WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH MET DIRECTORS
18700 Ward Street, Conference Room 101, Fountain Valley, California
September 3, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

Teleconference Sites:
25652 Paseo De La Paz, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
17420 Walnut Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

This meeting will be held in person at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California, 92708 (Conference Room 101). As a convenience for the public, the meeting may also be accessed by Zoom Webinar and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as indicated below. Because this is an in-person meeting and the Zoom component is not required, but rather is being offered as a convenience, if there are any technical issues during the meeting, this meeting will continue and will not be suspended.

Computer Audio: You can join the Zoom meeting by clicking on the following link:
https://zoom.us/j/8828665300

Telephone Audio:	**(669) 900 9128 fees may apply**
	(877) 853 5247 Toll-free
Webinar ID:	**882 866 5300#**

AGENDA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS
At this time members of the public will be given an opportunity to address the Board concerning items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Members of the public may also address the Board about a particular Agenda item at the time it is considered by the Board and before action is taken.

The Board requests, but does not require, that members of the public who want to address the Board complete a voluntary "Request to be Heard" form available from the Board Secretary prior to the meeting.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED
Determine need and take action to agendize item(s), which arose subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. (ROLL CALL VOTE: Adoption of this recommendation requires a two-thirds vote of the Board members present or, if less than two-thirds of the Board members are present a unanimous vote).

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection in the lobby of the District's business office located at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California 92708, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the District's Internet Website, accessible at http://www.mwdoc.com.

NEXT RESOLUTION NO. 2162

PRESENTATION ITEM

1. SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (SDCWA)

Recommendation: Receive and file the presentation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)
b. State Legislative Report (SDA)
c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)
d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)
e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix
f. MET Legislative Matrix

Recommendation: Review and discuss the information presented.

3. QUESTIONS OR INPUT ON MET ISSUES FROM THE MEMBER AGENCIES/ MET DIRECTOR REPORTS REGARDING MET COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Recommendation: Receive input and discuss the information presented.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. MET ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

a. MET's Finance and Rate Issue
b. MET's Water Supply Condition Update
c. MET's Water Quality Update
d. Colorado River Issues
e. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

5. MET BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Summary regarding August MET Board Meeting
b. Review items of significance for MET Board and Committee Agendas

ADJOURNMENT

Note: Accommodations for the Disabled. Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by contacting Angela Crespi, District Secretary, at (714) 963-3058, or writing to Municipal Water District of Orange County at 18700 Ward Street, Unit B, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that District staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the District to provide the requested accommodation.

Item No. 1

PRESENTATION ITEM
September 3, 2025

TO: **Board of Directors**

FROM: **Harvey De La Torre, General Manager**

Staff Contact: Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Manager

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (SDCWA)**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors receive and file the presentation.

SUMMARY

On June 2, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) announced the settlement of a 15-year legal dispute over rates and the price term of an exchange agreement between the agencies. Signaling a new era of collaboration, the Municipal Water District of Orange County has invited SDCWA leadership, Board Chair Nick Serrano and General Manager Dan Denham, to share insights into their current operations and initiatives.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- ☐ *Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
- ☐ *Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and Orange County values and interests.*
- ☐ *Strengthen communications and coordination of messaging.*
- ☒ *Work with member agencies to develop water supply and demand objectives.*
- ☐ *Solicit input and feedback from member agencies.*
- ☐ *Invest in workforce development and succession planning.*

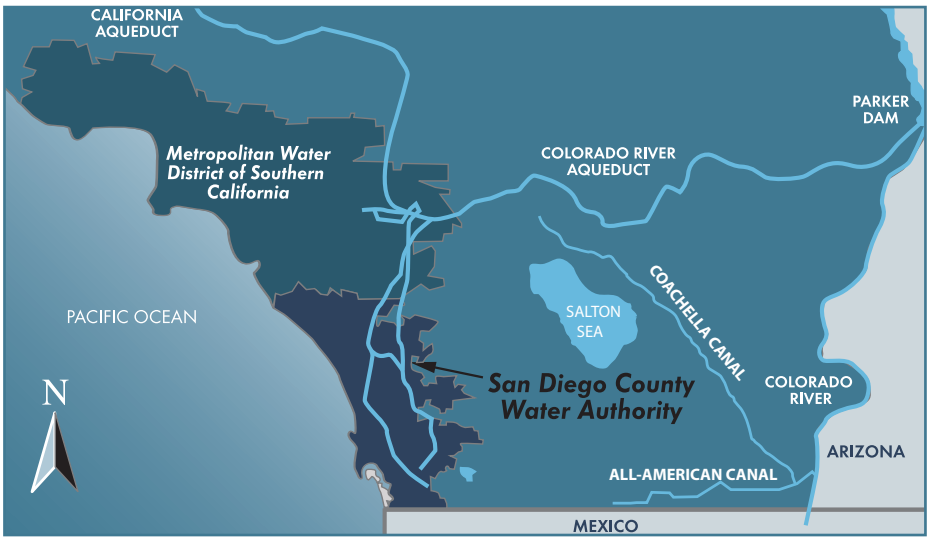
Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: San Diego County Water Authority Fact Sheet

Budgeted: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A	Budgeted amount: N/A	Core: ☐	Choice: ☐
Action item amount: N/A	Movement between funds: ☐ Yes ☐ No		

OVERVIEW

San Diego County Water Authority

The San Diego County Water Authority sustains a $268 billion regional economy and the quality of life for 3.3 million residents through a multi-decade water supply diversification plan, major infrastructure investments and forward-thinking policies that promote fiscal and environmental responsibility. These strategies have created a diversified water supply portfolio and new water facilities that will enhance the reliability of the region's water supply for decades to come.



3.3 MILLION RESIDENTS

112 GALLONS
Per person per day used in San Diego in 2023

ACRES SERVED
900,865

50%
Decline water per capita water use regionally since 1990

279,000
acre-feet of conserved water each year delivered though a landmark 2003 agreement

22 MEMBER AGENCIES

$268 BILLION REGIONAL ECONOMY

14%
of Water supplies from MWD in 2023

95%
of water supplies from the Metropolitan Water District in 1990

$1.5 BILLION
EMERGENCY & CARRYOVER STORAGE PROJECT

157,000
acre-feet of storage added with the San Vicente Dam Raise Project

5 PRIMARY PIPELINES

308 MILES OF LARGE-SCALE PIPELINES

50 million-gallon-a-day production capacity at the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant

San Diego County Water Authority

KEY WATER AUTHORITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

San Diego County's history revolves around a never-ending search for a safe, reliable water supply. When World War II brought a vastly expanded military and industrial presence, doubling the local population, local water supplies were not enough to serve the growing population and economy. President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order directing the Navy to build the area's first aqueduct to bring additional water supplies to the region. In 1944, the state Legislature created the San Diego County Water Authority to administer the region's Colorado River water rights, import water, and take over the operation of the aqueduct from the Navy. The first imported water arrived here in 1947.

