Board-Adopted Priorities for 2020

- Support legislative reauthorization and extension of the CALFED Program to continue federal funding of scientific research and habitat restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

- Maintain funding for water science and data collection, including streamflow monitoring, water quality, salinity control, source protection, and ecosystem research

- Secure funding/financing for water infrastructure, efficiency, and restoration projects

- Support actions to initiate, expedite, and secure funding for the Regional Recycled Water Program and related projects

- Support tax exemptions for water conservation or efficiency incentives for measures including, but not limited to, turf removal, local stormwater capture (e.g., rain barrels, cisterns), and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape

- Support administrative/legislative actions to secure funding to help public water systems defray the cost of monitoring and/or remediation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water supplies, including “polluter pay” provisions that allow for full cost-recovery by drinking water and wastewater providers

DEVELOPING RESILIENT WATER SUPPLIES FOR THE WEST

Metropolitan supports policies that promote an integrated and evolving water portfolio with both imported and new local supplies including water recycling and stormwater capture projects, increased storage capacity, conservation measures and stewardship initiatives for enhanced resiliency to climate change. This helps to maintain and grow Southern California’s $1.6 trillion economy. Specific legislation that will improve California’s water reliability and drought preparedness, include:

- H.R. 1162 (Napolitano, D-CA): Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act
- H.R. 1429 (Waters, D-CA): Drinking Water Infrastructure for Job Creation Act
- H.R. 1435 (Garamendi, D-CA): Sites Reservoir Project Act, if amended to specify and require continued coordination between the Central Valley Project and State Water Project if Sites is built
- H.R. 2313 (Huffman, D-CA): Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act
- FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act (Huffman, D-CA): awaiting bill introduction
- S. 1932 (Gardener, R-CO): Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act
PROTECTING DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) – With growing concerns about a family of chemicals known as per- and polyfluoralkyl substances, Metropolitan and its member agencies are working to ensure the region has a safe and reliable drinking water supply. Metropolitan supports administrative and legislative actions to protect source water from PFAS contamination and to secure funding to help public water agencies defray the cost of monitoring and remediation of constituents in drinking water supplies; and full cost-recovery by drinking water and wastewater providers. Three bills that would provide resources for treatment and mitigation measures to address PFAS and other substances are:

- H.R.2570 (Rouda, D-CA): PFAS User Fee Act of 2019

Metropolitan is also supportive of the majority of provisions within the comprehensive H.R. 535 (Committee on Energy and Commerce): the PFAS Act of 2019. Metropolitan will seek amendments on areas of concern and supports including the provisions of H.R. 5539 to provide funding for implementation.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the State Water Project – The state of California is leading an effort to modernize the water system in order to maintain supply reliability and provide environmental benefits. A single tunnel, as proposed and properly sized, would convey 6,000 cubic-feet-per-second of water supply for the statewide water system to more efficiently move water, restore the Delta ecosystem and maintain a reliable water supply through climate extremes.

Metropolitan supports reauthorization and extension of the CALFED Program’s continued federal funding for scientific research and habitat restoration in the Delta in support of the coequal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration.

The Colorado River – The Colorado River is a critical resource for the entire Southwest – supporting the economies of seven basin states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah) and many diverse ecosystems. Degradation of the River’s water quality can cause significant economic, environmental and human health impacts across the West. To protect the River, Metropolitan supports expedited funding for the Moab Uranium Mill Tailing Remedial Action Project. Additionally, Metropolitan supports federal funding appropriations and coordination for the continued implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program and Colorado River System water conservation projects to offset effects of long-term drought conditions.

Metropolitan also supports federal funding and coordination between states for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program under the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. This includes programs implemented by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management, as well as federal funding appropriations for a replacement of USBR’s Paradox Valley salinity control project to continue removing the salt load impacting the Colorado River.

THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA AND THE COLORADO RIVER

Delivery of imported water supplies will always be a foundation to meet ongoing regional demands in Southern California. Metropolitan is working hard to ensure the reliability of the supplies from the State Water Project and the Colorado River, both of which face serious challenges due to climate change, subsidence and an aging infrastructure.