



Board- Adopted Legislative Priorities 2023

Metropolitan Board Priorities

Ensure imported water supply reliability, including progress for the Delta Conveyance and Sites Reservoir Projects, the Voluntary Agreements and protection for critical elevations for Lakes Powell and Mead.

- Support administrative/legislative actions and funding for:
 - conservation & new local supply projects
 - long-term turf conversion
 - federal tax exemptions for water conservation and efficiency incentives
- Advance the Pure Water Southern California project and other long-term supply projects
- Protect drinking water quality and work to ensure access to and affordability of safe and reliable water, upholding polluter pays and continued cleanup of sites along the Colorado River
- Support adaptive management for ecosystem restoration in the Bay-Delta and Colorado River watersheds
- Implement Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan

Building Regional Readiness & Resilience in the Face of Climate Change & Drought

Southern California's two main sources of imported water have been dramatically impacted by drought conditions. Metropolitan, its member agencies and Southern Californians have done an exceptional job in reducing water use and embracing the culture of conservation. In the face of extreme weather, drought and climate change, we need solutions that take into consideration rapidly evolving climate conditions, current risk analyses, and best available science.

Together, we will chart a new route to reliability with an openness to new ideas, strengthened partnerships, and pursuit of new funding to make the necessary investments in conservation and local supplies to ensure regional drought readiness and to prepare for the impacts of climate change. **Now is the time.**



About Metropolitan

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative of 26 member agencies – cities and public water agencies – that serve 19 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies and helps its members develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource management programs.

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Imported Water Supply

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

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 a safe and reliable water supply. Metropolitan supports continued imported water supply resiliency and reliability, including protecting critical elevations in Lake Powell and Lake Mead and continued cleanup of sites along the Colorado River. Negotiations on water supply reductions must consider impacts to the district's agricultural conservation partnerships that make up 50% of Southern California's Colorado River supplies, maintain incentives for conservation and local supply development and protect the region's disadvantaged communities from increasing costs to this vital supply.



The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta & 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 State Water Project (SWP). On average, 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 supporting progress on the Delta Conveyance and Sites Reservoir Projects 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.



Metropolitan's Bouldin Island

Climate Change & the Environment

Metropolitan is working to adapt to the realities of climate change. The district supports policies and funding that encourage sustainable practices and environmental compliance, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate wildfire risk and improve energy sustainability by implementing Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gases and reach carbon neutrality. Further, Metropolitan supports actions and the necessary funding to offset ratepayer impacts to reach carbon neutrality on the State Water Project by 2045.

Protecting Drinking Water Quality

Metropolitan supports policies to continue to provide high-quality reliable drinking water to Southern California in an economically responsible way that surpasses all federal and state drinking water regulations. 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 in drinking water sources are held liable for cleanup, and not drinking water and wastewater facilities that subsequently store, transport or treat the water.



Pure Water Southern California demonstration facility



El Toro Water District recycled water expansion

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 & Advancing Potable Reuse

Metropolitan's investments in local recycled water projects have produced nearly 3 million acre-feet of recycled water for the region since 1982. Metropolitan, in partnership with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, operates the Pure Water Southern California Advanced Purification Center demonstration facility. This facility is testing technology needed for a full-scale regional recycled water plant that, once built, 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 this and other recycled water projects.

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% reduction in per capita potable water use over the past 25 years. In 2022, to adapt to declining supplies from the Colorado River, Metropolitan signed an MOU with other urban agencies across the west to reduce non-functional turf by 30%. To advance this goal, Metropolitan supports tax exemptions for water conservation or efficiency incentives including long-term turf conversion, 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.