2003



The U.S Secretary of the Interior, the Water Authority and other parties sign the historic Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement, and QSA water begins flowing to the San Diego region.

2010



Projects to replace nearly 60 miles of earthen canals with concrete-lined canals are completed, providing San Diego with approx. 80,000 acre-feet of high-priority water through the QSA.

2014



The San Vicente Dam Raise, the largest water storage increase in San Diego County history, is completed as the last major component of the agency's $1.5 billion Emergency & Carryover Storage Project.

2015



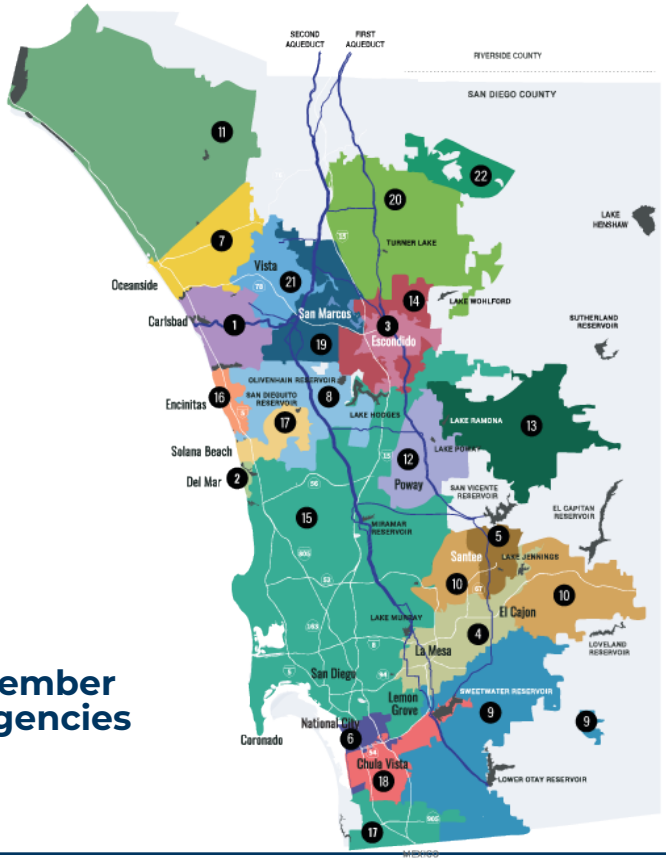
In 2015 the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant began delivering drought-proof drinking water – approximately 50 million gallons per day.

2023



The Water Authority's water supply portfolio serves as a statewide model in line with Gov. Newsom's strategy for improving California's water resiliency.

Member Agencies



1. Carlsbad MWD
2. City of Del Mar
3. City of Escondido
4. Helix Water District
5. Lakeside Water District
6. City of National City*
7. City of Oceanside
8. Olivenhain MWD
9. Otay Water District
10. Padre Dam MWD
11. Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base
12. City of Poway
13. Ramona MWD
14. Rincon del Diablo MWD
15. City of San Diego
16. San Dieguito Water District
17. Santa Fe Irrigation District
18. South Bay Irrigation District*
19. Vallecitos Water District
20. Valley Center MWD
21. Vista Irrigation District
22. Yuima MWD

* The Sweetwater Authority is a service organization for the City of National City and the South Bay Irrigation District.

MORE INFO

To: Board of Directors, *Municipal Water District of Orange County*
From: Natural Resource Results
RE: Monthly Board Report – August 2025

Appropriations

With August recess ending, Congress will return to a difficult appropriations environment. With funding set to expire on September 30th, Congress won't have much time to complete the process, especially since there are significant differences between the two parties related to overall funding amounts for the federal government. Because of this, a CR of some duration (End of December? Sometime in 2026?) is almost assured.

However, the House will take up its version of the Energy and Water bill, which funds the Bureau of Reclamation, when it returns next week. While most agencies funded through that appropriations bill took significant cuts, Reclamation would actually see a very slight increase. The Senate has not yet unveiled its version of the Energy and Water bill.

Reclamation Invests in Water Reuse in the Colorado River Basin

The Bureau of Reclamation recently announce approximately $200 million for water reuse projects in Arizona and Utah to bolster long-term sustainability in the Colorado River Basin.

- *Arizona:* A $179 million agreement with the City of Phoenix will fund Phase 1 of the North Gateway Advanced Water Purification Facility, which will treat 8 million gallons per day of effluent for direct reuse—adding over 7,500 acre-feet of water annually.

- *Utah:* $20.6 million will go to the Washington County Water Conservancy District to expand its regional wastewater reuse system, creating a drought-proof local supply.

The funding comes through Reclamation's Large-Scale Water Recycling Program, with a new $130 million funding opportunity for additional projects to be announced soon. Officials say these efforts will improve water resilience, promote conservation, and strengthen the basin's water security.

SDA
Government Relations

To:	MWDOC Workshop
From:	Syrus Devers
Date:	September 3, 2025
Re:	State Legislative Report

Legislative/Administrative Report

The Legislature returned on August 18th and was quickly embroiled in Governor Newsom's plan to put revised congressional districts that favor Democrats on the November ballot. To meet the constitutional deadline, the ballot measure had to be passed by August 21st, which it did despite controversy and litigation. The unfortunate side effect for water-related interests was that little, if any, work was done by the Governor and the Legislature on critical issues like the Delta Conveyance Project or Healthy River and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements), which are discussed below.

Legislation:

Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA): **AB 532 (Ransom)**--Just when you thought LIRA had dropped off the radar, the Senate Local Government Committee threw a wrench into the works. AB 532 is sponsored by the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) and has flown under the radar with no opposition until the committee analysis on July 16th called for "opt out" provisions. Opt out means customers are automatically enrolled in contributing to a LIRA program unless they affirmatively opt out of it. Water districts are nearly unanimous in their opposition to opt out over fear of customer backlash. CMUA first asked the committee to remove opt out and was refused, and is now trying to work out a compromise with the committee.

Open Meetings: **SB 707 (Durazo)**--Early in the year, MWDOC took a support position on AB 259 (Rubio) which would simply have extended the sunset on current law on open meetings. AB 259 was held and the sunset extension was amended into SB 707. That bill, however, was intended to reform the Brown Act relative to cities and counties and contained several provisions that special districts opposed. Special districts do not have the budgets or contiguous borders that cities and counties have, and some of the requirements in SB 707 would be expensive and difficult to implement. CSDA and ACWA are seeking amendments and have been told the author is willing to address their concerns. According to Three Valleys Municipal Water District, who sponsored AB 259, the author is considering amendments that will apply the bill's requirement to only the largest special districts that cover entire counties.

Syrus Devers Advocacy

Ongoing issues:

The Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) Budget Trailer Bill

The State Water Contractors Association and MWD worked together on another lobby day in Sacramento on August 20th. This effort was primarily focused on key members outside of southern California, although several follow up and "thank you" meetings for SoCal members did take place. The day kicked off with a press event and the release of a report detailing why the DCP is necessary. The report can be found here: https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/08/19/governor-newsoms-delta-conveyance-project-is-single-most-effective-action-for-californias-sustainable-water-future-study-finds/

The press event was well-attended although Newsom did not make an appearance.

Healthy Rivers and Landscapes "HRL" (Voluntary Agreements):

(*Background: The Voluntary Agreements, or "VAs", have been worked on for many years, but became a central issue when Newsom was elected. The VA process allows for a flexible and dynamic approach to managing water quality and water diversions in the Bay Delta, and is favored by the water community. Opposed to the VA's is the "unimpaired flows" approach which requires that rigid water flow metrics determine water management criteria. Newsom became embroiled in the issue even before being sworn into office when he publicly criticized the then Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for favoring unimpaired flows*.)

HRL will finally come to a head when it comes before the SWRCB on September 25th-26th. The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the State Water Contractors are organizing sign-on letters in support.

There is also an effort to pass a Budget Trailer Bill in support of HRL…maybe. First, the bill would not benefit HRL exclusively. The purpose is to give water plans relief under CEQA, which would obviously benefit HRL. The problem is that the water community is finding it somewhat difficult to coalesce behind the initial proposal. In the sole opinion of SDA, this lack of focus is potentially fatal to the effort due to the very short time available to identify and amend a trailer bill and move the legislation.

Proposition 4 Funding:

To the surprise of most, the Legislature has not prioritized a spending plan for the funds made available by Prop 4. Rumor in the halls is that the Senate has a spending plan, but the Assembly appears to have done nothing on the issue. This is surprising because legislators are typically not shy about spending money, and Prop 4 spending is outside of the overall budget process.

Legal and Regulatory

September 3, 2025

1. **Climate Change Impact:** A recent question arose regarding the Texas floods. Did climate change make it worse? Researchers use a theory called "attribution science" to determine if climate change had a significant or any impact on a weather event. They determined with a very low confidence level, that climate change may have increased the rainfall by 7%. They admit that the science behind this is somewhat tenuous. A review of similar events in the Texas area going back to 1950 showed over 30 events of similar intensity. Their conclusion, with all the disclaimers, was that the frequency of intense events is increasing.

2. **Wildfire Moonshot:** State and local firefighters recently met to discuss the future of forest firefighting. They met in front of an autonomous Black Hawk helicopter which could fight fires without humans. A satellite picks up a flame in the wilderness. That triggers the Black Hawk to fly to the area, locate the blaze, using AI analyze the situation, develop a plan. At the same time other Black Hawks are in the air carrying water to put out the flames. There are currently over 1100 mountain top cameras across California and satellites in the sky. A new satellite group from Google has been launched specifically to identify fires. These systems can also work in conditions where we would not send manned aircraft due to high wind or smoke conditions. One of the robot's named Colossus was used to fight the Notre Dame fire in Paris. As you might guess, none of this is cheap. But comparing the potential loss of the recent Palisades fire, it may be worth it.

3. **Atmospheric River Update:** A recent study looked at atmospheric rivers on the west and east coast of the USA. ARs require tropical water vapor, jet streams, and good regional conditions like low pressure systems. Then you add "modes of variability" which means how much of each? The east coast is expected to get more activity in the next 20 years but not as much as the west. The east gets more rain from larger storms, hurricanes and the like. The frequency and intensity of ARs in the west will hold while diminishing over time in the 5% category.

4. **Ocean Creatures Measure Sewage:** LA County Sanitation District operates 11 treatment plants and utilizes the usual treatment methods. Much of their infrastructure is quite old and has had many serious incidents in the past few years. While they are constantly updating their component parts, their real test is a physical examination of the sea creatures close to the outfalls of the discharge pipes. Usually two times per year, the marine biologists gather and test these flora and fauna to see if they are healthy or contain higher than normal levels of various elements. After those tests, they take whatever action is required.

5. **Better Forecasts:** New York University researchers are pushing new ideas for analyzing water related events. They are using an "uncertainty-focused approach". Instead of coming up with a single forecast, such as 80% change of storms, they are suggested an option method. This would mean instead of saying the river will rise 20 feet, saying there is a 70% chance of the river rising 20 feet, a 25% chance of the river rising 25 feet and a 5% chance of it rising 30 feet. They believe this is more realistic as 75% of flood fatalities occur from folks driving into or walking into flooded situations. Using these projections and applying them to the local conditions and topography will aid water managers in preparing and handling major events when they occur.

6. **Isotopes Clean Water:** The University of Texas is part of 10 country study (Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Morocco, Nepal, Romania, Slovenia and USA) The countries were chosen due to the vastly different conditions and development in water world and lasted over 5 years. Traditional water processes use physical or chemical testing. This one used isotope in water molecules as unique identifiers. Their goals are to trace water, detect evaporation, located water source mixing, and identify contamination faster. The most significant impact will be in cities, where water often travels long distances from rural conditions to urban systems. They intend to share this global information to solve local problems.

7. **Tsunami Damage:** Most of the world dodged a very big bullet last month after the magnitude 8.8 earthquake off the Russian coast. Crescent City harbor took the biggest hit on the west coast of California suffering almost $1 million damage. As a result of the offshore topography, it was exposed to 4 feet waves and surges which took out H Dock. However, this was a semi planned event. When the harbor was developed, the potential from far away tsunamis was known. They built H Dock to higher standards to protect the rest of the marina. And it worked. While H Dock was severely damaged, the rest of the marina was spared.

8. **Groundwater Rise:** We have previously reported on the growing concern in the coastal regions of America. As sea level rises, along with land subsidence in some areas, the groundwater level in areas close to the ocean is rising. This causes problems with roads, infrastructure, drinking water, septic tanks and many other elements. Lawmakers are pushing for a federal study to map groundwater conditions around the country. San Francisco and San Mateo are the most at-risk areas in California. A hodge podge network of wells, a complex coastal geography and mix of urban and rural uses makes the situation harder to assess and analyze. Stay tuned.

9. **Wildfires Damages Water Systems:** While fires in California wreak havoc with water infrastructure, other states like Washington have taken some big hits. The Yakima-Tieton Irrigation Canal which supplies water to the state's most important farmland is in trouble. As a result of last year's fires and subsequent rains, the land is falling apart. Boulders are falling.

Trees are falling. And the great heat from the fire has damaged the concrete structures. Sediment is filling storage areas, reducing electrical output and clogging fish screens. Plastic pipe has melted. This canal was completed 115 years ago and has joint ownership between the federal government and local irrigation districts. Getting money to repair all this is hard to come by. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated event for the State.

10. **Freshwater Decline:** Arizona State University has completed a study of the status of freshwater in the world. They have used 20 years of satellite data looking at climate change, groundwater overdraft and droughts to determine that we have experienced a severe loss of freshwater worldwide. The majority of the loss has come from groundwater use (68%). Serious droughts in the northern hemisphere have also occurred. The most serious areas of concern are: southwest North America and Central America, Alaska and northern Canada, northern Russian and the Middle East and northern Africa. Their conclusion was that groundwater management was the most important area of concern.

11. **Cost of Dam Removal:** For over 100 years, the Potter Valley Project has moved Eel River water to the Russian River area and Marin. Now they plan to drain Lake Pillsbury and remove two dams. Flows would return to original conditions of many years ago. Russian River farmers and residents would get substantially less water. The current migration patterns for many fish and fowl would be disrupted. The economic loss in sales and property values would be over $1 million annually. Sometimes turning back the clock can create problems.

12. **Rhubarb Cleans Water:** Removing bacteria from wastewater is a constant issue. With all the new items, such as antibiotic medicine, entering the waste stream, finding an effective treatment solution is important. Now, scientists from Utah State University have discovered natural substances that look effective. As we have reported in the past, there has been great success in using natural ingredients to treat bacteria. This time curcumin from ginger and emodin from rhubarb has shown to be successful against bacteria and antibiotic resistance. Eleven other natural ingredients have been shown to work quite well. More testing and scaling up is being scheduled now.

WHITTINGHAM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISORS

TO: MWDOC Board of Directors

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: September 3, 2025

SUBJECT: September 2025 Local Legislative Report

Following are a few of the more notable developments and issues that have transpired in Orange County over the last several weeks:

- The Orange County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) has approved updates to its code of ethics following revelations of former Supervisor Andrew Do's criminal misuse of COVID-19 meal program funds. Key changes include:
  - New protections for whistleblowers
  - A requirement that Supervisors review and sign the code of ethics when taking office
  - An explicit rule that county officials and employees "shall not act for personal gain"

- The same week the Board adopted the revised code of ethics, a federal judge ordered former 1st District Supervisor Andrew Do to repay about $878,000 to the County. Do also reported to the federal penitentiary in Tucson, Arizona, to begin serving his five-year prison sentence.

- The Board of Supervisors recently approved a plan to fold the District Attorney's Human Resources (HR) Department into the County's Central Administration. The change follows a civil lawsuit in which a jury awarded $3 million to a former prosecutor who claimed she was pushed out after trying to protect junior colleagues. Eight HR positions from the District Attorney's office will be transferred as part of the move.

- Melehat Rafiei, former head of the Orange County Democratic Party, was sentenced to six months in jail by a federal judge for attempted wire fraud. The longtime advisor to many local elected officials was arrested in 2019 and signed a plea deal in 2023, after cooperating with FBI investigators as part of their investigation of Anaheim Mayor Harry Sidhu related to negotiations with the Angels. Former Anaheim Chamber of Commerce CEO Todd Ament's sentencing, which was scheduled to occur the same day as Rafiei's, has been delayed again to November 14.

- Across the County, several cities are experiencing leadership changes. Former Laguna Hills City Manager Jared Hildebrand has taken the top role in Orange. In Fullerton, former Westminster City Manager Eddie Manfro has been appointed Interim City Manager after serving as the city's Human Resources Director. Longtime Cypress City Manager Peter Grant resigned from the post August 18, and Asssistant City Manager and Finance Director Matt Burton has been named Interim City Manager. Mike Egan continues as Interim City Manager in La Palma.

- Elsewhere in the county, the Yorba Linda City Council is reviewing candidates to replace City Manager Mark Pulone, who will retire in September. In Newport Beach, the City Council announced that Assistant City Manager Seimone Jurjis will step into the City Manager role on January 1, 2026, succeeding Grace Leung.

- Negotiations continue between the County of Orange and a coalition of cities and sanitation districts regarding landfill tipping fees. The goal is to finalize an agreement by October, and the next County Waste Management Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11.

- Longtime Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) Board member Arlene Schafer announced her retirement, effective August 1. Board member Schafer began her public service career in 1978 when she was elected to and served for eight years on the Costa Mesa City Council, including serving as Mayor from 1980-1982. She first served on the CMSD Board of Directors from 1994-2010, was subsequently appointed back to the Board in 2013 and was re-elected to serve three consecutive terms from 2014 through 2026.

- Phase II of Orange County's Climate Action Plan, a comprehensive roadmap detailing potential projects and programs to reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions from various sources, is on track to come to the Board of Supervisors on November 4. Key initiatives within CAP included increasing stormwater capture and infiltration, reducing the amount of organic waste going to landfills by 75 percent and improving edible food recovery by 20 percent, and exploring the feasibility of regional anaerobic digestion and conversion technology facilities.

As part of our scope of work, Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors has continued to monitor the agendas of the 26 cities and water district MWDOC members to identify items of relevance to MWDOC. We also continue to monitor activities at the South Coast Air Quality Management District and Orange County Water District.

