



*Sacramento Legislative Office*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Autumn Burke, Chair  
Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 167A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 952 (Nielsen): Sales and use taxes: exemption: backup electrical resources: deenergization events -  
**SUPPORT – As Amended May 29**

Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee

Dear Assembly Member Burke:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), I am pleased to support SB 952 that would provide a sales and use tax exemption for backup electrical generators during a planned deenergization event.

Last year, investor-owned utilities started implementing public safety power shutoffs to minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfires. In order to prepare for these events, and other natural disasters, Metropolitan and our 26 member agencies, who provide water to 19 million residents in Southern California, maintain and operate backup electrical generators to pump and treat water to meet public health and safety standards and maintain system pressure.

California's fire season extends almost through the entire year due to climate change creating challenges for our communities to provide essential services. Senate Bill 952 will address this problem by defraying the cost of purchasing backup generators and help water agencies and other essential service providers prepare for future planned power outages.

We thank you for your consideration of our position and respectfully request an Aye vote on the bill. If you have questions, please contact me at (916) 650-2614 or [kviatella@mwdh2o.com](mailto:kviatella@mwdh2o.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn C. Viatella".

Kathryn C. Viatella  
Executive Legislative Representative

cc: Senator Jim Nielsen  
Members of the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee  
M. David Ruff, Chief Consultant, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee  
Julia King, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus