



C&L Committee

G. Cordero, Chair
C. Kurtz, Vice Chair
J. Abdo
L. Ackerman
J. Butkiewicz
D. Erdman
M. Luna
J. Morris
J. Murray Jr.
G. Peterson
T. Quinn
R. Record
H. Repenning
T. Smith

**Communications and Legislation
Committee - Final**

Meeting with Board of Directors *

November 8, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Teleconference meetings will continue through the end of the year. Live streaming is available for all board and committee meetings on mwdh2o.com ([Click Here](#))

A listen only phone line is also available at 1-800-603-9516; enter code: 2176868#. Members of the public may present their comments to the Board on matters within their jurisdiction as listed on the agenda via teleconference only. To participate call (404) 400-0335 and enter Code: 9601962.

**Monday, November 8, 2021
Meeting Schedule**

09:00 a.m. - BOD
Workshop
11:00 a.m. - Break
11:30 a.m. - E&O
01:00 p.m. - C&L
02:00 p.m. - WP&S

* 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 OTHER ITEMS -- ACTION ****

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communications and Legislation Committee held October 11, 2021

[21-591](#)

Attachments: [11082021 CL 2A Minutes](#)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

- 7-6** Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2022; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-600](#)

Attachments: [11092021 CL 7-6 B-L](#)
[11092021 CL 7-6 Presentation.pdf](#)

- 7-7** Approve Metropolitan's annual membership in the North American Transmission Forum and authorize a one-time payment of \$5,000 and annual dues payment of \$28,500; the General Manager determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-608](#)

Attachments: [11092021 CL 7-7 B-L](#)
[11092021 CL 7-7 Presentation.pdf](#)

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Outreach for the Regional Recycled Water Program [21-626](#)

Attachments: [11082021 CL 6a Presentation.pdf](#)

- b. Report on activities from Washington, D.C. [21-627](#)

Attachments: [11082021 CL 6b Presentation.pdf](#)

- c. Report on activities from Sacramento [21-628](#)

Attachments: [11082021 CL 6c Presentation.pdf](#)

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- a. External Affairs Management Report [21-629](#)

Attachments: [11082021 CL 7a Presentation.pdf](#)

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. Agendas for the meeting of the Board of Directors may be obtained from the Board Executive Secretary. 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 <http://www.mwdh2o.com>.

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

October 11, 2021

Chair Cordero called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:17 p.m.

Members present: Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Kurtz, Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Erdman, Luna, Morris, G. Peterson, Record, and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Butkiewicz, Murray, Quinn, and Repenning.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray, Directors Atwater, Blois, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Dick, Faessel, Fellow, Goldberg, Jung, Lefevre, McCoy, Ortega, Ramos, and Tamaribuchi.

Committee Staff present: Hagekhalil, Rojo, Scully, Sims, and Zinke.

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

Alan Shanahan, AFSCME Local 1902 – in support of item 7-6

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communications and Legislation Committee held September 13, 2021.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

- | | | |
|-----|----------|---|
| 7-6 | Subject: | Authorize the General Manager to seek legislation for Metropolitan to utilize alternative project delivery methods for construction of the Regional Recycled Water Program and drought-related projects; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA |
| | Motion: | Authorize the General Manager to seek legislation for Metropolitan to utilize alternative project delivery methods for construction of the Regional Recycled Water Program and drought-related projects in addition to traditional Design-Bid-Build |

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Blois
2. Cordero
3. Morris

After completion of the presentation, Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Peterson to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A and 7-6.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Cordero, Erdman, Kurtz, Luna, Morris,
G. Peterson, Record, and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Butkiewicz, Murray, Quinn, and Repenning.

The motion passed by a vote of 10 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: Update on expanded multimedia public awareness and outreach campaign for water conservation, including issuance of a request for proposal for a three-year contract for media buying services not to exceed \$10.5 million

Presented by: Sue Sims, External Affairs Group Manager

Ms. Sims provided an update on expanded multimedia public awareness and outreach campaign for water conservation, including issuance of a request for proposal. She also reported on the advertising budget and next steps.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Inspection Trip Update

Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer, Member Services and Public Outreach Manager

Ms. Schaffer provided an update on the inspection trip program. She reported on the current status, some of the potential changes, and the possible timeline for restarting the program.

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

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider reported on activities from Washington, D.C. including an update on the National Defense Authorization Act, Congressional hearings, and nomination updates.

- c. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Kathy Viatella, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Viatella reported on activities from Sacramento including a year-end recap, updates on Metropolitan sponsored bills and legislative priorities.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORT

- a. Subject: External Affairs' Management Report

Presented by: Sue Sims, External Affairs Group Manager

Due to time constraints Ms. Sims conceded her time back to the committee and will provide her update at next month's meeting.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Next meeting will be held on November 8, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Gloria Cordero
Chair



• **Board of Directors**
Communications and Legislation Committee

11/9/2021 Board Meeting

7-6

Subject

Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2022; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

This letter presents the 2022 legislative priorities and principles recommended by staff for the Board of Directors' review and adoption.

Details

This board letter presents the 2022 Legislative Priorities and Principles as recommended by staff for the Board's review and adoption. It lays out an integrated "One Water" collaborative approach to managing Southern California's watersheds, water resources, and water infrastructure to ensure long-term resilience and reliability for communities and ecosystems. Once adopted, staff uses this document to advocate for these priorities and principles at the state and federal level through Metropolitan-sponsored legislation, engaging on bills or pursuing funding.

The Metropolitan Legislative Priorities and Principles are presented annually to the Board of Directors. The current 2021 version was adopted in December 2020. The draft 2022 Legislative Priorities and Principles was presented to the Member Agency Legislative Coordinators Annual Planning Meeting on October 21, 2021 and is now presented for the Board's review and adoption at the November 2021 meeting. Staff recommended updates to the language can be seen in the attached redline of the December 8, 2020 C&L Committee Item 7-3 **(Attachment 1)**.

This board action letter presents a clean version of the priorities and principles with staff's recommended revisions, incorporating the input received.

The 2022 Legislative Priorities and Principles below are respectfully submitted for consideration and Board approval.

2022 Legislative Priorities

The legislative priorities for 2022 and the two Metropolitan-sponsored legislative initiatives for the 2022 state legislative session are as follows:

A. Top Legislative Priorities

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for demand management activities and new local supply projects to conserve existing supplies and prepare for a dry future.
2. Support funding to defray the costs of planning, financing, constructing, and rehabilitating all types of water infrastructure projects, including but not limited to, water recycling, storage, treatment, repairs to existing water delivery structures and environmental restoration projects.
3. Support actions to initiate, expedite and secure funding for the Regional Recycled Water Program and related projects.

4. Support administrative/legislative actions to ensure the reliability of imported water supplies including, but not limited to, ensuring progress on the Delta Conveyance Project and funding for Colorado River system water conservation projects, salinity control measures, and cleanup of contaminated sites.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to facilitate and expedite EcoRestore and non-mitigation habitat restoration projects that benefit water supply and/or endangered and threatened species.
6. Support administrative/legislative actions to secure and disburse funding to help public water systems defray the costs associated with COVID-19 (e.g., loss of revenue, deferred infrastructure maintenance, personal protective equipment, workplace health and safety improvements, and on-site testing) and for direct financial relief to low-income households facing substantial utility bill arrearages post COVID-19.
7. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for research and partnerships on water science, including snowpack and streamflow monitoring, runoff, drinking water quality, salinity control, source water protection, soil moisture monitoring, healthy soils, and watershed research.
8. Support administrative/legislative actions to secure funding to help public water systems defray the costs of monitoring and/or remediation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and ensure drinking water and wastewater facilities are not held liable for the cleanup of contamination.
9. Support tax exemptions and/or credits for water conservation or efficiency incentives for measures including, but not limited to, turf removal, local stormwater capture (e.g., rain barrels, cisterns), and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape.

B. Metropolitan-Sponsored State Bills

1. Support legislation, consistent with board direction, to create a statewide program to identify and evaluate constituents of emerging concern in drinking water.
2. Support for legislation, consistent with board direction, to grant Metropolitan alternative delivery methods for construction of the Regional Recycled Water Program and drought-related projects.

2022 Legislative Policy Principles

The 2022 Legislative Policy Principles guide and inform Metropolitan's engagement on state and federal legislative and regulatory activities. They were developed in consultation with subject matter experts at Metropolitan. The principles described below holistically address eight strategic areas of policy that inform Metropolitan's One Water Vision: drought response, drinking water, regional water resource management, imported water supplies, climate change and the environment, infrastructure, system resiliency, and innovation.

- I. Drought Response –Southern California's two main sources of imported water are currently in drought conditions. Thanks to sound planning, smart investments and a strong conservation ethic, the region is prepared to meet current year demands for water. However, investments in additional conservation and local supplies are necessary in the event drought conditions continue or worsen, and to prepare for the impacts of climate change on future hydrology.
 1. Support legislative/administrative actions and funding to accelerate new local supply development, including recycled water, water quality treatment, groundwater remediation and storage, water loss detection and repair, and water conservation measures.
 2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for imported source watershed protection and enhancement of water conservation projects to help offset the effects of extended drought conditions.
 3. Support administrative/legislative actions that recognize the significant variations in needs and opportunities among communities and regions regarding the capability of withstanding

the impacts of drought and allow the State to provide additional assistance should current drought conditions worsen.

4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for local drought contingency planning areas in the state that have increased concern about wholesale water system delivery constraints.

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

A. Water Quality and Treatment

1. Support administrative/legislative actions that utilize 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. Support administrative/legislative actions, consistent with Board direction, to identify and evaluate constituents of emerging concern in drinking water.
3. Support application of the “polluter pays” principle such that parties responsible for introducing contaminants in drinking water sources are held liable for cleanup, and not drinking water and wastewater facilities that subsequently store, transport, or treat the water.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for treatment and mitigation measures to comply with any new regulatory standards, develop risk communication tools, as well as provide adequate time for implementation.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to protect source water quality, reduce threats from invasive species, and mitigate harmful algal blooms.

B. Water Governance and Funding: Metropolitan supports statewide efforts to provide access to safe and affordable drinking water to all residents.

1. Support administrative/legislative actions that prioritize providing safe and affordable drinking water to disadvantaged communities.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions that meaningfully improve water affordability throughout the region at both the individual and the water system level without burdening existing ratepayers.
3. Support funding to help water systems provide low-income ratepayer assistance programs without operational constraints.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions that improve governance of non-compliant water systems and provide assistance for consolidations that improve their technical, managerial, or financial capacity.
5. Support administrative/legislative action to ensure that all affected public water systems are consulted on changes of organization, including proposed consolidations or extension of service area.
6. Support administrative/legislative actions that ensure the limited resources of the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund are allocated to advance projects, operation and maintenance costs, infrastructure improvements, and/or consolidation actions that will achieve long-term sustainability for water systems and the communities that rely on those systems.

- III. Regional Water Resource Management – Metropolitan’s One Water Vision promotes 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 managing imported water supplies and quality, supporting local resource development, advancing water use efficiency, and supporting ecosystem protection and restoration.
- A. Continue to support and promote integrated water resources development by advocating for clear, concise, and streamlined regulations/policies that are easily understandable by the regulated community and public.
 - B. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to expedite the development of new local resources, including recycled water and direct potable reuse, groundwater, stormwater and desalination projects, without compromising the operational, financial, water quality, regulatory and customer interests of Metropolitan and other water and wastewater agencies.
 - C. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and assist local agencies in maintaining long-term groundwater supply reliability.
 - D. Conservation
 - 1. Support tax exemptions and/or credits for water conservation or efficiency incentives including, but not limited to, turf removal, local stormwater capture (e.g., rain barrels, cisterns), and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape.
 - 2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to encourage equitable water use efficiency and recycled water use among agricultural, industrial, and urban sectors.
 - 3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to advance 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 (i.e., climate, land use, population, and hydrology); and potential impacts to wastewater operations and recycled water projects.
 - 4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to reduce water loss. Support the development and implementation of flexible water loss standards for both retail and wholesale water systems.
 - 5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to improve water use efficiency through nonfunctional turf management.
 - E. Desalination & Groundwater Remediation
 - 1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for seawater and groundwater desalination projects.
 - 2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for salinity control projects including, but not limited to, source control, treatment and brine management.
 - 3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that advance Metropolitan’s groundwater storage and/or recovery programs with member agencies.
 - 4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for desalination research and technology development projects, and initiatives that encourage stakeholder coordination on these investments, such as with the National Alliance for Water Innovation.
 - F. Recycled Water
 - 1. Support actions to initiate, expedite and secure funding for the Regional Recycled Water Program and related projects.

2. Support implementation of the National Water Reuse Action Plan and California Water Reuse Action Plan while protecting local flexibility and encouraging local, state and federal coordination, research and innovation.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions to help achieve recycled water goals and the California Water Reuse Action Plan while limiting one-size-fits-all mandates of recycled water uses and/or specific reduction of wastewater discharges without first considering the following factors: a cost-benefit analysis, current use and demand for recycled water, projected wastewater flows and water rights, status of the state's direct potable reuse regulations, location and site constraints for reuse of wastewater discharges, existing plans for recycled water projects and available funding.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions that facilitate the adoption of practical uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse through raw water augmentation by December 31, 2023. These actions include but are not limited to funding: (a) for the planning, development and implementation of local and regional potable reuse projects; and (b) initiatives to fill research gaps and advance the science to promote the further development of potable reuse.
5. Support administrative/legislative action to promote voluntary on-site water treatment systems if they maintain compliance with Title 22 and do not negatively affect municipal water recycling systems.
6. Support administrative/legislative actions that maximize voluntary use of recycled water and limit restrictions on use of recycled water during water shortages and drought.

G. Stormwater Capture

1. Support administrative/legislative actions that promote stormwater as a beneficial resource and facilitate the funding and permitting of stormwater capture projects to augment local and regional water supplies without compromising the operational, water quality, financial, regulatory, and customer interests of local and regional water agencies.

H. Watershed Management

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to enhance watershed management in Southern California, the Bay-Delta and Colorado River watersheds that provide broad public benefits, including water quality and water supply reliability, reduced wildfire risks, and other environmental improvements. Funding of watershed management programs should be based on the "beneficiaries pay" principle.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions that help advance implementation of watershed management plans, including watershed research and multi-benefit forestry management projects.
3. Support implementation of the California Water Resiliency Portfolio, as consistent with Metropolitan goals and objectives, to ensure improved watershed-scale coordination, watershed management and planning, and programs and funding that provide water resilience and improve watershed functions.

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

- 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 State Water Project (SWP). The goal is to advance water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration concurrently by modernizing the state's water infrastructure with the proposed Delta Conveyance Project and improving the habitat and function of the Delta estuary for the benefit of threatened and

endangered species. To advance these goals, Metropolitan supports collaborative scientific efforts to better understand how to restore and manage the Bay-Delta.

1. Support administrative/legislative action to 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. Support administrative/legislative action and funding to 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 enhance flexibility for water project operations while maintaining regulatory and statutory protections for species listed under the state and federal Endangered Species Act.
 3. Continue support for implementation of state policies adopted as part of the 2009 Delta Reform Act and water management package, including clarification of the monitoring, reporting, and enforcement provisions related to in-Delta diversions.
 4. Support administrative/legislative actions to consolidate review and oversight of anadromous species protection under the U.S. Department of the Interior.
 5. Support administrative/legislative actions that protect water quality for beneficial uses and that are implemented consistent with water rights priorities.
 6. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to advance the Delta Emergency Freshwater Pathway and emergency response in the event of catastrophic levee failure that impedes delivery or degrades SWP supplies.
 7. Support administrative/legislative actions in the Delta watershed to account for and administer the water rights system including protecting stored water releases.
- B. Colorado River Resources – The Colorado River is a critical resource for the entire Southwest – supporting the economies of seven Basin States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah) and many diverse ecosystems. Degradation of the River's water quality can cause significant economic, environmental and human health impacts across the West. Metropolitan, together with the other Basin States, Native American tribes and Mexico, works to ensure we can continue to supply our communities with a safe and reliable water supply.
1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for Colorado River System water conservation projects, including implementation of the Drought Contingency Plan and other necessary actions to reduce the risk of Lake Mead falling to critically low levels.
 2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for 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.
 3. Promote continued coordination between states for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. Support efforts to resume-operation of USBR's Paradox Valley salinity control project at a safe level while working to develop a viable alternative that can provide long-term reductions in salt loads to the Colorado River.
 4. Secure funding and support administrative/legislative actions for the implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species in a manner that allows the Lower Basin States to conserve Colorado River water.
 5. Support administrative/legislative action and funding that advance binational water conservation programs that benefit Colorado River supply augmentation and habitat restoration objectives.

- 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 address threats to the project and address environmental needs and augment water supplies through collaborative transfers and groundwater banking agreements.
1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to address the impacts of subsidence on the SWP and prevent future damage caused by unsustainable groundwater pumping.
 2. Support administrative/legislative action and funding for new or expanded water infrastructure that complements the SWP.
 3. Support funding for joint state and federal facility repairs, rehabilitation and improvements, and ensure funding is equitably distributed between partners while maintaining SWP supply reliability.
 4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the cleanup of contaminated groundwater storage basins used for Metropolitan water banking programs along the California Aqueduct.
 5. Support funding for the public share of costs, including recreation, flood protection, mitigation, environmental enhancement, and rehabilitation for multi-purpose SWP facilities.
- V. Climate Change and the Environment – Metropolitan is helping California reach its climate goals while adapting to a rapidly changing environmental landscape. Metropolitan supports policies and funding that encourage sustainable practices and environmental compliance, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve energy sustainability.
- A. Climate Change Adaptation
1. Support research into the potential water resource and quality effects of climate change.
 2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that protect SWP, Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA), and local water supplies from the impacts of climate change and enhance their long-term reliability.
 3. Support administrative/legislative efforts to improve, develop and promote innovative climate adaptation solutions and support science-based strategies and tools that benefit the environment by restoring healthy soils, conserving water, and sequestering carbon.
 4. Support administrative/legislative actions that promote reasonable, economically viable, and technologically feasible efforts for reducing the potential impacts of climate change to water and power resources.
 5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that facilitate the integration of existing and planned community water supply, distribution systems, and regional water facilities.
- B. Water/Energy Nexus
1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for energy efficiency and storage projects, and programs to reduce greenhouse gases and develop renewable resources.
 2. Support administrative/legislative actions that remove barriers and encourage energy sector investments in water conservation and energy management programs.
 3. Support administrative/legislative or regulatory activities that preserve Metropolitan's ability to pursue supply options and oppose constraints on supply development such as water resource loading orders based on energy intensity.

4. Support efforts to ensure power costs are appropriate and proportional to the benefits received and that water system operations are not adversely affected by power-related legislation/administrative actions.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions that provide state funding from 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. Support administrative/legislative actions that maintain Board authority over energy-related matters (e.g., system reserve margin or resource adequacy requirements).

C. Renewable Energy

1. Support administrative/legislative actions that define hydropower generation as renewable energy irrespective of a facility's nameplate generating capacity and includes the provision of renewable energy credits for hydroelectric generation.
2. Work to ensure that administrative/legislative actions seeking to enhance or expand hydropower at existing dams do not adversely impact those dams, either financially or operationally, or entities with rights to the power from the existing resources that directly or indirectly impact Metropolitan's service area.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions to improve federal hydropower relicensing for existing facilities, including SWP resources.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the SWP and the CRA to incorporate renewable energy resources, such as pumped hydroelectric energy, that contribute to the state's climate goals without impacting the projects' primary purpose, provided consideration is given to transmission limitations, cost and portfolio availability, and unrelated impacts are not shifted to SWP or CRA facilities.

D. Environmental Stewardship

1. Support administrative/legislative actions for environmental compliance that provide regulatory compliance flexibility, improve clarity and workability of the requirements, and promote consistency and reduce regulatory duplication, while protective of public health and the environment.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to facilitate other non-mitigation habitat restoration projects that benefit endangered and threatened species.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for research and partnerships on water science, including snowpack and streamflow monitoring, runoff, drinking water quality, salinity control, source water protection, soil moisture monitoring, healthy soils and watershed research.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding opportunities to help public water agencies update their portable, stationary, and mobile equipment fleets to help improve system reliability and resiliency in an environmentally responsible manner.

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

- A. Support administrative/legislative actions to initiate, expedite and secure funding to defray the costs of planning, financing, constructing, repairing, and rehabilitating water 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 infrastructure projects.

- B. Support administrative/legislative efforts to expand funding programs, streamline project approval and reporting processes, and prevent project backlogs in state and federal funding or financing.
 - C. Support “beneficiaries pay” approach as financing mechanism for statewide projects and programs and oppose public goods charge, or other charges levied on water agencies for funding broader public benefits.
 - D. Support funding for the public share of costs, including mitigation, rehabilitation, and recreation, for multi-purpose water infrastructure.
- VII. System Resiliency – Metropolitan diligently maintains and significantly invests to safeguard a region-wide water supply system that is a cornerstone of Southern California’s \$1.6 trillion economy. Resiliency ensures the water supply system is strong, can return to service quickly, and is prepared to address future challenges.
- A. Emergency Preparedness
 - 1. Support administrative/legislative actions that assist the water industry to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, including earthquakes and wildfires, catastrophic accidents, and sabotage. These actions may include, but are not limited to, actions to provide funding for emergency responses and planning and post-emergency restoration of service.
 - 2. Support administrative/legislative actions to secure and disburse funding to help public water systems defray the costs associated with COVID-19 (e.g., loss of revenue, deferred infrastructure maintenance, personal protective equipment, workplace health and safety improvements, and on-site testing) and for direct financial relief to low-income households facing substantial utility bill arrearages post COVID-19.
 - 3. Support administrative/legislative actions that assist the water industry to address the effects of wildfires and power outages, including the impacts of public safety power shutoff events.
 - 4. Support additional funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency programs to assist with emergency repairs and improvements, including but not limited to, dam safety, spillway improvements, and erosion control repairs.
 - B. 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 Chemical Security Analysis Center.
 - 2. Support administrative/legislative actions that would provide funding or reimbursement for 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. Support administrative/legislative actions that ensure Metropolitan’s ability to reliably operate and maintain its facilities, infrastructure and real estate assets, including rights of way, and to protect against encroachment.

C. Chemical Security

1. Support administrative/legislative actions to improve supply chain reliability, achieve tax-exempt status for water treatment chemicals, and ensure access to water treatment chemicals.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions to ensure the continued use of gaseous chlorine to protect public health.

VIII. Innovation – Supporting and promoting innovation and emerging technologies continues Metropolitan’s long tradition of creatively solving difficult challenges.

- A. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the research and development of new and emerging technologies such as satellite- and computer-based technologies to monitor source water quality, ecosystem health, state- and federal-threatened and endangered fish species; measure and predict agricultural water use, urban outdoor water use and reservoir evaporation; and expand coordination with technology incubators, research institutions, and other stakeholder groups.
- B. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to 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.
- C. Support administrative/legislative actions, funding and partnerships to improve educational opportunities in the water sector, including career technical education and workforce development.
- D. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that improve water system staff training and certification processes.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves legislative proposals that do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Public Resources Code Section 21065 and Section 15378(b)(1) of the State CEQA Guidelines). The proposed action is also not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves continuing administrative activities, such as general policy and procedure making (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Adopt the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2022.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Adoption of these legislative priorities and principles supports staff's ability to address matters in a timely fashion related to legislation in 2022.

Option #2

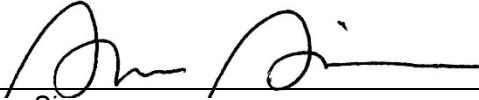

Take no action.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Absence of these legislative priorities and principles could hinder staff's ability to respond in a timely manner to legislation in 2022.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1

 Sue Sims External Affairs Manager	11/5/2021 Date
 Adel Hagekhalil General Manager	11/5/2021 Date

Attachment 1 – Redlined 12082020 CL Committee Item 7-3: 2021 Legislative Priorities and Principles (Revised)

Ref# ea12677732



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

BOARD ACTION

- Board of Directors
Communications and Legislation Committee

12/8/2020 Board Meeting

7-3

Subject

Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2022; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

This letter presents the ~~2021~~ 2022 legislative priorities and principles recommended by staff for the Board of Directors' review and adoption.

Details

This board letter presents the ~~2021~~ 2022 Legislative Priorities and Principles as recommended by staff for the Board's review and adoption. It lays out an integrated "One Water" collaborative approach to managing Southern California's watersheds, water resources, and water infrastructure to ensure long-term resilience and reliability for communities and ecosystems. Once adopted, staff uses this document to advocate for these priorities and principles at the state and federal level through Metropolitan-sponsored legislation, engagement on bills or pursuing funding.

The Metropolitan Legislative Priorities and Principles are presented annually to the Board of Directors. The current 2021 version was adopted in December 2020. The draft 2022 Legislative Priorities and Principles was presented to the Member Agency Legislative Coordinators Annual Planning Meeting on October 21, 2021 and is now presented for the Board's review and adoption at the November 2021 meeting. Staff recommended updates to the language can be seen in the attached redline of the December 8, ~~2020~~2021 C&L Committee Item 7-3 (**Attachment 1**).

This board action letter presents a clean version of the priorities and principles with staff's recommended revisions, incorporating the input received.

The ~~2021~~2 Legislative Priorities and Principles below are respectfully submitted for consideration and Board approval.

~~2021~~2 Legislative Priorities and Principles

The legislative priorities for ~~2021~~2 and the two Metropolitan-sponsored legislative initiatives for the ~~2021~~2 state's ~~two-year~~ legislative session are as follows:

A. Top Legislative Priorities

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for demand management activities and new local supply projects to conserve existing supplies and prepare for a dry future.
2. Support ~~administrative/legislative measures~~ funding to defray the costs of planning, financing, constructing, and rehabilitating all types of water infrastructure projects including, but not limited to, water recycling, storage, treatment, ~~repairs to existing water delivery structures~~ subsidence repairs, and environmental restoration projects.
3. Support actions to initiate, expedite and secure funding for the Regional Recycled Water Program and related projects.

4. ~~Support actions to ensure progress on Delta conveyance and California EcoRestore.~~ Support administrative/legislative actions to ensure the reliability of imported water supplies including, but not limited to, ensuring progress on the Delta Conveyance Project and funding for Colorado River system water conservation projects, salinity control measures, and cleanup of contaminated sites.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to facilitate ~~and expedite EcoRestore and-~~ non-mitigation habitat restoration projects that benefit ~~water supply and/or~~ endangered and threatened species.
6. Support administrative/legislative actions to secure ~~and disburse~~ funding to help public water systems defray the costs associated with COVID-19 (e.g., loss of revenue, deferred infrastructure maintenance, personal protective equipment, workplace health and safety improvements, and on-site testing) and for direct financial relief to low-income households facing substantial utility bill arrearages post COVID-19.
7. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for research ~~and partnerships~~ on water science, including snowpack and streamflow monitoring, ~~runoff~~, drinking water quality, salinity control, source water protection, ~~soil moisture monitoring, healthy soils,~~ and watershed research.
8. Support administrative/legislative actions to secure funding to help public water systems defray the costs of monitoring and/or remediation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and ensure drinking water and wastewater facilities are not held liable for the cleanup of contamination.
9. Support tax exemptions ~~and/or credits~~ for water conservation or efficiency incentives for measures including, but not limited to, turf removal, local stormwater capture (e.g., rain barrels, cisterns), and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape.

B. Metropolitan-Sponsored State Bills

1. Support legislation, consistent with board direction, to create a statewide program to identify and evaluate constituents of emerging concern in drinking water.
2. ~~Support legislation, consistent with board direction, to grant Metropolitan lead agency status under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act.~~
3. Support for legislation, consistent with board direction, to grant Metropolitan alternative delivery methods for construction of the Regional Recycled Water Program and drought-related projects.

20212 Legislative Policy Principles

The 2022 Legislative Policy Principles guide and inform Metropolitan's engagement on state and federal legislative and regulatory activities. They were developed in consultation with subject matter experts throughout Metropolitan. The principles described below holistically address eight strategic areas of policy that inform Metropolitan's One Water Vision: drought response, drinking water, regional water resource management, imported water supplies, climate change and the environment, infrastructure, system resiliency, and innovation.

~~The following legislative principles are refined annually in consultation with subject matter experts throughout Metropolitan, applying to both state and federal legislative advocacy. The legislative principles below address seven strategic areas of policy relevant to Metropolitan: drinking water, regional water resource management, imported water supplies, climate change and the environment, infrastructure, system resiliency, and innovation.~~

- I. Drought Response –Southern California's two main sources of imported water are currently in drought conditions. Thanks to sound planning, smart investments and a strong conservation ethic, the region is prepared to meet current year demands for water. However, investments in additional conservation and local supplies are necessary in the event current drought conditions continue or worsen, and to prepare for the impacts of climate change on future hydrology.
 1. Support legislative/administrative actions and funding to accelerate new local supply development including recycled water, water quality treatment, groundwater remediation and storage, water loss detection and repair, and water conservation measures.

2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for imported source watershed protection and enhancement of water conservation projects to help offset the effects of extended drought conditions.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions that recognize the significant variations in needs and opportunities among communities and regions regarding the capability of withstanding the impacts of drought and allow the State to provide additional assistance should current drought conditions worsen.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for local drought contingency planning areas in the State that have increased concern about wholesale water system delivery constraints.

II. 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.

A. Water Quality and Treatment

1. Support administrative/legislative actions that utilize 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. Support ~~administrative/legislative actions~~ ~~legislation~~, consistent with Board direction, ~~to create a statewide program~~ to identify and evaluate constituents of emerging concern in drinking water.
3. Support application of the “polluter pays” principle such that parties responsible for introducing contaminants in drinking water sources are held liable for cleanup, and not drinking water and wastewater facilities that subsequently store, transport, or treat the water.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for treatment and mitigation measures to comply with any new regulatory standards, develop risk communication tools, as well as provide adequate time for implementation.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to protect source water quality, reduce threats from invasive species, and mitigate harmful algal blooms.

B. Water Governance and Funding: Metropolitan supports statewide efforts to provide access to safe and affordable drinking water to all residents.

1. Support administrative/legislative actions that prioritize providing safe and affordable drinking water to disadvantaged communities.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions that meaningfully improve water affordability throughout the region at both the individual and the water system level without burdening existing ratepayers.
3. Support funding to help water systems provide low-income ratepayer assistance programs without operational constraints.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions that **improve** governance of non-compliant water systems and provide assistance for consolidations that **improve** their technical, managerial, or financial capacity.

5. Support administrative/legislative action to ensure that all affected public water systems are consulted on changes of organization, including proposed consolidations or extension of service area.
6. Support administrative/legislative actions that ensure the limited resources of the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund are allocated to advance projects, operation and maintenance costs, infrastructure improvements, and/or consolidation actions that will achieve long-term sustainability for water systems and the communities that rely on those systems.
- ~~7. Support administrative/legislative actions that reform or create water financing mechanisms to provide water systems with voluntary options for financing low-income rate assistance programs.~~

III. Regional Water Resource Management – Metropolitan’s One Water Vision means we works collaboratively with to secure high-quality water for member agencies to plan for future water supply needs and the challenges ahead in a reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible manner. This involves managing imported water supplies and quality, supporting local resource development, and advancing water use efficiency, and supporting ecosystem protection and restoration.

- A. Continue to support and promote integrated water resources development by advocating for clear, concise, and streamlined regulations/policies that are easily understandable by the regulated community and public.
- B. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to expedite the development of new local resources, including recycled water and direct potable reuse, (including direct potable reuse), groundwater, stormwater and desalination projects, without compromising the operational, financial, water quality, regulatory and customer interests of Metropolitan and other water and wastewater agencies.
- ~~C. Support administrative/legislative actions to initiate, expedite and secure funding for the Regional Recycled Water Program and related projects.~~
- ~~D. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for salinity management projects that benefit groundwater remediation projects.~~
- C. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and assist local agencies in maintaining long-term groundwater supply reliability.
- D. Conservation
 1. Support tax exemptions and/or credits for water conservation or efficiency incentives including, but not limited to, turf removal, local stormwater capture (e.g., rain barrels, cisterns), and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape.
 2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to encourage equitable water use efficiency and recycled water use among agricultural, industrial, and urban sectors.
 3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to advance 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 (i.e., climate, land use, population, and hydrology); and potential impacts to wastewater operations and recycled water projects.
 4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to reduce that maintain flexibility and local control in the development and implementation of water loss standards. Support the development and implementation of flexible water loss standards for both retail and consider wholesale water systems. ~~constraints.~~

4.5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to improve water use efficiency through nonfunctional turf management.

E. Desalination & Groundwater Remediation

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for seawater and groundwater desalination projects.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for salinity control projects including, but not limited to, source control, treatment and brine management.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that advance Metropolitan's groundwater storage and/or recovery programs with member agencies.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for desalination research and technology development projects, and initiatives that encourage stakeholder coordination on these investments, such as with the National Alliance for Water Innovation.

F. Recycled Water

1. Support actions to initiate, expedite and secure funding for the Regional Recycled Water Program and related projects.
2. Support implementation of the National Water Reuse Action Plan and California Water Reuse Action Plan while protecting local flexibility and encouraging local, state and federal coordination, research and innovation.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions to help achieve recycled water goals and the California Water Reuse Action Plan while limiting one-size-fits-all mandates of recycled water uses and/or specific reduction of wastewater discharges without first considering the following factors: a cost-benefit analysis, current use and demand for recycled water, projected wastewater flows and water rights, status of the state's direct potable reuse regulations, location and site constraints for reuse of wastewater discharges, existing plans for recycled water projects and available funding.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions that facilitate the adoption of practical uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse through raw water augmentation by December 31, 2023. These actions include but are not limited to funding: (a) for the planning, development and implementation of local and regional potable reuse projects; and (b) initiatives to fill research gaps and advance the science to promote the further development of potable reuse.
5. Support administrative/legislative action to promote voluntary on-site water treatment systems if they maintain compliance with Title 22 and do not negatively affect municipal water recycling systems.
6. Support administrative/legislative actions that maximize voluntary use of recycled water and limit restrictions on use of recycled water during water shortages and drought.

G. Stormwater Capture

1. Support administrative/legislative actions that promote stormwater as a beneficial resource and facilitate the funding and permitting of stormwater capture projects to augment local and regional water supplies without compromising the operational, water quality, financial, regulatory, and customer interests of local and regional water agencies.

H. Watershed Management

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to enhance watershed management in Southern California, the Bay-Delta and Colorado River watersheds that provide broad public benefits, including water quality and water supply reliability, reduced wildfire

risks, and other environmental improvements. Funding of watershed management programs should be based on the “beneficiaries pay” principle.

2. Support administrative/legislative actions that help advance implementation of watershed management plans, including watershed research and multi-benefit forestry management projects.
3. Support implementation of the California Water Resiliency Portfolio, as consistent with Metropolitan goals and objectives, to ensure improved watershed-scale coordination, watershed management and planning, and programs and funding that provide water resilience and improve watershed functions.

IV. Imported Water Supply – Metropolitan provides imported water supplies to its member agencies from two primary sources, the Colorado River via the Colorado Aqueduct and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta via the State Water Project.

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 State Water Project (SWP). The goal is to advance water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration concurrently by modernizing the state’s water infrastructure with the proposed Delta Conveyance Project and improving the habitat and function of the Delta estuary for the benefit of threatened and endangered species. To advance these goals, Metropolitan supports collaborative scientific efforts to better understand how to restore and manage the Bay-Delta.

1. Support administrative/legislative action to 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. Support administrative/legislative action and funding to 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 enhance flexibility for water project operations while maintaining regulatory and statutory protections for species listed under the state and federal Endangered Species Act.
3. Continue support for implementation of state policies adopted as part of the 2009 Delta Reform Act and water management package, including clarification of the monitoring, reporting, and enforcement provisions related to in-Delta diversions.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions to consolidate review and oversight of anadromous species protection under the U.S. Department of the Interior.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions that protect water quality for beneficial uses and that are implemented consistent with water rights priorities.
6. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to advance the Delta Emergency Freshwater Pathway and emergency response in the event of catastrophic levee failure that impedes delivery or degrades SWP supplies.
7. **Support administrative/legislative actions in the Delta watershed to account for and administer the water rights system including protecting stored water releases.**

B. Colorado River Resources – The Colorado River is a critical resource for the entire Southwest – supporting the economies of seven Basin States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah) and many diverse ecosystems. Degradation of the River’s water quality can cause significant economic, environmental and human health impacts across the West. Metropolitan, together with the other Basin States, Native American tribes and Mexico, works to ensure we can continue to supply our communities with a safe and reliable water supply.

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for Colorado River System water conservation projects, including implementation of the Drought Contingency Plan **and**

~~other necessary actions to reduce the risk of Lake Mead falling to critically low levels. to offset the effects of extended drought conditions.~~

2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for 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 ~~chrome~~ **chromium** remediation in ~~near~~ **California Arizona**; and a waste disposal site near Hoover Dam.
 3. Promote continued coordination between states for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. **Support efforts to resume including work to secure funding for the continued operation of USBR's Paradox Valley salinity control project to at a safe level while working to develop a viable alternative that can provide long-term reductions in reduce salt loads to the Colorado River.**
 4. Secure funding **and support administrative/legislative actions** for the implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species **in a manner that allows the Lower Basin States to conserve Colorado River water.** ~~along the river in coordination with the other Basin States.~~
 5. Support administrative/legislative action and funding that advance binational water conservation programs that benefit Colorado River supply augmentation and habitat restoration objectives.
- C. State Water Project – About 30 percent of Southern California's water comes from the SWP. Metropolitan works with state and federal agencies as well as other SWP contractors to address threats to the project and address environmental needs and augment water supplies through collaborative transfers and groundwater banking agreements.
1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to **address** ~~mitigate~~ the impacts of subsidence on the SWP and prevent future damage caused by unsustainable groundwater pumping.
 2. Support administrative/legislative action and funding for new or expanded water infrastructure that complements the SWP.
 3. Support funding for joint state and federal facility repairs, rehabilitation and improvements, and ensure funding is equitably distributed between partners while maintaining SWP supply reliability.
 4. **Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the cleanup of contaminated groundwater storage basins used for Metropolitan water banking programs along the California Aqueduct.**
 5. Support funding for the public share of costs, including recreation, flood protection, mitigation, **environmental enhancement**, and rehabilitation for multi-purpose SWP facilities.

- V. Climate Change and the Environment – Metropolitan is helping California reach its climate goals while adapting to a rapidly changing environmental landscape. Metropolitan supports policies and funding that encourage sustainable practices and environmental compliance, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve energy sustainability.

A. Climate Change Adaptation

- ~~1. Support legislative/administrative actions and funding for projects that provide water supply and quality benefits while increasing the ability to manage extreme drought and precipitation events.~~

1. Support ~~administrative/legislative actions climate change~~ research into the potential water resource and quality effects of climate change.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that protect SWP, Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA), and local water supplies from the impacts of climate change and enhance their long-term reliability.
3. Support administrative/legislative efforts to improve, develop and promote innovative climate adaptation solutions and support science-based strategies and tools that benefit the environment by restoring healthy soils, conserving water, and sequestering carbon.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions that promote reasonable, economically viable, and technologically feasible efforts for reducing the potential impacts of climate change to water and power resources.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that facilitate the integration of existing and planned community water supply, distribution systems, and regional water facilities.

~~Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that facilitate drought preparedness and drought response projects and programs.~~

B. Water/Energy Nexus

1. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for energy efficiency and storage projects, and programs to reduce greenhouse gases and develop renewable resources.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions that remove barriers to and encourages energy sector investments in water conservation and energy management programs.
3. Support administrative/legislative or regulatory activities that preserve Metropolitan's ability to pursue supply options and oppose constraints on supply development such as water resource loading orders based on energy intensity.
4. Support efforts to ensure power costs are appropriate and proportional to the benefits received and that water system operations are not adversely affected by power-related legislation/administrative actions.
5. Support administrative/legislative actions that provide state funding from 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. Support administrative/legislative actions that maintain Board authority over energy-related matters (e.g., system reserve margin or resource adequacy requirements).

C. Renewable Energy

1. Support administrative/legislative actions that define hydropower generation as renewable energy irrespective of a facility's nameplate generating capacity and includes the provision of renewable energy credits for hydroelectric generation.
2. Work to ensure that administrative/legislative actions seeking to enhance or expand hydropower at existing dams do not adversely impact those dams, either financially or operationally, or entities with rights to the power from the existing resources that directly or indirectly impact Metropolitan's service area.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions to improve federal hydropower relicensing for existing facilities, including SWP resources.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the SWP and the CRA to incorporate renewable energy resources, such as pumped hydroelectric energy, that contribute to the state's climate goals without impacting the projects' primary purpose,

provided consideration is given to transmission limitations, cost and portfolio availability, and unrelated impacts are not shifted to SWP or CRA facilities.

D. Environmental Stewardship

1. Support administrative/legislative actions for environmental compliance that provide regulatory compliance flexibility, improve clarity and workability of the requirements, and promote consistency and reduce regulatory duplication, while protective of public health and the environment.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to facilitate other non-mitigation habitat restoration projects that benefit endangered and threatened species.
3. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for **research and partnerships on water science and data collection**, including snowpack and streamflow monitoring, **runoff**, drinking water quality, salinity control, source water protection, **soil moisture monitoring, healthy soils** and watershed research.
4. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding opportunities to help public water agencies update their portable, stationary, and mobile equipment fleets to help improve system reliability and resiliency in an environmentally responsible manner.

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

- A. Support administrative/legislative **actions to initiate, expedite and secure funding measures** to defray the costs of planning, financing, constructing, repairing, and rehabilitating water infrastructure projects, including but not limited to general obligation bonds, tax-exempt municipal bonds, **grants, and low-interest loans, and direct appropriations**. Ensure equitable cost-sharing of water infrastructure projects.
- B. Support administrative/legislative efforts to expand funding programs, streamline project approval and reporting processes, and prevent project backlogs in state and federal funding or financing.
- C. Support “beneficiaries pay” approach as financing mechanism for statewide projects and programs and oppose public goods charge, or other charges levied on water agencies for funding broader public benefits.
- D. Support funding for the public share of costs, including mitigation, rehabilitation, and recreation, for multi-purpose water infrastructure.

VII. System Resiliency – Metropolitan diligently maintains and significantly invests to safeguard a region-wide water supply system that is a cornerstone of Southern California’s \$1.6 trillion economy. Resiliency is about making sure the water supply system is strong, can return to service quickly, and is prepared to address future challenges.

A. Emergency Preparedness

1. Support administrative/legislative actions that assist the water industry prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, including earthquakes and wildfires, catastrophic accidents, and sabotage. These actions may include but are not limited to, actions to provide funding for emergency responses and planning and post-emergency restoration of service.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions to secure **and disburse** funding to help public water systems defray the costs associated with COVID-19 (e.g., loss of revenue, deferred infrastructure maintenance, personal protective equipment,

workplace health and safety improvements, and on-site testing) and for direct financial relief to low-income households facing substantial utility bill arrearages post COVID-19.

3. Support administrative/legislative actions that assist the water industry to address the effects of wildfires and power outages, including the impacts of public safety power shutoff events.
4. Support additional funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency programs to assist with emergency repairs and improvements, including but not limited to, dam safety, spillway improvements, and erosion control repairs.

B. Physical and Cyber Security

1. Support continued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversight of water system security ~~and coordinate with~~ **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 Chemical Security Analysis Center.** ~~(such as the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and Chemical Security Analysis Center) to identify and assess chemical threats and vulnerabilities.~~
2. Support administrative/legislative actions that would provide funding or reimbursement for 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. Support administrative/legislative actions that ensure Metropolitan's ability to reliably operate and maintain its facilities, infrastructure and real estate assets, including rights of way, and to protect against encroachment.

C. Chemical Security

1. Support administrative/legislative actions to improve supply chain reliability, achieve tax-exempt status for water treatment chemicals, and ensure access to water treatment chemicals.
2. Support administrative/legislative actions to ensure the continued use of gaseous chlorine to protect public health.

VIII. Innovation – Innovation is about continuing Metropolitan's long tradition of creatively solving difficult challenges.

- A. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for the research and development of new and emerging technologies such as satellite- and computer-based technologies to monitor source water quality, **ecosystem health, state- and federal-threatened and endangered fish species**; measure and predict agricultural water use, urban outdoor water use and reservoir evaporation; and expand coordination with technology incubators, research institutions, and other stakeholder groups.
- B. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding to 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.
- C. Support administrative/legislative actions ~~and~~, funding **and partnerships** to improve educational opportunities ~~in~~ the water sector, including career technical education and workforce development.

- D. Support administrative/legislative actions and funding that improve water system staff training and certification processes.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves legislative proposals that do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Public Resources Code Section 21065 and Section 15378(b)(1) of the State CEQA Guidelines). The proposed action is also not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves continuing administrative activities, such as general policy and procedure making (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Adopt the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024~~2~~.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Adoption of these legislative priorities and principles supports staff's ability to address matters in a timely fashion related to legislation in 2024~~2~~.

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 legislation in 2024~~2~~.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1

Sue Sims
External Affairs Manager

Date

Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

Date

**Attachment 1 – Redlined 1109~~8~~2020 Communication and Legislation Committee Item 7-
3:2021~~6a~~:2024 Legislative Priorities and Principles**

Attachment 2 – Table of Requested Changes



2022 Legislative Priorities & Principles

Communications and Legislation Committee

Item 7-6

November 8, 2021

Overview

- Process & Purpose
- Key Content Updates for 2022
 - Top Legislative Priorities and Metropolitan-Sponsored Legislation
 - Review of Strategic Policy Areas
- Next Steps

Process & Purpose

- Annual process
- Timely, relevant, topical
- Subject matter expert input
- Board guidance and direction
- Guides Metropolitan's advocacy
 - Advance Metropolitan-sponsored legislative initiatives
 - Engage on legislative/regulatory matters
 - Seek funding

Key Content Updates for 2022

- Nine MWD and regional priorities
- Two Metropolitan-sponsored bills
- Eight relevant policy areas

Top Legislative Priorities

1. Drought Response
2. Water infrastructure funding
3. Regional Recycled Water Program
4. Reliability of imported water supplies
5. Non-mitigation habitat restoration projects
6. COVID-19 relief funding and disbursement
7. Research and water science funding
8. Funding for PFAS monitoring/remediation
9. Tax exemptions/credits for water conservation and efficiency initiatives

MWD-sponsored State Bills

1. To create statewide program to identify and evaluation CECs in drinking water
2. To permit Metropolitan to use alternate project delivery methods for the RRWP and drought-related projects.

Strategic Policy Areas

- I. Drought Response
- II. Drinking Water
- III. Regional Water Resource Management
- IV. Imported Water Supply
- V. Climate Change and the Environment
- VI. Infrastructure
- VII. System Resiliency
- VIII. Innovation

Strategic Policy Areas

- I. Drought Response
- II. Drinking Water
 - A. Water Quality & Treatment
 - B. Water Governance & Funding
- III. Regional Water Resource Management
 - A – C: General principles
 - D – H: Conservation, Desal/Groundwater Remediation, Recycled Water, Stormwater Capture, Watershed Mgmt

Strategic Policy Areas

IV. Imported Water Supply

- A. Bay Delta Initiatives
- B. Colorado River Resources
- C. State Water Project

V. Climate Change and the Environment

- A. Climate Change Adaptation
- B. Water/Energy Nexus
- C. Renewable Energy
- D. Environmental Stewardship

Strategic Policy Areas

VI. Infrastructure

- A. Support for water infrastructure, including equitable cost-sharing
- B. Expand funding; streamline approval, reporting
- C. Support “beneficiary pays”
- D. Funding for public share of costs

VII. System Resiliency

- A. Emergency Preparedness
- B. Physical and Cyber Security
- C. Chemical Security

Strategic Policy Areas

VIII. Innovation

- A. Support R&D of new and emerging technologies
- B. Promote open water data platforms and sharing
- C. Improve educational opportunities and partnerships, (career technical education and workforce development)

Proposed new principle to support improving the certification process for water treatment and distribution operators

Options

- Option #1
 - Adopt the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2022
- Option #2
 - Take no action

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1





• **Board of Directors**
Communications and Legislation Committee

11/9/2021 Board Meeting

7-7

Subject

Approve Metropolitan's annual membership in the North American Transmission Forum and authorize a one-time payment of \$5,000 and annual dues payment of \$28,500; the General Manager determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

Metropolitan maintains corporate membership in numerous business and nonprofit organizations. These memberships provide Metropolitan access to various resources and programs to promote the successful performance of Metropolitan's mission. New memberships require board approval if annual dues are greater than \$10,000. The North American Transmission Forum (NATF) is a membership organization for entities that own and/or operate high-voltage electric transmission assets in the United States and Canada. Membership in the NATF will provide value to Metropolitan by supporting its operational and electrical reliability standards compliance efforts, as the owner and operator of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) electrical transmission system. Staff recommends Metropolitan join the NATF for a one-time application fee of \$5,000 and an annual fee of \$28,500.

Details

Metropolitan's Administrative Code Section 11102 authorizes each department head to join and maintain memberships in organizations whose purposes serve the interests of Metropolitan. New memberships must be brought to the Board for approval if annual dues are greater than \$10,000.

The NATF is a membership organization for entities that own and/or operate high-voltage electric transmission assets in the United States and Canada and is based in North Carolina. The NATF was established informally by a group of sixteen electric utilities following the 2003 Northeast blackout and was formally incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)(6) organization on January 1, 2010. The purpose of the NATF is to promote the safety, reliability, and resiliency of the high-voltage transmission system. As Metropolitan owns, maintains, and operates approximately 308 miles of high-voltage electric transmission lines which provide critical electric service to the CRA pumping plants, the NATF's goals pertain directly to Metropolitan's mission of providing reliable water service to its member agencies.

The NATF provides a strong focus on compliance with mandatory electric reliability standards, as prescribed in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and enforced by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). The NATF provides collaborative platforms, training and seminars, and opportunities for member organizations to participate in peer reviews, both as a subject of review and as a peer reviewer.

Metropolitan maintains corporate membership in numerous business and nonprofit organizations, which provide access to various resources and enables Metropolitan to help inform and engage various segments of the community on issues aligned with Metropolitan's mission. Metropolitan is currently undergoing a thorough review of its NERC compliance program, due to its ownership and operation of the CRA electric transmission system. NATF membership supports this effort by providing access to a library of relevant compliance materials, training, seminars, and the benefit of other members' experience in a setting with an

expectation of confidentiality. The NATF is a unique organization in this regard, and membership in the organization will provide services and support to Metropolitan's NERC compliance program and electrical transmission operations that no other current membership meets.

Staff recommends Metropolitan join NATF as a full participating member and authorize a one-time application fee of \$5,000 and annual dues payment of \$28,500.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11102: Payment of Dues

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

Funding for the proposed membership is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves government fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to a specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Public Resources Code Section 21065 and Section 15378 (b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061 (b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines). For future, and not yet known, proposed projects associated with this membership, the appropriate lead agencies will be responsible for complying with all applicable federal and state environmental laws and regulations.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Approve Metropolitan's annual membership in the NATF and authorize a one-time application fee of \$5,000 and annual dues payment of \$28,500.

Fiscal Impact: Funds in the amount of \$5,000 would be paid for a one-time application fee, and \$28,500 annually would be paid for membership in the NATF. The funds are budgeted in the FY 2021/22 board-approved budget.

Business Analysis: Membership in the NATF advances Metropolitan's purposes and interests by supporting Metropolitan's NERC compliance program and operation of the Colorado River Aqueduct electrical transmission system.

Option #2

Do not approve Metropolitan's membership in the NATF.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Metropolitan will forego the opportunity to participate in a unique organization that would provide support for Metropolitan's NERC compliance program and operation of the Colorado River Aqueduct electrical transmission system.


Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Brent Yamagaki
Water System Operations Group Manager

10/26/2021
Date



Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

10/27/2021
Date

Ref# wso12682950



Approve Membership in North American Transmission Forum (NATF)

Communications and Legislation Committee

Item 7-7

November 8, 2021

Current Action

- Approve Metropolitan's annual membership in the North American Transmission Forum and authorize a one-time membership fee of \$5,000 and annual dues payment of \$28,500

What's the North American Transmission Forum?