It is a pleasure to work with you and to represent the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

Sincerely,



Peter Whittingham

MWDOC Workshop

Bill Matrix – Sept, 2025

Prepared by SDA Government Relations

A. High

AB 259 (**Rubio, Blanca, D**) **Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.**

Location: 07/17/2025 - Senate 2 YEAR

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body, as defined, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda that is open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, and the legislative body complies with prescribed requirements. Current law requires a member to satisfy specified requirements to participate in a meeting remotely pursuant to these alternative teleconferencing provisions, including that specified circumstances apply. Current law establishes limits on the number of meetings a member may participate in solely by teleconference from a remote location pursuant to these alternative teleconferencing provisions, including prohibiting such participation for more than 2 meetings per year if the legislative body regularly meets once per month or less. This bill would extend the alternative teleconferencing procedures until January 1, 2030. (Based on 04/21/2025 text)

Position: support

Priority: A. High

Notes:

Support - March 5th Workshop; Provisions folded into SB 707

AB 523 (**Irwin, D**) **Metropolitan water districts: proxy vote authorizations.**

Calendar: ***08/29/25 #71 S-ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE (Floor Mgr.- Stern)***

Location: 06/19/2025 - Senate THIRD READING

Summary: Under the Metropolitan Water District Act, the board of a metropolitan water district is required to consist of at least one representative from each member public agency, as prescribed. The act authorizes each member public agency to appoint additional representatives not exceeding one additional representative for each 5% of the assessed valuation of property taxable for district purposes within the entire district that is within the boundaries of that member public agency. This bill would, until January 1, 2030, authorize a representative of a member public agency that is entitled to designate or appoint only one representative to the board of directors to assign a proxy vote authorization to a representative of another member public agency to be exercised when the assigning representative is unable to attend a meeting or meetings of the board, as provided. The bill would require the proxy vote authorization to be memorialized by a written instrument, as specified. The bill would prohibit a proxy vote authorization from authorizing the assumption of the assigning representative's officer position at the designated meeting and would limit a proxy vote authorization's effectiveness to no more than 6 board meetings in a calendar year. (Based on 05/05/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: A. High

AB 532 (**Ransom, D**) **Water rate assistance program.**

Calendar: 08/29/25 S-APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Location: 08/18/2025 - Senate APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Current federal law, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 requires the federal Department of Health and Human Services to carry out a Low-Income Household Drinking Water and

Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program, which is also known as the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program, for making grants to states and Indian tribes to assist low-income households that pay a high proportion of household income for drinking water and wastewater services, as provided. Current law requires the Department of Community Services and Development to administer the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program in this state, and to receive and expend moneys appropriated and allocated to the state for purposes of that program, pursuant to the above-described federal law. The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program was only operative until March 31, 2024. This bill would repeal the above-described requirements related to the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. (Based on 07/17/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch
Priority: A. High

AB 580 (**Wallis, R**) **Surface mining: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.**

Location: 08/25/2025 - Assembly DESK

Summary: The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 prohibits a person, with exceptions, from conducting surface mining operations unless a permit is obtained from, a specified reclamation plan is submitted to and approved by, and financial assurances for reclamation have been approved by, the lead agency for the operation of the surface mining operation. Current law authorizes the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to prepare a master reclamation plan, as provided, that identifies each individual surface mining operation in specified counties and satisfies all reclamation plan requirements for each individual surface mining site. Current law requires the State Mining and Geology Board to act as the lead agency for surface mining operations conducted by the MWD and authorizes the board to conduct an inspection of an individual surface mining operation once every 2 calendar years during a period when that individual surface mining operation is idle or the site has no mineral production. Current law requires the MWD to be the lead agency for any environmental review of the master reclamation plan. Current law repeals the provisions authorizing the preparation and approval of the master reclamation plan for the MWD on January 1, 2026. This bill would extend the operation of those provisions until January 1, 2041. (Based on 07/17/2025 text)

Position: support
Priority: A. High
Notes:
Support - March 5th Workshop

SB 31 (**McNerney, D**) **Water quality: recycled water.**

Calendar: 08/29/25 A-APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 1100 WICKS, BUFFY, Chair

Location: 08/20/2025 - Assembly APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: The Water Recycling Law generally provides for the use of recycled water. Current law requires any person who, without regard to intent or negligence, causes or permits an unauthorized discharge of 50,000 gallons or more of recycled water in or on any waters of the state to immediately notify the appropriate regional water board. This bill would, for the purposes of the above provision, redefine “recycled water” and provide that water discharged from a decorative body of water during storm events is not to be considered an unauthorized discharge if recycled water was used to restore levels due to evaporation. (Based on 06/09/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch
Priority: A. High
Notes:
Sponsored by WateReuse

SB 72 (**Caballero, D**) **The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.**

Calendar: 08/29/25 A-APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 1100 WICKS, BUFFY, Chair

Location: 07/16/2025 - Assembly APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Water Resources to update every 5 years the plan for the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, and use of the water resources of the state, which is known as “The California Water Plan.” Current law requires the department to include a discussion of various strategies in the plan update, including, but not limited to, strategies relating to the development of new water storage facilities, water conservation, water recycling, desalination, conjunctive use, and water transfers, that may be pursued in order to meet the future needs of the state. Current law requires the department to establish an advisory committee to assist the department in updating the plan. This bill would revise and recast certain provisions regarding The California Water Plan to, among other things, require the department to expand the membership of the advisory committee to include, among others, tribes, labor, and environmental justice interests. The bill would require the department, as part of the 2033 update to the plan, to update the interim planning target for 2050, as provided. The bill would require the target to consider the identified and future water needs for all beneficial uses, including, but not limited to, urban uses, agricultural uses, tribal uses, and the environment, and ensure safe drinking water for all Californians, among other things. The bill would require the plan to include specified components, including a discussion of the estimated costs, benefits, and impacts of any project type or action that is recommended by the department within the plan that could help achieve the water supply targets. (Based on 04/10/2025 text)

