



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

May 1, 2023

The Honorable Susan Eggman
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8530
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 687 (Eggman): Water Quality Control Plan: Delta Conveyance Project –
OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Eggman:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), I am writing to respectfully express our agency's opposition to SB 687.

Metropolitan recognizes the importance of updating the Bay-Delta Plan and we support its timely adoption and implementation. Ensuring there are appropriate water quality control measures and flow requirements to protect beneficial uses in the watershed is essential. However, this bill goes beyond protecting the Bay-Delta watershed and would impede California's ability to advance improvements to its State Water Project including the Delta Conveyance Project, which is identified in Governor Newsom's Climate Resilience Portfolio as a key component of a more climate-resilient water system and vitally important to water supply equity and reliability for millions of Californians.

Metropolitan is the primary wholesaler for the Southern California region and provides water supplies to support approximately 19 million residents within our six-county service area. Together with our member and retail water agencies, we have invested billions of dollars over the past several decades to strengthen and develop a broad array of new supplies to help meet water sustainability and climate resiliency. Even with these investments, climate change continues to threaten every water source across the West and produce volatile conditions, from extreme droughts to floods. We have a responsibility to adapt to this change by capturing and storing water when it is available to protect our communities and the environment, and to provide the ability to beneficially use that stored water when conditions are dry.

SB 687 directly links advancement of the proposed DCP to the adoption and full implementation of the Bay-Delta Plan. The requirement for the Plan to be fully implemented is ambiguous, conflicts with other statutory and regulatory requirements, and is unnecessary. Work on both the Plan and DCP can - and should - proceed simultaneously to help us meet the unprecedented challenges facing our aging water systems, protect our environment, and secure greater water reliability for Californians.

As an agency committed to addressing the challenges of climate change and a responsible manager of the state's water resources, Metropolitan must respectfully oppose SB 687. If you have any further questions, please contact Metropolitan's Executive Legislative Representative, Jay Jefferson II, at jjeffersonii@mwdh2o.com or (916) 538-4663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adel Hagekhalil', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Cc: Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee