

STATE 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

METROPOLITAN-SPONSORED BILLS

CONSTITUENTS OF EMERGING CONCERN

Metropolitan and the California Municipal Utilities Association are co-sponsoring legislation to establish a Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) Drinking Water Program at the State Water Resources Control Board. The program would set up a science-based approach for assessing the public health and drinking water consequences of CECs, while identifying which warrant further action.

REGIONAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Metropolitan maintains critical infrastructure across multiple counties in Southern California. Metropolitan is sponsoring legislation to facilitate compliance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) for repairs to this infrastructure. The legislation would allow Metropolitan to prepare a single master reclamation plan that would cover multiple counties.



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 into drinking water sources are held liable for cleanup, and not drinking water and wastewater facilities that subsequently store, transport or treat the water.



LOCAL WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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

RECYCLED WATER AND ADVANCING POTABLE REUSE

Metropolitan supports the Newsom Administration's priority to increase the state's financial capacity through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and other funding programs to expand recycling and reuse of treated wastewater. 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 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 the Regional Recycled Water Program and other member agency projects.

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 investment 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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CA DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES

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. Additionally, Metropolitan supports policies that ensure power costs are appropriate and proportional to the benefits received and that water system operations are not adversely affected by power-related legislative or administrative actions.

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.

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.

