



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

May 31, 2023

The Honorable Anna Caballero  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 7620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 706 (Caballero): Public Contracts: Progressive Design-build: Local Agencies (As Amended April 10, 2023) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Caballero:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), I am writing to express our support for SB 706, which expands the use of the progressive design-build procurement process for public works projects.

Metropolitan serves as the leading wholesale water provider for the Southern California region, catering to the water needs of approximately 19 million residents across our six-county service area. Over the last two decades, we have demonstrated our commitment to promoting water sustainability and bolstering climate resiliency by proactively investing in a diverse range of water supplies to cultivate a more secure and reliable water future for our communities.

Metropolitan was given authority to use the progressive design-build process until 2028 and additional legislation expanded this authority for local public agencies until 2029. This bill would allow us to continue to use this authority for an additional year, extending the sunset to 2030. By allowing agencies to handle both design and construction through a qualifications-based selection, the progressive design-build process promotes early collaboration, resulting in better coordination, reduced project risks, and improved project outcomes. This approach encourages innovation and timely completion, enabling public agencies to deliver high-quality projects that meet the needs of Southern California.

We are also supportive of the fact that this bill provides the authorization for all cities, counties, city and counties, and special districts to use the progressive design-build process for projects beyond the water sector. This expansion recognizes the broader applicability and effectiveness of this procurement method across various public works initiatives, fostering innovation and cost-effectiveness in our infrastructure development.

We look forward to supporting this measure as it moves through the legislative process. If you should have any questions, please contact Metropolitan's Executive Legislative Representative, Jay Jefferson II, at [jjeffersonii@mwdh2o.com](mailto:jjeffersonii@mwdh2o.com) or (916) 538 – 4663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Adel Hagekhalil', written in a cursive style.

**Adel Hagekhalil**  
*General Manager*  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California