

# FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2021

## BOARD-ADOPTED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2021

- Support measures to defray the costs of planning, financing, constructing and rehabilitating all types of water infrastructure
- Support actions to initiate, expedite and secure funding for the Regional Recycled Water Program and related projects
- Work to ensure progress on Delta conveyance and California EcoRestore
- Support actions and funding to facilitate non-mitigation habitat restoration projects that benefit endangered and threatened species
- Support actions and funding to help public water systems defray the costs associated with COVID-19, and for direct financial relief to low-income households facing utility bill arrearages
- Support actions and funding for research on water science
- Support actions and funding to help public water systems defray the costs of monitoring and/or remediation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and ensure drinking water and wastewater facilities are not held liable for the cleanup of contamination
- Support tax exemptions for water conservation and efficiency incentives

## PROTECTING DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Metropolitan supports policies that help water agencies to continue to provide clean and affordable drinking water to Southern California in an environmentally responsible way.

### PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

With concern growing about the presence of a family of chemicals known as PFAS in some water supplies, Metropolitan supports additional funding to defray the costs of monitoring and remediation of PFAS. Additionally, Metropolitan supports application of the “polluter pays” principle to ensure that parties responsible for introducing contaminants to drinking water sources are held liable for cleanup, and not drinking water and wastewater facilities that subsequently store, transport or treat the water.

## REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Metropolitan, in partnership with its member agencies, promotes local resource development and water conservation measures to ensure water supply reliability and resiliency for Southern California’s communities, families and businesses.



### RECYCLED WATER AND ADVANCING POTABLE REUSE

Metropolitan’s investments in local recycled water projects have produced nearly 3 million acre-feet of recycled water for the region. In 2019, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, Metropolitan began operating the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center. At full

scale, the facility would be capable of producing up to 150 million gallons daily, enough to serve 500,000 homes. Metropolitan supports administrative/ legislative actions to initiate, expedite and secure funding for recycled water projects, including the Regional Recycled Water Program.



## WATER CONSERVATION

Metropolitan supports the establishment of programs and incentives to promote long-term water use efficiency. Metropolitan and its 26 member agencies' long-standing commitment to conservation has resulted in a nearly 35 percent reduction in per capita potable water use over the past 25 years. To further these gains, Metropolitan supports tax exemptions for water conservation or efficiency incentives 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.



## IMPORTED WATER SUPPLY

Metropolitan provides imported water supplies to its member agencies from two primary sources, the Colorado River via the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta via the State Water Project (SWP). Metropolitan maintains and makes significant investments in these systems to safeguard the water supply that is a cornerstone of Southern California's \$1.6 trillion economy.

### THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA AND STATE WATER PROJECT

Metropolitan is involved in several key regulatory and planning processes in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta related to the operation of the SWP. About 30 percent of Southern California's water comes from the SWP. Metropolitan works with state and federal agencies, as well as other SWP contractors, to find collaborative approaches to improve water supply reliability and restore ecosystems for the benefit of threatened and endangered species. Metropolitan supports the Newsom administration's call for a balanced portfolio of water actions that includes Delta conveyance and the Voluntary Agreements for the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan. In addition, strategies and funding are needed to mitigate the impacts of subsidence on the SWP and prevent future damage caused by unsustainable groundwater pumping.

### 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. Metropolitan, together with the other Basin States, Native American tribes and Mexico, works to ensure we can continue to supply our communities with safe and reliable water.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Metropolitan is helping California reach its climate goals while adapting to a rapidly changing environmental landscape. Metropolitan supports policies and funding that encourage sustainable practices and environmental compliance, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate wildfire risk and improve energy sustainability.

## SYSTEM RESILIENCE

### COVID-19 RESPONSE

Metropolitan supports relief funding for public water systems to offset pandemic-related costs and direct financial relief to low-income households facing utility bill arrearages.

### FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Metropolitan supports additional funding for FEMA programs to assist with emergency repairs and improvements, including but not limited to, dam safety, spillway improvements, and erosion control repairs.

### INNOVATION AND WATER SCIENCE

Metropolitan supports innovation and research on water science including snowpack and streamflow monitoring, drinking water quality, salinity control, source water protection and watershed research.