- Promotes reliability and resiliency
- Founded in 2010
- Over 89 Public and Private Members representing more than 80% of North American electric load

CRA Transmission System



Drivers & Benefits of NATF Membership

- Metropolitan is now responsible for its compliance with NERC standards since the expiration of the SCE service interchange agreement in 2017
- NERC reliability standards compliance is mandatory for Metropolitan's transmission and generation assets
- Ability to exchange best practices, data, and collaborate across electric utilities in North America
- Mock audits from different NATF participants preparing for NERC Audits & upcoming standards
- Access to library of compliance material

NATF Membership Requirements

- One-time membership fee of \$5,000 and annual dues of \$28,500
- Active participation as a full voting member at quarterly meetings
- Participating members shall carefully manage the information shared to protect Metropolitan and other NATF members and meet our reporting requirements under California state law

Board Options

- Option #1

- Approve Metropolitan's annual membership in the North American Transmission Forum
- Authorize a one-time membership fee of \$5,000
- Authorize annual dues of \$28,500

- Option #2

- Do not proceed with the membership at this time

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1





Outreach for the Regional Recycled Water Program

Communications and Legislation Committee

Item #6a

November 8, 2021

Outreach Aligns with Program Progress



Advanced Purification Center

Core of outreach to date



Learning Center



Exhibits



Events



Group and Public Tours



School Tours



Virtual Tours

Additional Early and Ongoing Activities

Digital Tools

- Website
- Social Media
- Videos



Additional Early and Ongoing Activities

Presentations

- Conferences
- Directors/Member Agencies
- Technical Audiences
- Civic and Community Groups



Additional Early and Ongoing Activities

Print Materials

- Brochures
- Fact Sheets
- News/Press

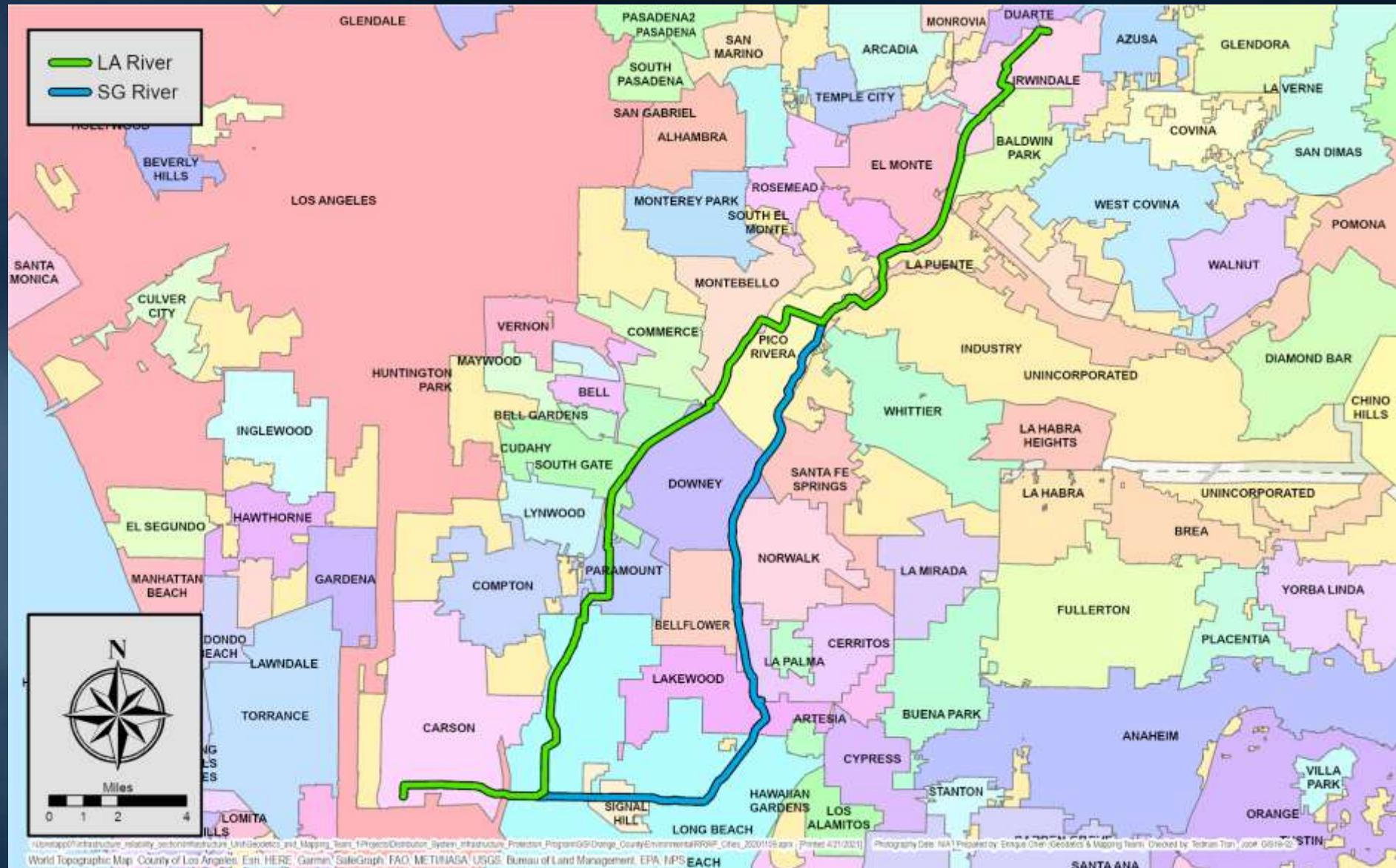


Environmental Planning Phase Outreach Goals

- Raise awareness of program and new water supply
- Reach out to communities affected by project



RRWP Conveyance System Potential Alignments



Outreach Charter

What words describe our team culture?



REGIONAL RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM OUTREACH TEAM CHARTER

JULY 2021

1. OUR OUTREACH MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to conduct extensive outreach to communities that may receive the new purified recycled water and/or be impacted by construction of the Regional Recycled Water Program, inform them of the program, respectfully seek their input, and build trust and positive relationships along the way. Our efforts will be broad and inclusive, encompassing diverse audiences and ensuring all communities have access to program information and involvement opportunities.

2. OUR VISION FOR SUCCESS

- A dedicated, collaborative, multi-disciplinary project team
- Provision of accurate, easy-to-understand information about the project
- An effective response team to address misinformation
- On-time delivery of project elements
- Confidence from member agencies
- Meet project objectives
- Broad stakeholder, community and project partner awareness

3. OUR TEAM VALUES

EQUITY **EMPATHY**
AUTHENTIC **TRANSPARENT**
RESPECT **PATIENCE** **INCLUSIVE**
PROACTIVE **LISTENING**

4. OUR COMMITMENT

We commit to the implementation of this charter and to continuous improvement as a team for the success of the Regional Recycled Water Project.

We commit to a collaborative environment that fosters effective communication with respect and transparency.

We commit to performing our duties with inclusivity and openness to garner trust and understanding, and to working nimbly to accommodate changing perceptions and project phases.

We commit to working internally with all internal stakeholders to overcome challenges, celebrate milestones and encourage each other.

We commit to fostering innovation and creativity, and to being forward-thinking and open to new ideas.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community outreach program is both a goal and an integral part of carrying out our mission. We will engage with vulnerable communities to listen, communicate transparently, and involve residents and stakeholders impacted by the Regional Recycled Water Project.

Outreach to Spanish-Speaking Audiences



"Es esencial que la comunidad hispana participen en las fases de planificación del programa para dar forma al futuro de los suministros de agua del sur de California."

IRMA MUÑOZ, PRESIDENTE MUJERES D

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California was live.
April 29 at 4:58 PM · 🌐

ACOMPÁÑENOS PARA UN RECORRIDO VIRTUAL: Thursday, Apr. 29 at 5 pm. Aprenda sobre esta instalación de demostración de última generación y cómo podría proporcionar una nueva fuente local de agua para el Sur de California.

PASO 2: ÓSMOSIS INVERSA

429 Views

Like Comment Share

Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center

INTRODUCCIÓN CÓMO FUNCIONA PROCESO BENEFICIOS ESTRATEGIA HITOS RECORRIDOS RECURSOS ALIANZA

English

Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center

UNA NUEVA FUENTE DE AGUA PARA EL SUR DE CALIFORNIA

El agua es demasiado valiosa para usarla una sola vez. Así que el Metropolitan Water District of Southern California está haciendo una inversión importante en un proyecto potencial de reciclaje de agua que reutilizará el agua que, hasta el momento, se desecha al océano.

Regístrese para recibir actualizaciones por correo electrónico

UNA NUEVA FUENTE DE AGUA PARA EL SUR DE CALIFORNIA

Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center

El agua es demasiado valiosa para usarla una sola vez. Así que el Metropolitan Water District of Southern California está haciendo una inversión importante en un proyecto potencial de reciclaje de agua que reutilizará el agua que, hasta el momento, se desecha al océano.

Tomé un recorrido virtual en vivo por el Centro Regional Avanzado de Purificación de Agua Reciclada

Regístrese en MWDh2o.com/AguaReciclada

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Expanding Our Reach



Member
Agency
Outreach
Working
Group



Engage
Stakeholders



Meet People
Where They
Are

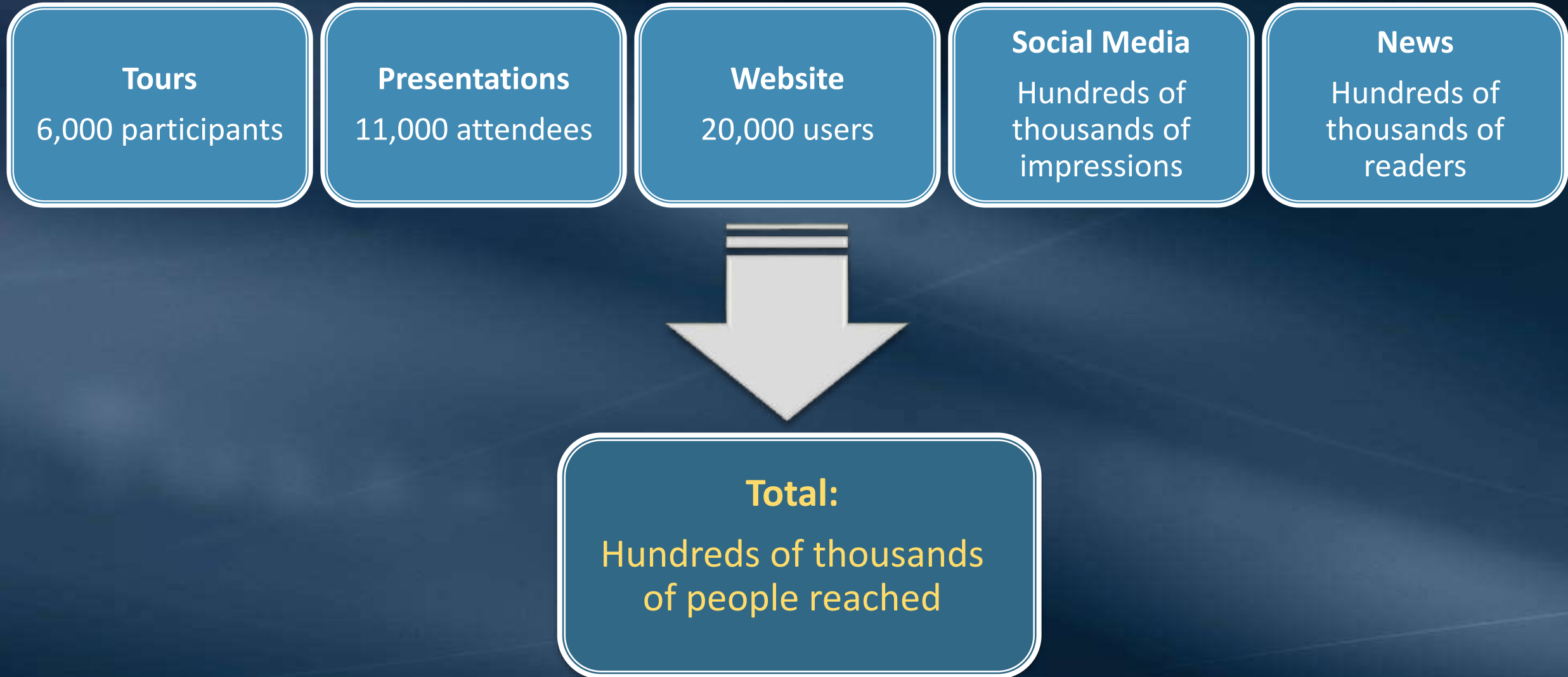


CEQA
Outreach and
Support



New Program
Name

Measuring Our Effectiveness







Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Communications and Legislation Committee

Item 6b

November 8, 2021

Bill Update

Appropriations

- CR until Dec. 3
- No Senate agreement on funding levels

Infrastructure Bill

- Passed Senate August 10
- \$550B in direct spending for the next 5 years

Build Back Better Act

- \$1.5T-2T package
- No agreement on bill text

WOW Hearing: Colorado River Drought Conditions and Response Measures



Chairman Jared Huffman (D-CA)



General Manager Adel Hagekhalil

Nominations Update



Camille Touton
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Department of Interior



Mike Conner
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)
U.S. Department of the Army





Report on Activities from Sacramento

Communication and Legislation Committee

Item #6c

November 8, 2021

2022 Legislative Calendar

- Jan. 3 Legislature reconvenes
- Jan. 10 Budget submitted by Governor
- Jan. 14 Policy committee deadline to hear two-year bills and report to fiscal committee
- Jan. 21 Policy committee deadline to hear and report two-year bills to the floor
- Jan. 31 Deadline to pass two-year bills
- Feb. 18 New bill introduction deadline

Preview 2022 Legislative Issues



Conservation



Affordability



Water Quality

Preview of 2022 Legislative Issues



**State Water
Project**



Water Supply



**Climate Change/
Renewable Energy**

Preview of 2022 Legislative Issues



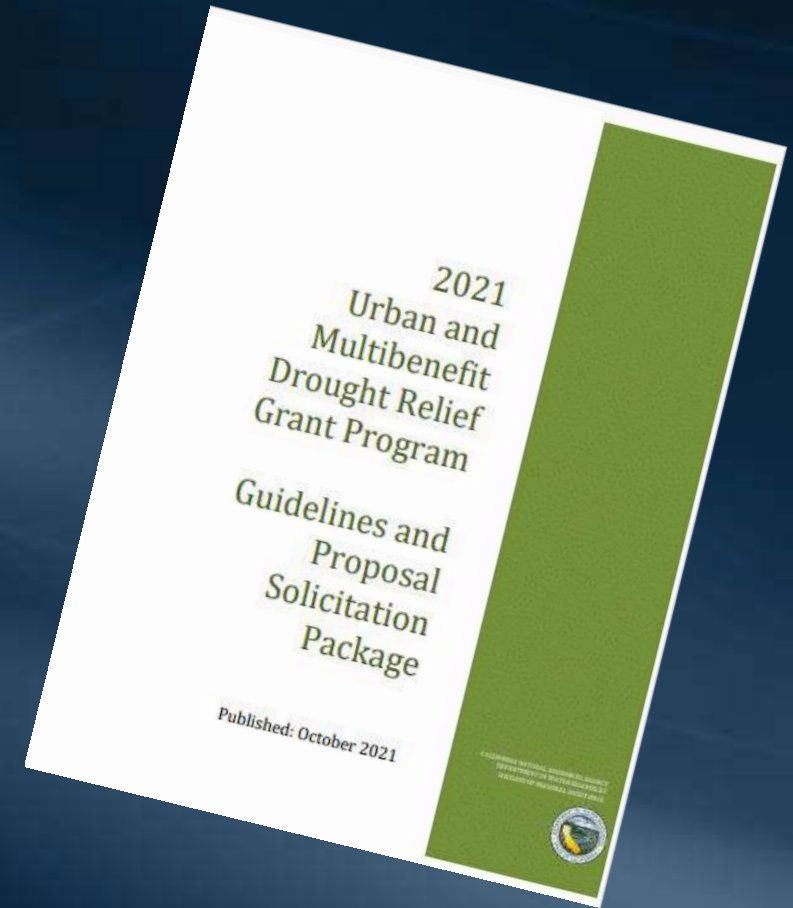
Governance



State Audit

DWR Urban Water Management Grants

- Budget bill allocated \$300 million to DWR for immediate urban drought relief
 - First solicitation makes \$190 M in funding available
 - Set-aside \$50 M to support underrepresented communities and Native American Tribes
 - Metropolitan and member agencies can apply.
 - Demand management and groundwater recharge are now eligible project types
 - November 19 application due date for first solicitation







External Affairs Management Report

Communications and Legislation Committee

Item #7a

November 8, 2021

Water Conservation Advertising

Presentation to DEI Council on November 3

- Current ads - graphics, videos and radio placements
- Ethnic media strategies
- Link with all assets, invited feedback
- Positive response to campaign, suggestions for expanding our outreach with additional languages and visuals



Water Conservation Advertising

- Full page ads in LA Times, San Diego Union-Tribune and Southern California News Group papers
 - OC Register, Press Enterprise, The Sun, Bulletin, Facts, SGVN, Whittier, Pasadena Star, LA Daily News, Long Beach Press Telegram, Torrance Daily Breeze
- San Diego Union Tribune en Español and Los Angeles Times en Español
- Excelsior newspapers: Excelsior LA, Exelsior OC, Exelsior Inland Empire-La Prensa



Awards

- Winner - Public Relations Society of America, LA Chapter
 - Series of 'Wasting Water Is' video series
- Finalist – Nationwide PR News Awards for Advertising Success on a “Shoestring Budget”
 - Meet your California Friendly® Neighbors social media



