee to be Assistant Secretary
for Water and Science at the
Department of Interior

Senate Environment & Public Works Committee Hearing



Building on the IIJA's Successes: Identifying Opportunities to Strengthen Water Infrastructure Programs



Congressional Staff Tour





**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: First Year of Legislative Session
May 12, 2025**

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>AB 259 B. Rubio (D – Baldwin Park)</p> <p>Sponsors: California Special Districts Association, Three Valleys Municipal Water District</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Local Government Committee on 4/10/2025.</p> <p>Assembly Floor</p>	<p>Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.</p> <p>This bill eliminates the sunset on provisions added to the Brown Act by AB 2449, a bill that provided additional flexibility with Brown Act meeting procedures in the event of a board member’s physical absence in connection with a “just cause” or “emergency circumstances,” allowing those members to participate in the meeting remotely consistent with the process detailed in the bill.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>By removing the sunset on the Brown Act provisions, AB 259 preserves flexibility for Metropolitan and Member Agency board members to meet remotely and continue providing the public with essential services.</p>
<p>AB 532 R. Ransom (D – Stockton)</p> <p>Sponsor: California Municipal Utilities Association</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials on 4/22/2025.</p> <p>Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee</p>	<p>Water rate assistance program</p> <p>This bill seeks to revamp the State’s Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide water rate assistance to ratepayers of water systems with under 3,000 connections, or systems serving disadvantaged communities. The bill also would expressly allow urban retail water suppliers to establish a local low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program using voluntary contributions or other non-ratepayer funds.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>This bill would provide clarity in existing law to ensure that water agencies are able to establish local LIRA programs without fear of legal consequences given the provisions of Proposition 218.</p> <p>The bill would also establish a path to revamp the LIHWAP program to ensure statewide resources are provided for small and disadvantaged communities.</p>

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: First Year of Legislative Session
May 12, 2025

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>AB 580 G. Wallis (R – Bermuda Dunes)</p> <p>Sponsor: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Natural Resources Committee on 3/24/2025.</p> <p>Assembly Appropriations</p>	<p>Surface Mining: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</p> <p>This bill extends the sunset date until January 1, 2051 on Metropolitan’s ability to operate under a single Master Reclamation Plan for repairs using earth-moving activities under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act for the maintenance of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA).</p>	<p>Sponsor</p> <p>Based on December 2024 Board Action.</p>	<p>Ensuring Metropolitan can continue operating under a single Master Reclamation Plan will maintain environmental oversight without delays and prevent duplicative compliance.</p>
<p>AB 794 J. Gabriel (D – Encino)</p> <p>Sponsors: Clean Water Action, Environmental Working Group</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 4/10/2025.</p> <p>Assembly Suspend File</p>	<p>California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations</p> <p>This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt an emergency regulation for water quality based on federal regulations in effect on January 19, 2025, regardless of whether the requirements were repealed or amended to be less stringent. The bill would prohibit an emergency regulation adopted pursuant to these provisions from implementing less stringent drinking water standards, as provided, and would authorize the regulation to include requirements that are more stringent than the requirements of the federal regulation. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2026, the SWRCB to adopt an emergency regulation and to initiate a primary drinking water standard for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).</p>	<p>Oppose unless Amended</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>While AB 794 aims to protect public health, its approach circumvents the established regulatory process for setting Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Metropolitan’s Legislative Priorities and Principles call for using the best available science to protect public health and improve water quality when setting MCLs. The broad scope of this bill, which would allow the SWRCB to set through emergency action primary and secondary MCLs for any chemical with a federal MCL, sets a dangerous precedent and fails to align with well-established regulatory principles.</p>

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: First Year of Legislative Session
May 12, 2025**

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1146 D. Papan (D – San Mateo)	Amended in Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on 3/17/2025. Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee	Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses This bill adds language to the Water Code prohibiting the release of stored water from a reservoir in California if the release is done under false pretenses and would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to issue an interim relief order to prohibit such release of stored water. This bill would define “false pretenses” as a release of water from a reservoir in a manner that is knowingly and designedly under a false or fraudulent representation or assumption as to the purpose and intended use of the water.	Oppose Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	This bill would create uncertainty for both Metropolitan and the Member Agencies that own and operate reservoirs. The releases are often based on water supply needs, operational flexibility, and constraints, as well as scheduled and emergency maintenance and/or inspection. The bill’s definition of “false pretenses” is unclear and does not specify what would qualify as “false or fraudulent representation,” nor does it indicate how intent would be determined. Therefore, this definition would make it difficult to understand when a reservoir release could result in an interim relief order.
SB 31 J. McNerney (D – Stockton) Sponsor: WateReuse California	Amended in Senate Environmental Quality Committee on 4/21/2025. Senate Environmental Quality Committee	Water quality: recycled water SB 31 aims to enhance California’s water sustainability by increasing the use of recycled water in non-potable applications. This bill modernizes outdated regulations and expands the permissible uses of recycled water to reduce dependence on potable sources. The bill would make updates to Title 22 of the Code of Regulations to expand the use of recycled water in parks, schools, and food handling and processing facilities.	Support Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	Supporting the use of recycled water in non-potable applications such as irrigation, decorative water features, and industrial processes reduces the demand for potable water while enhancing drought resilience.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: First Year of Legislative Session
May 12, 2025**

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>SB 72 A. Caballero (D – Merced)</p> <p>Sponsor: California Municipal Utilities Association</p>	<p>Amended in Senate Appropriations Committee on 4/10/2025.</p> <p>Senate Suspense File</p>	<p>The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets</p> <p>This measure would revise the California Water Plan to require the Department of Water Resources (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.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Metropolitan supported a similar version of this bill in 2024, SB 366 (Caballero), which passed the Legislature and was vetoed by the Governor.</p>
<p>SB 394 B. Allen (D – Santa Monica)</p> <p>Sponsor: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District</p>	<p>Introduced</p> <p>Senate Floor</p>	<p>Water theft: fire hydrants</p> <p>SB 394 would allow a local agency that provides water service the ability to increase fines and penalties for water theft from fire hydrants. The bill also adds tampering with a fire hydrant, fire hydrant meter, or fire detector check, or the unauthorized diversion of water from a fire hydrant to the list of acts for which a utility may bring a civil cause of action.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Member Agencies and subagencies that provide local water services could adopt ordinances with enhanced penalties for water theft from a fire hydrant.</p>

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: First Year of Legislative Session
May 12, 2025

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p>SB 454 J. McNerney (D – Stockton)</p> <p>Sponsor: Association of California Water Agencies</p>	<p>Amended in Senate Environmental Quality Committee on 4/8/2025.</p> <p>Senate Suspend File</p>	<p>State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program</p> <p>SB 454 would establish a PFAS Mitigation Fund to address PFAS contamination in California's drinking water and wastewater systems. Administered by the SWRCB, the fund will provide financial support through grants, loans, and contracts to water suppliers and wastewater operators to cover or reduce treatment and disposal costs, ensuring safe and clean water across the state with a focus on disadvantaged communities.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>The proposed bill would be highly beneficial to Metropolitan, its Member Agencies, and other water and wastewater agencies currently grappling with increased PFAS-related regulations and source contamination issues. By allowing for grants, loans, and contracts through the PFAS Mitigation Fund, and the provision of assistance services, the bill provides much-needed financial relief and assistance to support treatment and mitigation efforts.</p>
<p>SB 601 B. Allen (D – Santa Monica)</p> <p>Sponsors: California Coastkeeper Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife</p>	<p>Amended in Senate Environmental Quality Committee on 4/21/2025.</p> <p>Senate Judiciary Committee</p>	<p>Water: waste discharge</p> <p>The intent of this bill is to restore Clean Water Act protections in California that were removed per the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision. However, the bill goes beyond restoring statute and includes several provisions that expand regulatory requirements without the benefit of scientific analysis.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>Currently, AB 601 poses risks to Metropolitan and its member agencies by: adopting EPA's drinking water standards for PFAS/PFOS, bypassing the state rulemaking process; increasing costs of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) permits for discharges of water when dewatering or operating water supply infrastructure, potentially requiring all such water to be recycled regardless of cost to comply; exposing Metropolitan and its Member Agencies to citizen suits in state court, and, for certain nexus waters, both state and federal court; and creating uncertainty in discharge permitting as the bill's ambiguous provisions and implications are likely to be litigated.</p>



Legislation and Communications
Committee

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Item 6c

May 12, 2025

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Subject

Report on Activities from Sacramento

Purpose

To provide an update on relevant state legislative issues

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Legislative Calendar

- May 14 Governor's May Revise.
- May 16 Last day for policy committees to meet.
- May 23 Last day for fiscal committees to pass bills to the Floor.

Golden Mussel in the Delta

Sacramento Legislative Highlights



Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Legislative Update

Metropolitan Sponsored Bill

- AB 580 (Wallis) Surface Mining and Reclamation Act Exemption.