Position: support
Priority: A. High
Notes:
Support position taken on 2/5

SB 394 (**Allen, D**) **Water theft: fire hydrants.**

Location: 08/25/2025 - Senate ENROLLMENT

Summary: Current law authorizes a utility to bring a civil action for damages against any person who commits, authorizes, solicits, aids, abets, or attempts certain acts, including, diverting or causing to be diverted, utility services by any means whatsoever. Current law creates a rebuttable presumption that there is violation of these provisions if, on premises controlled by the customer or by the person using or receiving the direct benefit of utility service, certain actions occur, including that there is an instrument, apparatus, or device primarily designed to be used to obtain utility service without paying the full lawful charge for the utility. This bill would add to the list of acts for which a utility may bring a civil cause of action under these circumstances to include tampering with a fire hydrant, fire hydrant meter, or fire detector check, or connecting to, diverting water from, or causing water to be diverted from, a fire hydrant without authorization from the utility that owns the fire hydrant, except as provided. (Based on 07/03/2025 text)

Position: support
Priority: A. High
Notes:
Support - March 5th Workshop

SB 601 (**Allen, D**) **Water: waste discharge.**

Calendar: 08/29/25 A-APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 1100 WICKS, BUFFY, Chair

Location: 08/20/2025 - Assembly APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: The State Water Resources Control Board and the 9 California regional water quality control boards regulate water quality and prescribe waste discharge requirements in accordance with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (act) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. Under the act, the State Water Resources Control Board is authorized to adopt water quality control plans for waters for which quality standards are required by the federal Clean Water Act, as specified, and that in the event of a conflict, those plans supersede regional water quality control plans for the same waters. This bill would authorize the state board to adopt water quality control plans for nexus waters, which the bill would define as all waters of the state that are not also navigable, except as specified. The bill would require any water quality standard that was submitted to, and approved by, or is awaiting approval by, the United States Environmental Protection Agency or the state board that applied to nexus waters as of May 24, 2023, to remain in effect, as provided. (Based on 07/10/2025 text)

Position: oppose
Priority: A. High
Notes:
Oppose adopted May 7th.

SB 707 (**Durazo, D**) **Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements.**

Calendar: 08/29/25 A-APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 1100 WICKS, BUFFY, Chair

Location: 08/20/2025 - Assembly APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: (1)Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body, as defined, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. This bill would, until January 1, 2030, require an eligible legislative body, as defined, to comply with additional meeting requirements, including that, except as specified, all open and public meetings include an opportunity for members of the public to attend via a 2-way telephonic service or a 2-way audiovisual platform, as defined, and that the eligible legislative body take specified actions to encourage residents to participate in public meetings, as specified. (Based on 07/17/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch
Priority: A. High

B. Watch

AB 93 (**Papan, D**) **Water resources: data centers.**

Calendar: 08/29/25 S-APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Location: 08/18/2025 - Senate APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Would require a person who owns or operates a data center, prior to applying to a city or a county for an initial business license, equivalent instrument, or permit, to provide its water supplier, under penalty of perjury, an estimate of the expected water use. When applying to a city or county for an initial business license, the bill would require a person who owns or operates a data center to self-certify, under penalty of perjury, on the application that the person has provided its water supplier an estimate of the expected water use. When applying to a city or county for a renewal of a business license, equivalent instrument, or permit, the bill would require a person who owns or operates a data center to self-certify, under penalty of perjury, on the application, that they have provided the data center's water supplier with a report of the annual water use. By expanding the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. Beginning one year after the Department of Water Resources develops any efficiency guidelines or best management practices relevant to the data centers, the bill would require that a person who owns or operates a data center, as a condition for obtaining or renewing a business license, self-certify that the data center will meet guidelines and best practices to maximize the efficient use of natural resources. The bill would define terms for purposes of these provisions. (Based on 07/17/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch
Priority: B. Watch

AB 367 (**Bennett, D**) **Water: County of Ventura: fire suppression.**

Calendar: 08/29/25 S-APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Location: 08/18/2025 - Senate APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Would, beginning July 1, 2027, require a water supplier, as defined, to have access to sufficient backup energy sources to operate critical fire suppression infrastructure, as defined, needed to supply water for at least 24 hours for the purpose of fire suppression in high or very high fire hazard severity zones in the County of Ventura, as provided. The bill would require the water supplier to take various actions, including annually inspecting critical fire suppression infrastructure and backup energy sources and notifying the Ventura County Office of Emergency Services within 3 business days of any

reduction in its water delivery capacity that could substantially hinder firefighting operations or significantly delay the replenishment of reservoirs. The bill would require, if any fire damages and makes uninhabitable more than 10 residential dwellings within the service area of a water supplier, a report be made by the Ventura County Fire Department in cooperation with the water supplier, as specified. By levying new requirements on the Ventura County Fire Department, this bill would create a state-mandated local program. This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for County of Ventura. (Based on 07/10/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch
Priority: B. Watch

AB 615 (**Davies, R**) **Power facilities: emergency response and action plans.**

Calendar: ***08/29/25 #180 S-ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE***

Location: 08/20/2025 - Senate THIRD READING

Summary: Current law requires an application to be filed with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission for certification of a site and related facility that includes an electrical transmission line or thermal powerplant, or both. Current law requires the application to contain, among other information, a description of any electrical transmission lines, a map of the proposed route and existing transmission lines, justification for the proposed route, and a preliminary description of the effect of the proposed electrical transmission lines on the environment, ecology, and scenic, historic, and recreational values, as specified. This bill would remove the requirement that the application include the information described above, and would require that the application also contain an emergency response and action plan, to be paid for by the applicant, that incorporates impacts to the surrounding areas in the event of an emergency and that would be conducted and coordinated with local emergency management agencies, unified program agencies, and local first response agencies. (Based on 07/14/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch
Priority: B. Watch

AB 794 (**Gabriel, D**) **California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations.**

Location: 06/12/2025 - Assembly INACTIVE FILE

Summary: The California Safe Drinking Water Act (state act) requires the State Water Resources Control Board to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. The state board's duties include, but are not limited to, enforcing the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (federal act) and adopting and enforcing regulations. Current law authorizes the state board to adopt as an emergency regulation, a regulation that is not more stringent than, and is not materially different in substance and effect than, the requirements of a regulation promulgated under the federal act, with a specified exception. This bill would provide that the authority of the state board to adopt an emergency regulation pursuant to these provisions includes the authority to adopt requirements of a specified federal regulation that was in effect on January 19, 2025, regardless of whether the requirements were repealed or amended to be less stringent. The bill would prohibit an emergency regulation adopted pursuant to these provisions from implementing less stringent drinking water standards, as provided, and would authorize the regulation to include monitoring requirements that are more stringent than the requirements of the federal regulation. The bill would prohibit maximum contaminant levels and compliance dates for maximum contaminant levels adopted as part of an emergency regulation from being more stringent than the maximum contaminant levels and compliance dates of a regulation promulgated pursuant to the federal act. (Based on 04/10/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch
Priority: B. Watch

