



**C&L Committee**

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

**Communications and Legislation  
Committee**

Meeting with Board of Directors \*

**February 7, 2022**

**2:00 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](http://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, February 7, 2022  
Meeting Schedule**

08:30 a.m. - F&I  
10:30 a.m. - E&O  
12:00 p.m. - Break  
12:30 p.m. - WP&S  
02:00 p.m. - C&L

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

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

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

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communications and Legislation Committee held January 10, 2022

[21-858](#)

**Attachments:** [02072022 CL 2A minutes.pdf](#)

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION**

- 7-6** Approve Metropolitan's annual memberships in the National Water Research Institute and authorize dues of \$50,000, and the Council for Environmental and Economic Balance's Air Project and the Climate Change Project and authorize dues payments of \$30,500 and \$34,000, respectively; the General Manager determined that the proposed action is exempt from or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-804](#)

**Attachments:** [02082022 CL 7-6 B-L .pdf](#)  
[02082022 CL 7-6 Presentation.pdf](#)

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

**4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION**

NONE

**5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

NONE

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Report on activities from Washington, D.C. [21-842](#)

**Attachments:** [02072022 CL 6a Presentation.pdf](#)

- b. Report on activities from Sacramento [21-843](#)

**Attachments:** [02072022 CL 6b Presentation.pdf](#)

**7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a. External Affairs Management's Report [21-844](#)

**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**

**January 10, 2022**

Chair Cordero called the teleconference meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Members present: Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Kurtz (entered after roll call), Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Erdman, Morris, Peterson, Quinn, Record, and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Luna and Repenning.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray, Directors Atwater, Blois, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Dick, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Jung, Lefevre, McCoy, Miller, Pressman, 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**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

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

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None.

Vice Chair Kurtz entered the meeting.

Director Kurtz made a motion, seconded by Director Record to approve item 2A.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Cordero, Erdman, Kurtz, Morris, Peterson, Quinn, Record, and Smith.  
Noes: None  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: Directors Luna and Repenning

The motion passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 2 absent.

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

#### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

#### **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

#### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

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

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider reported on activities from Washington, D.C. including a legislative update, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act implementation, and announced the retirements of Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-47) and Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-40).

b. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento.

Presented by: Kathy Viatella, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Viatella reported on activities from Sacramento including an update on the changes to committee leadership positions and redistricting, legislative calendar, state budget, and other legislative priorities including office space change due to construction at the Capitol and COVID.

#### **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

a. Subject: External Affairs Management Report

Presented by: Sue Sims, External Affairs Group Manager

Ms. Sims provided an update on Metropolitan's current and planned water conservation and climate-resiliency messaging and outreach strategy, which consisted of paid and earned advertising, research and message testing, and coordination activities to support member agencies. Staff will propose a three-year media buying contract for board consideration at a future meeting.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Quinn
3. Cordero

## **8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

Next meeting will be held on February 7, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Gloria Cordero  
Chair



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

2/8/2022 Board Meeting

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**7-6**

**Subject**

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Approve Metropolitan's annual memberships in the National Water Research Institute and authorize dues of \$50,000, and the Council for Environmental and Economic Balance's Air Project and the Climate Change Project and authorize dues payments of \$30,500 and \$34,000, respectively; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to

**Executive Summary**

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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 National Water Research Institute (NWRI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that collaborates with water utilities, regulators, and researchers to advance scientific and technical knowledge around drinking water resources and water management best practices. Membership in NWRI helps keep Metropolitan on the leading edge of the field of water and water utilities. Staff recommends approval of membership in the NWRI and authorization of annual dues payment of \$50,000. The California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB) is a coalition of business, labor, and public agency leaders working together to advance strategies to achieve a sound economy and a healthy environment. This action would expand Metropolitan's involvement with CCEEB and provide value to Metropolitan by supporting environmental stewardship efforts and implementation of the proposed Climate Action Plan. Staff recommends Metropolitan join CCEEB's Air Project and Climate Change Project with annual dues payments of \$30,500 and \$34,000, respectively.

**Details**

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**Background**

Metropolitan maintains corporate membership in numerous organizations which provides access to various resources and enables Metropolitan to stay informed and engage on issues aligned with Metropolitan's mission. 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.

NWRI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that collaborates with water utilities, regulators, and researchers to advance scientific and technical knowledge around drinking water resources, develop recommendations that support investment in water infrastructure and public health, and enable water resource management decisions grounded in science and best practices. By partnering with multiple funders, NWRI is able to leverage resources to develop and independently review the latest information in the field, and its areas of focus have practical applications for Metropolitan, such as water recycling, treatment technologies, water efficiency, and more. As a member of NWRI, Metropolitan is offered a seat on the NWRI Board of Directors and is able to directly access the latest information in NWRI's research. Metropolitan currently participates in technical panels convened by NWRI, and in the event that Metropolitan would co-sponsor specific scientific projects of interest to its projects or objectives, it would benefit from the member rate. While NWRI engages in national projects and accesses expertise internationally, it is well-grounded in Southern California, including through the participation as members of a number of Metropolitan member agencies.

Staff recommends approval of membership in the NWRI and authorization of annual dues payment of \$50,000.

CCEEB is an organization founded by Governor Edmund G. Brown in 1973 to bring together the perspectives of business, labor, and public leaders in pursuit of balanced and effective policy solutions. CCEEB focuses on a wide range of environmental concerns facing California, including air quality, climate change, water quality, hazardous waste management, transportation, energy, and land use. Currently, CCEEB manages three statewide projects, two regional air quality projects, and three statewide task forces to address these various issues. Metropolitan is currently a member of CCEEB's Natural Resources Task Force; South Coast Air Project; and Water, Chemistry, and Waste Project. Total annual dues for these memberships are \$74,000 (\$7,500 – general dues; \$10,000 – Natural Resources Task Force; \$27,500 – South Coast Air Project; and \$29,000 – Water, Chemistry, and Waste Project).

Metropolitan's participation in CCEEB's Air Project and Climate Change Project would help address current and upcoming regulatory and legislative challenges with regards to air quality, climate, and energy-related issues. Most notably, both the Air and Climate Change projects will support implementation of Metropolitan's proposed Climate Action Plan. CCEEB's Air and Climate Change projects are heavily involved in shaping Governor Newsom's policy objectives for electrification and the California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) upcoming 2022 Assembly Bill 32 Scoping Plan Update. The Air Project engages in issues surrounding CARB's Advanced Clean Truck Rule, 2020 Mobile Source Strategy, and funding and incentives for vehicle transition to zero-emission vehicles. The Climate Change Project addresses water-energy nexus issues, short-lived climate pollutants, permit streamlining for renewable energy resources, and regulatory consistency for CARB's Cap and Trade Program. Initiatives associated with both projects are interlinked and directly impact Metropolitan's daily operations, future initiatives, and environmental stewardship efforts.

Staff recommends approval of membership with CCEEB's Air Project and Climate Change Project and authorization of annual dues payments of \$30,500 and \$34,000, respectively.

## Policy

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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)

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### CEQA determination for Option #1:

Funding of the proposed memberships 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

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### Option #1

Approve Metropolitan's annual membership in the NWRI and authorize annual dues of \$50,000, and approve Metropolitan's annual membership in CCEEB's Air Project and Climate Change Project and authorize annual dues payments of \$30,500 and \$34,000, respectively.

**Fiscal Impact:** Funds for the Climate Change Project in the amount of \$34,000 would be paid from funds budgeted in the FY 2021/22 board-approved budget. Funds for the Air Project in the amount of \$30,500 are budgeted in the upcoming FY 2022/23 budget.



**Business Analysis:** Membership in NWRI helps keep Metropolitan on the leading edge of scientific and technical developments and best practices in the field of water and water utilities. Membership in CCEEB advances Metropolitan's purposes and interests by supporting Metropolitan's environmental stewardship efforts and the proposed Climate Action Plan.

**Option #2**

Do not approve Metropolitan's membership in the NWRI and CCEEB's Air Project and Climate Change Project.

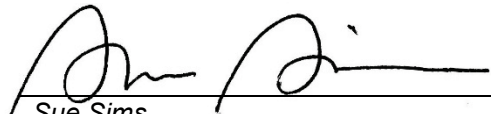
**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Business Analysis:** This option would forego member-level participation in research programs of, and a board seat on, the National Water Research Institute; and would forego the opportunity to participate in a leading organization that would provide support for Metropolitan's environmental stewardship efforts and the proposed Climate Action Plan.

**Staff Recommendation**

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**Option #1**

  
Sue Sims  
External Affairs Manager  
2/1/2022  
Date

  
Adel Hagekhalil  
General Manager  
2/2/2022  
Date

Ref# cao12686945



Approve annual memberships for the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) and California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance's (CCEEB's) Air and Climate Change Projects

Communication and Legislation Committee

Item # 7-6

February 7, 2022

# Proposed Action

- Approve membership with NWRI and authorize annual dues payment of \$50,000
- Approve membership with CCEEB's Air Project and Climate Change Project and authorize annual dues payments of \$30,500 and \$34,000, respectively



# NWRI and CCEEB

- NWRI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that collaborates with water utilities, regulators, and researchers to help develop new, healthy sources of drinking water
- CCEEB advocates for policies that improve the environment and protect public health while maintaining a strong and competitive economy

# Addressing Water Reuse

- Examples of NWRI's Expert Panels
  - Advanced Purification Center Demonstration Project (Metropolitan)
  - Direct Potable Reuse (WaterReuse Association)
  - Groundwater Replenishment Project (LADWP)
  - Groundwater Replenishment System (OCWD)
  - Optimizing Source Control in Support of Direct Potable Reuse (SWRCB)
  - Pure Water San Diego (City of San Diego)
  - Regional Indirect Potable Reuse Water Recycling Project (Valley Water)

# Addressing Climate Change

- CCEEB's Air Project
  - Advanced Clean Truck Rule
  - 2020 Mobile Source Strategy, and
  - Funding and incentives for vehicle transition to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs)
- CCEEB's Climate Change Project
  - Water-energy nexus issues
  - Short-lived climate pollutants
  - Renewable energy resources, and
  - Cap and Trade Program



# Benefits of Membership

- Greater advocacy on issues that impact Metropolitan's daily operations, future initiatives, and environmental stewardship efforts
  - Climate change
  - Water reuse
- Expert analysis
- Increased coordination between stakeholders

# Action

- Option #1

- Approve Metropolitan's annual membership in NWRI and authorize annual dues of \$50,000, and approve Metropolitan's annual membership in CCEEB's Air Project and Climate Change Project and authorize annual dues payments of \$30,500 and \$34,000, respectively

- Option #2

- Do not approve Metropolitan's membership in NWRI and CCEEB's Air and Climate Change Projects



# Staff Recommends

- Option #1





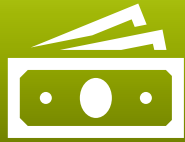
# Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Communications and Legislation Committee

Item #6a

February 7, 2022

# Legislative Update



Appropriation – continuing  
resolution until Feb 18



Build Back Better Act - TBD



# Water Resources and Development Act 2022



The Honorable Michael Connor  
Assistant Secretary, Army for Civil Works  
Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers



Lieutenant General Scott Spellmon  
Chief of Engineers and Commanding General  
United States Army Corps of Engineers

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Implementation

| Reclamation Program                            | 2022 Funding Amount |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Title XVI Water Recycling Projects             | \$245 M             |
| Water Storage and Conveyance                   | \$210 M             |
| Desalination                                   | \$15 M              |
| Dam Safety                                     | \$100 M             |
| WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants  | \$160 M             |
| Lower Colorado River Drought Contingency Plans | \$50 M              |
| Undesignated, TBD                              | \$281 M             |

# IJA: Build America/Buy America



- Requires the use of American produced iron and steel, construction material and manufactured products
- Applies to all water projects that receive federal funding
  - Reclamation's Title XVI program
  - EPA's SRF and WIFIA program
- Water sector advocating for a general waiver

# Cybersecurity

- *Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Initiative – Water and Wastewater Sector Action Plan*
  - Pilot projects to deploy cybersecurity monitoring tools and share threat information with the government
  - Results be used to craft federal guidance and training.









# Report on Activities from Sacramento

Communications and Legislation Committee

Item #6b

February 7, 2022

# Legislative Calendar

- February 18 – bill introduction deadline
- April 7 – 18 Spring recess
- April 29 – last day for policy committees to hear and pass fiscal bills to fiscal committees
- May 6 – last day for policy committees to hear and report non-fiscal bills to the floor
- May 23-27 – Floor session only

# 2022-23 Proposed Budget

- \$286.5 B proposed spending plan
  - \$213.1 B General Fund
- \$45.7 billion projected budget surplus
  - \$20.6 million discretionary
- Priorities:
  - Fighting COVID
  - Combatting climate change
  - Confronting homelessness
  - Tackling cost of living
  - Keeping our streets safe

The logo for 'The California Blueprint' is displayed on a solid blue rectangular background. The text 'THE CALIFORNIA' is in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, positioned above the word 'BLUEPRINT', which is also in white, uppercase, sans-serif font but larger and bolder. Two thin orange horizontal lines are positioned above and below the text, framing it.

**THE CALIFORNIA  
BLUEPRINT**

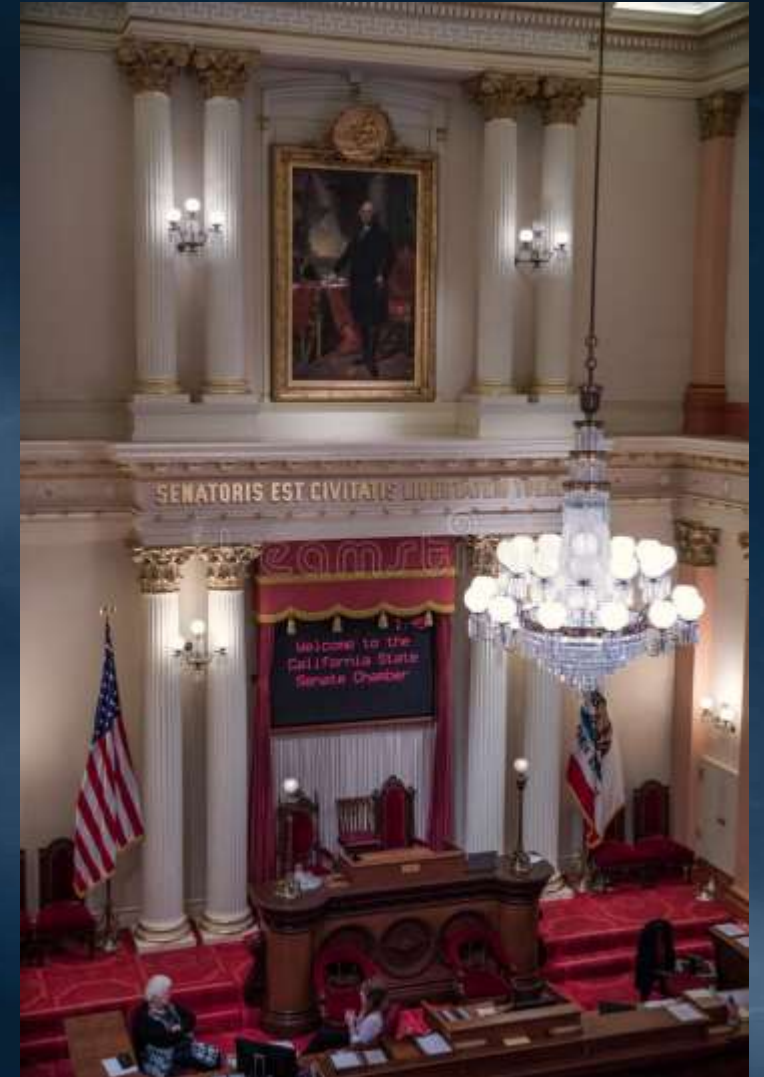


# Drought & Water Resilience Highlights, 2022-23

- \$1.63 B (\$880 M promised 2021-22 and \$750 M new) for:
  - Urban and small community conservation
  - Groundwater clean up and recycling
  - PFAS contamination assistance
  - Conveyance repairs
  - SGMA implementation
  - Immediate drought response

# Key Legislation

- State Legislative Matrix Updated
- Monitor
  - SB 222 (Dodd, D-Napa) – Low-income Water Rate Assistance Program
  - SB 480 (Stern, D-Los Angeles) – Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
  - SB 832 (Dodd, D-Napa) – Water rights: measurement





# Legislature

- Five vacancies
- 21 members resigned or announced plan not to run for reelection
- Special Elections