Member Agency Proposals

- AB 259 (Rubio) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.
- SB 394 (Allen) Water theft: fire hydrants.

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Legislative Update

AB 523 (Irwin) Metropolitan water districts: proxy vote authorizations.

Recent Amendments:

1. Exclude committee meetings from use of proxy;
2. Limit usage to 6 times per calendar year;
3. Limit proxy duration to one week per designation;
4. Establish a sunset of Jan 1, 2030.

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Legislative Update

- AB 52 (Aguilar-Curry) Native American resources.
- AB 532 (Ransom) Water rate assistance program.
- AB 638 (Rodriguez) Stormwater: uses: irrigation.
- AB 810 (Irwin) Local government: internet websites and email addresses.
- SB 350 (Durazo) Water Rate Assistance Program.
- SB 496 (Hurtado) Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions.

Sacramento Legislative Highlights

Legislative Update

- AB 794 (Gabriel) California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations.
- AB 1146 (Papan) Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses.
- AB 1319 (Schultz) Protected species: California Endangered Species Act.
- SB 601 (Allen) Water: waste discharge.





External Affairs

- External Affairs Monthly Activities Report for April 2025

Summary

This report provides a summary of External Affairs' group activities for April 2025.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Highlights

Metropolitan named the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake in honor of longtime board director Judy Abdo, recognizing her work in water conservation and sustainability. In attendance were Chair Ortega, Vice Chairs Camacho and Sutley, Directors Armstrong, Dennstedt, Erdman, Fellow, Gold, Kurtz, and McCoy, former chair Tim Brick, GM Upadhyay, General Counsel Sully, General Auditor Suzuki, AGM Zinke, and many other local officials, water industry leaders and Metropolitan staff. (April 17)



Director Judy Abdo at the dedication of the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake in her honor



Visiting Hoover Dam with congressional staff

Nineteen congressional staff members joined Metropolitan on an infrastructure tour of the Colorado River and Southern California. The tour began at Hoover Dam, stopped in the Palo Verde Valley and Weymouth, and concluded at the Pure Water Southern California Napolitano Innovation Center. Along the way, Metropolitan staff highlighted operations and issues that staff works on in DC, including the Lower Colorado River Multispecies Habitat Conservation program and the Salton Sea. (April 22-25)

Metropolitan debuted its immersive campaign to encourage Southern Californians to say "Goodbye Grass." The new Bloom Box made its debut at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Monterey Park and at Metropolitan's headquarters for Earth Week. The Bloom Box will bring California Friendly® and native plants to festivals and events across Southern California in the coming months. It is designed to allow visitors to truly experience the beauty of water-efficient landscaping with floor-to-ceiling poppies, succulents, rosemary and other plants. (April 12, April 22-23)

Date of Report: 5/13/2025

External Affairs Monthly Activities Report April 2025



Directors Kurtz and McMillan and General Counsel Scully experience the Bloom Box.



Legislative Services

Federal

Staff tracked nominations, hearings, and appointments for key positions, including EPA's Assistant Administrator for Water and General Counsel, Assistant Secretary for the Army for Civil Works, NRCS Chief, and Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of Interior.

Staff also tracked funding programs and hearings related to water infrastructure, including the budget reconciliation process, SRF allotment to states, Title XVI water recycling projects, WIIN Storage Act, WIFIA, and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing entitled "Building on the IJA's Successes: Identifying Opportunities to Strengthen Water Infrastructure Programs."

During the Congressional recess, Metropolitan conducted a Colorado River inspection trip with 19 staff members, including Hoover Dam, Weymouth and the Pure Water Southern California Napolitano Innovation Center. (see Highlights section)

State

AB 580 (Wallis) to extend Metropolitan's alternate authority under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act moved to Assembly Appropriations.

Metropolitan staff worked to advance the following bills: AB 259 (Rubio) eliminating the sunset provision in the Brown Act for teleconferencing; AB 532 (Ransom) for local water agencies to establish low-income rate assistance programs; SB 31 (McNerney) increasing the use of recycled water in non-potable applications; SB 72 (Caballero) to improve future planning of California water supplies; SB 394 (Allen) increasing penalties for fire hydrant water theft; and SB 454 (McNerney) establishing a PFAS Mitigation Fund to address PFAS contamination in California's drinking water and wastewater systems. Metropolitan maintains an oppose position on SB 601 (Allen) increasing the State Water Board's authority to regulate wastewater discharges; an oppose unless amended position on AB 794 (Gabriel), which would allow for an emergency regulatory process for the State Water Board's PFAS regulations on drinking water standards; and an oppose position on AB 1146 (Papan) which would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to issue an interim relief order to prohibit release of stored water if the release is done under false pretenses. Staff is working with the bills' authors to address concerns.