AB 1146 (**Papan, D**) **Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses.**

Calendar: 08/29/25 S-APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Location: 08/18/2025 - Senate APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Would prohibit the release of stored water from a reservoir owned and operated by the United States in this state if the release is done under false pretenses, which the bill would define to

mean a release of water from a reservoir owned and operated by the United States in a manner that is knowingly, designedly, and intentionally under any false or fraudulent representation as to the purpose and intended use of the water. The bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board or the Attorney General, as provided, to bring an action for injunctive relief for a violation of the above-described prohibition. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. (Based on 06/23/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch
Priority: B. Watch

AB 1413 (**Papan, D**) **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater adjudication.**

Calendar: ***08/29/25 S-APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair***

Location: 08/25/2025 - Senate APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans, except as specified. Current law requires the department to periodically review the groundwater sustainability plans developed by groundwater sustainability agencies pursuant to the act to evaluate whether a plan conforms with specified laws and is likely to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin covered by the plan. Current law authorizes a groundwater sustainability agency that adopts a groundwater sustainability plan to file a court action to determine the validity of the plan no sooner than 180 days following the adoption of the plan, as provided. Current law provides that actions by a groundwater sustainability agency are subject to judicial review, except as provided. This bill would instead authorize groundwater sustainability agencies to file those actions within 180 days following the adoption of the plan. The bill would also authorize, for any groundwater basin in which a comprehensive groundwater adjudication was filed prior to January 1, 2025, a party that has timely appeared in that adjudication to file an action on or before March 2, 2026, under specified circumstances. (Based on 07/17/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch
Priority: B. Watch

SB 224 (**Hurtado, D**) **Department of Water Resources: water supply forecasting.**

Calendar: 08/29/25 A-APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 1100 WICKS, BUFFY, Chair

Location: 08/20/2025 - Assembly APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Water Resources to gather and correlate information and data pertinent to an annual forecast of seasonal water crop. Current law also requires the department to update every 5 years the plan for the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, and use of the water resources of the state, which is known as “The California Water Plan.” This bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2027, to update its water supply forecasting models and procedures to address the effects of climate change and implement a formal policy and procedures for documenting the department’s operational plans and the department’s rationale for its operating procedures, including the department’s rationale for water releases from reservoirs. The bill would also require the department to establish, and publish on the department’s internet website, the specific criteria that it will employ to determine when its updated water supply forecasting model has demonstrated sufficient predictive capability to be ready for use in each of the watersheds. The bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report on its progress toward implementing the new forecasting model and to post the report on the department’s internet website. The bill would also require the department, on or before January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report that explains the rationale for the department’s operating procedures specific to the previous water year. (Based on 07/17/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch
Priority: B. Watch

SB 239 (**Arreguín, D**) **Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.**

Location: 06/05/2025 - Senate 2 YEAR

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body, as defined, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act generally requires for teleconferencing that the legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public. Current law also requires that, during the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as specified. Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes specified neighborhood city councils to use alternate teleconferencing provisions related to notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed, if, among other requirements, the city council has adopted an authorizing resolution and 2/3 of the neighborhood city council votes to use alternate teleconference provisions, as specified This bill would authorize a subsidiary body, as defined, to use alternative teleconferencing provisions and would impose requirements for notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed. The bill would require the subsidiary body to post the agenda at each physical meeting location designated by the subsidiary body, as specified. The bill would require the members of the subsidiary body to visibly appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting that is publicly accessible via the internet or other online platform, as specified. (Based on 04/07/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: B. Watch

SB 614 (**Stern, D**) **Carbon dioxide transport.**

Calendar: 08/29/25 A-APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 1100 WICKS, BUFFY, Chair

Location: 08/20/2025 - Assembly APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Under the Elder California Pipeline Safety Act of 1981, the State Fire Marshal exercises safety regulatory jurisdiction over intrastate pipelines used for the transportation of hazardous or highly volatile liquid substances. The act imposes various requirements in relation to the regulation of these intrastate pipelines. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 establishes the State Air Resources Board as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases. The act requires the state board to ensure that statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit, as defined, no later than December 31, 2030. This bill would revise the definition of “pipeline,” for purposes of the act, to include intrastate pipelines used for the transportation of carbon dioxide. The bill would require the State Fire Marshal, by April 1, 2026, to adopt regulations governing the safe transportation of carbon dioxide in pipelines that are equivalent to certain draft regulations issued by the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration on January 10, 2025. The bill would authorize the State Fire Marshal to amend those regulations, as provided. The bill would authorize the State Fire Marshal, for a pipeline transporting carbon dioxide, to order a pipeline shutdown for violations of state or federal laws, or if continued pipeline operations present an immediate danger to the public health, welfare, or the environment. Because a violation of the above provisions would be a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the State Fire Marshal, at least once every 5 years, to assess the additional safety standards and to amend the regulations to increase the safety standards. (Based on 07/10/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch

Priority: B. Watch

SB 742 (**Pérez, D**) **Water systems and water districts.**

Location: 02/21/2025 - Senate Rules

Summary: The California Water District Law provides for the establishment of water districts, and grants a district the power to acquire, plan, construct, maintain, improve, operate, and keep in repair the necessary works for the production, storage, transmission, and distribution of water for irrigation, domestic, industrial, and municipal purposes. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact

subsequent legislation related to the regulation of water systems and water districts. (Based on 02/21/2025 text)

Position: B. Watch
Priority: B. Watch

Total Measures: 19
Total Tracking Forms: 19

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: First Year of Legislative Session
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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 259 **B. Rubio** **(D – Baldwin Park)** Sponsors: California Special Districts Association, Three Valleys Municipal Water District	Amended in Assembly Local Government Committee on 4/21/2025. Two-Year Bill	**Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.** This bill eliminates the sunset on provisions added to the Brown Act by AB 2449, a bill that provided additional flexibility with Brown Act meeting procedures in the event of a board member's physical absence in connection with a "just cause" or "emergency circumstances," allowing those members to participate in the meeting remotely consistent with the process detailed in the bill.	**Support** Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	By removing the sunset on the Brown Act provisions, AB 259 preserves flexibility for Metropolitan and Member Agency board members to meet remotely and continue providing the public with essential services.
AB 532 **R. Ransom** **(D – Stockton)** Sponsor: California Municipal Utilities Association	Amended in Senate Local Government Committee on 7/17/2025. Senate Appropriations Committee	**Water rate assistance program** This bill seeks to revamp the State's Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide water rate assistance to ratepayers of public water suppliers, or systems serving disadvantaged communities. The bill also would expressly allow urban retail water suppliers to establish a local low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program using voluntary contributions or other non- ratepayer funds.	**Support** Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	This bill would provide clarity in existing law to ensure that water agencies are able to establish local LIRA programs without fear of legal consequences given the provisions of Proposition 218. Recent amendments remove a provision to revamp the state LIHWAP program for small and disadvantaged communities due to fiscal concerns.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 580 **G. Wallis** **(R – Bermuda Dunes)** Sponsor: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Amended in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on 7/17/2025. Senate Appropriations Committee	**Surface Mining: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California** This bill extends the sunset date for 15 years or until January 1, 2041, on Metropolitan's ability to operate under a single Master Reclamation Plan for repairs using earth-moving activities under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act for the maintenance of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA).	**Sponsor** Based on December 2024 Board Action.	Ensuring Metropolitan can continue operating under a single Master Reclamation Plan will maintain environmental oversight without delays and prevent duplicative compliance.
AB 638 **C. Rodriguez** **(D – San Fernando)** Sponsor: Natural Resources Defense Council	Amended in Senate on 7/3/2025. Senate Appropriations Committee	**Stormwater: uses: irrigation** This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to establish guidance for stormwater capture, and its use for the irrigation of public urban lands by July 1, 2026. Public lands include parks, street medians, parkways, and golf courses owned by the state, city, county, or designated for public use. The Board would be required to solicit public comment before establishing recommendations.	**Support** Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	The use of stormwater for non-potable irrigation of public lands reduces the demand for potable water while enhancing drought resilience.

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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 794 **J. Gabriel** **(D – Encino)** **Sponsors:** Clean Water Action, Environmental Working Group	Amended in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 4/10/2025. Assembly Inactive File	**California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations** This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt an emergency regulation for water quality based on federal regulations in effect on January 19, 2025, regardless of whether the requirements were repealed or amended to be less stringent. The bill would prohibit an emergency regulation adopted pursuant to these provisions from implementing less stringent drinking water standards, as provided, and would authorize the regulation to include requirements that are more stringent than the requirements of the federal regulation. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2026, the SWRCB to adopt an emergency regulation and to initiate a primary drinking water standard for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).	**Oppose Unless Amended** Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	While AB 794 aims to protect public health, its approach circumvents the established regulatory process for setting Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Metropolitan's Legislative Priorities and Principles call for using the best available science to protect public health and improve water quality when setting MCLs. The broad scope of this bill, which would allow the SWRCB to set through emergency action primary and secondary MCLs for any chemical with a federal MCL, sets a dangerous precedent and fails to align with well-established regulatory principles.

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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1146 **D. Papan (D – San Mateo)**	Amended in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on 6/23/2025. Senate Appropriations Committee	**Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses** This bill adds language to the Water Code prohibiting the release of stored water from a reservoir owned and operated by the United States if the release is done under false pretenses and would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to issue an injunctive relief order for violation of such release of stored water. This bill would define "false pretenses" as a release of water from a reservoir in a manner that is knowingly, designedly, and intentionally under a false or fraudulent representation or assumption as to the purpose and intended use of the water.	**Watch** Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	Amendments have narrowed the scope of this bill to reservoirs owned and operated by the United States, which would exclude Metropolitan's and Member Agency owned and operated reservoirs. The bill's definition of "false pretenses" remains unclear and does not specify what would qualify as "false or fraudulent representation," nor does it indicate how intent would be determined.

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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1319 **N. Schultz (D – Burbank)**	Amended in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on 7/10/2025. Senate Appropriations Committee	**Protected species: California Endangered Species Act.** This bill would amend the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) to authorize the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to adopt an emergency regulation that adds a federally listed species that is native to California to the list of endangered or threatened species on an emergency basis if it finds, in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), that a federal action that occurs after January 19, 2025, results in a decrease in protection for that species and listing under CESA could provide protection for that species. If the Commission lists a species by emergency regulation, CDFW would be required to promptly commence a status review, and the Commission would be required to determine whether to list the federally listed species beyond the duration of the emergency. This bill would provide that in authorizing the take of any species listed during the emergency regulation, the Commission or CDFW may apply the protections provided by federal terms of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) unless the Commission or CDFW determines that those protections do meet CESA standards.	**Oppose Unless Amended** Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	This bill could have profound impacts on Metropolitan's activities and its State Water Project and Colorado River imported supplies. The time and cost to get CESA permits after emergency listings would be high, and while permit applications are pending, opponents could litigate to halt or modify projects, including ongoing operations of the State Water Project and Colorado River water deliveries and power production. Recent amendments add a permit shield from liability for project proponents for the take of an emergency-listed species as long as the permittee complies with all terms and conditions in a federal permit, but the permit must have been issued (and remain unchanged) on or before President Trump's second term began. The latest amendments are an improvement; however, the permit shield would be of limited use because federal incidental take authorizations are regularly amended or superseded. Metropolitan is seeking additional amendments to limit the applicability of this bill to species that are federally delisted.

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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 31 **J. McNerney** **(D – Stockton)** **Sponsor:** WateReuse California	Amended in Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on 6/9/2025. Assembly Appropriations Committee	**Water quality: recycled water** SB 31 aims to enhance California's water sustainability by increasing the use of recycled water in non-potable applications. This bill modernizes outdated regulations and expands the permissible uses of recycled water to reduce dependence on potable sources. The bill would make updates to Title 22 of the Code of Regulations to expand the use of recycled water in parks, schools, and food handling and processing facilities.	**Support** Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	Supporting the use of recycled water in non-potable applications such as irrigation, decorative water features, and industrial processes reduces the demand for potable water while enhancing drought resilience.
SB 72 **A. Caballero** **(D – Merced)** **Sponsor:** California Municipal Utilities Association	Amended in Senate Appropriations Committee on 4/10/2025. Assembly Appropriations Committee	**The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets** This measure would revise the California Water Plan to require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update the California Water Plan by December 31, 2028, and every five years after, to include a long-term water supply target for 2050 and discussion on the development of specified water supply sources to meet demand.	**Support** