



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Dave Min, Chair  
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 3220  
Sacramento, CA 05814

RE: AB 2610 (Garcia): Protected species: authorized take: System Conservation  
Implementation Agreement - **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Min:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) we are pleased to support AB 2610, regarding conservation on the Colorado River.

By way of background, Metropolitan and Imperial Irrigation District (IID), along with all the contractors on the Colorado River, are currently in the process of negotiating agreements to support long-term conservation on the Colorado River. Due to the severe impacts of climate change, conservation has become a key solution to managing decreases in Colorado River water supply, with the goal of establishing a sustainable allocation plan that creates a fair balance for the contractors who rely on these supplies. As part of this effort, IID is working with the Bureau of Reclamation to conserve 800,000 acre feet of Colorado River water by 2026.

IID has identified the presence of protected species in its system that will create challenges to meet its conservation goal with the Bureau. AB 2610 will provide limited authority for authorized take that is specific to IID's conservation efforts. Without the authorization, IID will be challenged to conserve the identified 800,000AF, which could compromise our collective goals for water reductions on the Colorado River.

For these, Metropolitan is in support of AB 2610. If you should need additional information or have any questions, please contact Metropolitan's Executive Legislative Representative at [jjeffersonii@mwdh2o.com](mailto:jjeffersonii@mwdh2o.com) or (916)538-4663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adel Hagekhalil".

Adel Hagekhalil  
General Manager  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

The Honorable Dave Min

June 6, 2024

Page 2

cc: Senator Kelly Seyarto, 32<sup>nd</sup> SD, Vice Chair  
Senator Benjamin Allen, 24<sup>th</sup> SD  
Senator Brian Dahle, 1<sup>st</sup> SD  
Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman, 5<sup>th</sup> SD  
Senator Shannon Grove, 12<sup>th</sup> SD  
Senator Melissa Hurtado, 16<sup>th</sup> SD  
Senator John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> SD  
Senator Monique Limón, 19<sup>th</sup> SD  
Senator Steve Padilla, 18<sup>th</sup> SD  
Senator Henry Stern, 27<sup>th</sup> SD