Metropolitan
Today & Tomorrow

July 2017

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Why California WaterFix is Important

About 30 percent of the water that flows out of taps in Southern California comes from Northern California.

1. PROVIDES WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY
   - 25 million people, including nearly 19 million in Southern California, depend on these reliable water supplies.

2. MAINTAINS COST-EFFECTIVE SOURCE
   - About half the cost of large-scale local projects.

3. REDUCES CONFLICTS WITH THE ENVIRONMENT
   - Provides habitat restoration and protection for fish and wildlife.

4. ADDRESSES EARTHQUAKE RISK AND CLIMATE CHANGE
   - Safeguards against vulnerabilities that threaten water reliability.

How The Project Will Work

- 3 new intakes, each with 3,000-cubic-feet-per-second (cfs) capacity
- 2 tunnels up to 150' below ground designed to protect California's water supplies
Why We Need a Delta Solution
Modernizing and improving the State Water Project system is essential for our region. About 30 percent of the water that flows out of taps in Southern California homes and businesses comes from Northern California watersheds and flows through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. But the Delta’s declining ecosystem and 1,100 miles of levees are increasingly vulnerable to earthquakes, flooding, saltwater intrusion and climate change.

California WaterFix is the comprehensive plan that has been developed over the past 10 years to ensure our state has a reliable water supply for many years to come. This water supply remains one of our most cost-effective sources, even with this major new investment. Southern California will be able to meet new demands on our water supply through increased development of local supplies and conservation, provided we maintain our State Water Project imported supplies. These resources are all important ingredients for future supply reliability.

All of the Above Strategy
Metropolitan and its 26 member agencies are committed to meeting the water needs of Southern California’s homes and businesses by maintaining and stabilizing existing resources, along with developing more conservation and new local supplies. Modernizing the state’s water system in the Delta is a key part of this “All of the Above” strategy.

It all comes down to reliability and meeting demand. Metropolitan needs to maintain imported supplies from Northern California and the Colorado River, and when there is surplus available, store it in reservoirs and groundwater basins for future use. Conservation continues to be essential, in part because lowering water demand increases the amount of water that is available for storage.

Developing local supplies helps offset imported supply limitations, avoid system costs and meet the demands of our growing population. Finally, Metropolitan invests in innovation in areas like recycled water, desalination, groundwater cleanup and stormwater capture so we have one foot in the future while maintaining reliability today.

Next Steps
In the coming months, Metropolitan and its member agencies will carefully review the benefits of the proposed project before making an historic investment decision. In a series of meetings that are open to the public and will be webcast from our downtown Los Angeles Union Station headquarters, we will examine the proposed financing and operations of this system. Here is the current proposed schedule for board presentations and discussions:

- July 10 – Infrastructure
- July 25 – Operations
- August 14 – Finance/Cost Allocation
- August 22* – Metropolitan Board Workshop
- September 12* – Vote by Metropolitan Board on California WaterFix

*Tentative. If additional board review time is needed, this schedule will be adjusted.

White papers, presentations and companion fact sheets are being prepared for each of the meetings and will be available on Metropolitan’s website through our MWDWaterTomorrow.com portal.

If you and your constituents have questions about water, Metropolitan stands ready to provide answers, share information or conduct briefings to better educate your community about our shared challenges.

*Schedule subject to change, please check mwdh2o.com for updated information
Looking Forward

**TOP PRIORITIES**

**Refilling Storage**
Thanks to a record wet year, Metropolitan will put more water back into our local reservoirs and other storage than in any single previous year, including filling our Diamond Valley Lake in southwest Riverside County. This will help prepare us for future droughts and dry cycles. Investments since 1990 have increased our storage capacity across the region by 13 times.

**Local Supplies**
Southern California continues to work together to diversify the region’s water portfolio and meet the future demands of the area’s growing economy and ensure supply reliability in the face of climate change impacts. Metropolitan also is working with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts on a proposed water recycling project that could be one of the largest in the world.

**Conservation**
To make conservation a way of life, Metropolitan and its member agencies funded the nation’s largest turf removal and water conservation program. While the turf removal program has ended, many other rebates for water-efficient appliances and irrigation systems are available at bewaterwise.com. The site also offers helpful information about online conservation classes, water-saving tips and resources.

**Colorado River**
For more than 75 years, Metropolitan has delivered reliable and essential water supplies from the Colorado River. Metropolitan invests in innovative conservation and water transfer programs with farmers in the Imperial and Palo Verde valleys. Currently, Metropolitan and other agencies in the United States and Mexico are working to create unique agreements to better manage the river and balance future competing needs.

The ethic that motivated the creation of Metropolitan was based on leadership and shared ambition. It brought Colorado River water to the Southland 75 years ago in the name of the common good and continues to inspire Metropolitan as it adapts to ever-changing circumstances. The mission remains the same – to provide high-quality water and regional benefits to meet future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way. This underscores Metropolitan’s proud legacy and defining principles for a vision that benefits Southern California far into the future.

“Southern California is at a crossroads when it comes to our water. We have big challenges ahead. But Metropolitan is working with its member agencies to develop projects, sustainability initiatives and innovative programs to ensure we have a reliable water supply for generations to come.”

Chairman Randy Record
Metropolitan Board of Directors

**ABOUT METROPOLITAN**
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is the Southland’s water provider for a six-county region with a population of 19 million. From the Colorado River Aqueduct, to sustainable water recycling and groundwater replenishment, to today’s investments in innovation and conservation - Metropolitan thinks ahead.