



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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METROPOLITAN BOARD CHAIRMAN RESPONDS TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S NEW WEBSITE

John V. Foley, chairman of Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors, issues the following statement regarding the San Diego County Water Authority's new "MWD Facts" website:

"Southern California's water needs require cooperation among cities and communities throughout the region because of the importance of imported supplies, which account for about 50 percent of the Southland's water. Working with its 26 member public agencies, Metropolitan helps manage the region's water resources and improve the reliability and quality of imported supplies, while also promoting effective water conservation and efficiencies throughout the region.

"As Southern California's primary water importer, Metropolitan operates and maintains one of the most comprehensive water systems in the world. This system serves the region's diverse demands and is the backbone of its \$1 trillion economy.

"Metropolitan's strength has always been its ability to serve diverse communities through a complex water delivery system that puts a priority on water reliability and quality. Metropolitan meets this responsibility by making prudent and strategic long-term investments that ensure safe, clean and reliable water for its six-county service area.

"By providing a unified voice on water issues in Southern California, Metropolitan plays an essential role in working with its member agencies, other water districts and the many state and federal agencies that deal with water supply and quality issues.

"Metropolitan is committed to open and transparent public forums and discussions, during which water-related issues and interests can be heard and addressed. Over the years, this input has allowed Metropolitan, working with its member agencies, to create innovative solutions that benefit the entire region. At times, member agencies like the San Diego County Water Authority have aired policy differences. Most member agencies, however, agree that negotiation and collaboration are essential to reach successful solutions. Metropolitan remains committed to this open and transparent discussion and decision-making process. This ensures that the needs of all Southern California—not just local or narrow interests—are addressed.

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“It is regrettable that San Diego County Water Authority is using ratepayer money to engage in political gamesmanship and questionable tactics outside of the deliberative process where all member agencies attempt to work collaboratively to resolve differences.”

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving nearly 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.