External Affairs Monthly Activities Report April 2025

Local

Presented, monitored, and/or participated in 52 webinars, meetings, and events with community organizations and trade associations on Metropolitan activities, issues, and other topics.

Sponsored the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County's annual Water Symposium and the Valley Industry & Commerce Association's annual State Officeholders Dinner. (April 17 and April 25)

Provided briefings on Metropolitan's legislative priorities and local programs to district office staff for the following elected officials: Representative Robert Garcia (D-CA-42), Senator Steven Choi (R-Irvine), Senator Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach), Senator Tony Strickland (R-Huntington Beach), Assemblymember Jessica Caloza (D-Los Angeles), Assemblymember Phillip Chen (R-Yorba Linda), Assemblymember Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley), Assemblymember Tri Ta (R-Westminster), Assemblymember Avelino Valencia (D-Anaheim), and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn.

Media and Communications

Press Releases and Statements

- Board approval of Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water
- San Marino Mayor Gretchen Shepherd Romey joining Metropolitan board
- Department of Water Resources' fourth snow survey of the year
- Dedication of the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake in honor of former director Judy Abdo (see Highlights section).

Coordinated interview between Spectrum news reporter Sarah Pilla and Chief SRI Office Crosson regarding the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water and supported Spectrum's coverage of CAMP4W board vote.

Coordinated interview between ABC7 Meteorologist Brianna Ruffalo and Section Manager Demetri Polyzos regarding California's snowpack trifecta and what it means for our water supply and reservoirs.

Arranged follow-up interviews between LA Times reporter Ian James and GM Upadhyay and Mai Hattar regarding the San Jacinto Tunnel, which resulted in a front-page feature in the Sunday edition.

Metropolitan's Goodbye, Grass water conservation campaign series is in full swing on billboards, transit shelters, and on radio and Dodger broadcasts. New platforms include Latino "mini billboards" at markets and ads in ethnic community press in Korean, Chinese, Spanish, Armenian and Tagalog. We are piloting a targeted campaign on LinkedIn to those in the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors and generating impressive results to date, including 167,000 impressions and a high click-through rate, signaling engagement with the turf rebate information.



External Affairs Monthly Activities Report April 2025

Celebrated Earth Day and Earth Week with a series of posts focused on the release of the 2024 Climate Action Plan Implementation Progress Report. Highlighted Environmental Education Week through with a video of Senior Public Affairs Representative Ivonne Castillo sharing the Pure Water Activity Book.

On National Arbor Day, featured a post about adding trees to California Friendly® landscapes, with a mention of the \$100 rebate per tree thanks to the Turf Replacement Program.

The Water Champions employee social media series continues to receive strong engagement. In April, employees from the Property Management Team, Rates and Financial Team, and Desert Business Support Team were among those featured.



From left, Khanh Phan, Unit Manager - Rates, Charges & Financial Planning; Malcolm Hamilton, Principal Resource Specialist; Arnout Van den Berg, Section Manager - Revenue & Budget; and Sean Tran, Principal Resource Specialist



Anne Reed
Administrative Assistant II

Water Champions
Rates and Financial
Planning



Water Champions
Desert Facilities
Guest Services



The Metropolitan overview document "Leadership Today, Water Tomorrow" was updated and provides a descriptive discussion of achievements and priorities for the district in the areas of infrastructure, imports and local resource development, water quality, climate-related planning and workforce development.

Community Outreach

Conducted inspection trips for Directors Fellow, Gray, Jung, Phan and Seckel, congressional staff, and employees.

Gave presentations on Pure Water Southern California to TreePeople and San Gabriel Economic Partnership Legislative Action committee; provided tours of the Pure Water Southern California Napolitano Innovation Center for Sydney Water, SCE, UCLA Nursing students, and Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning.

Celebrated Earth Week in the rotunda with staff sharing Metropolitan's sustainability measures and debuted the "Bloom Box."

External Affairs Monthly Activities Report April 2025

Supported community engagement with member agencies and external organizations, including Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' Earth Day, Strength-Based Community Change Earth Day & Del Niño, Bob Baker Marionette Theater Water Wise Day, Inland Empire Utilities Agency Earth Day, Oceanographic Teaching Stations Earth Day Festival, Niguel Botanical Preserve Earth Day 2025 and Weaving Earth Waters Becoming.

Education staff engaged over 2,400 teachers, students, and community members through field trips, events, meetings, and advisory boards. Highlights include participation in the Orange County Children's Water Education Festival, the Student Calendar Traveling Art Gallery, and the awards ceremony for Water Engineering 4 Good (WE4G), a STEAM contest for secondary students to design water-saving devices out of recycled and upcycled materials.

Supported workforce development for students with participation in Long Beach City College Water Industry Advisory Board, University of La Verne Business Advisory Council, St. Mark's Elementary School STEM Career Day, and Macy Intermediate School Career Day.



Provided notices for construction and maintenance activities and assisted impacted residents and businesses:

- Communities of Carson, Torrance, Los Angeles, and Lomita regarding shutdown activities on the Second Lower Feeder
- Yorba Linda regarding road maintenance on the East OC Feeder
- Lomita for the WB-08 valve replacement
- Perris Valley Pipeline shutdown
- Los Angeles for a valve replacement on the Culver City Feeder
- Local communities for the Rialto Pipeline / Glendora Tunnel / La Verne Pipeline shutdown



Legislation and Communications Committee

External Affairs Activities

Item 7a
May 12, 2025

Report on Activities from External Affairs

Subject

Report on Activities from External Affairs

Purpose

To provide management announcements and highlights for External Affairs

Honoring Judy Abdo

Dedication of the Wildflower Trail
at Diamond Valley Lake



Employee Inspection Trips

Legislation & Communications
Committee

External Affairs Activities



External Affairs Activities



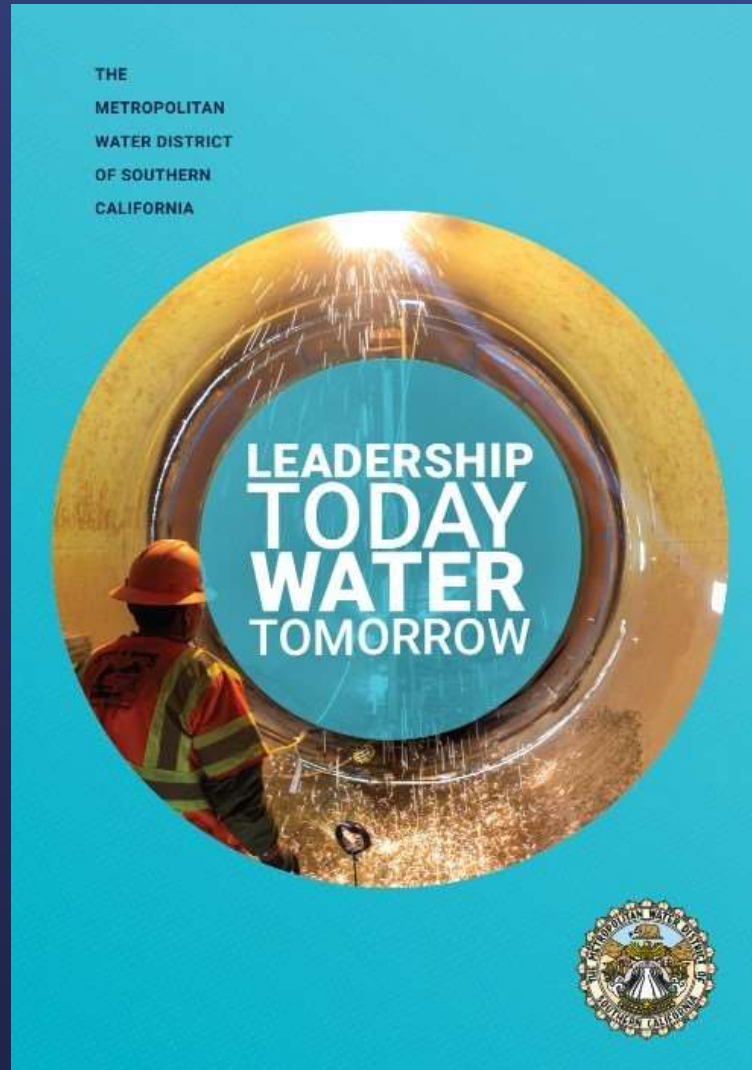
Communications

Achievements and 2025 Priorities for

- Infrastructure
- Imports and Local Resource Development
- Water Quality
- Climate-related Planning
- Workforce Development

Legislation & Communications
Committee

External Affairs Activities



External Affairs Activities

Education



2025 Competition

- Middle and high school
- 6 teams
- Winning projects
 - Showerhead with built-in water usage meter
 - App controlled plant watering device

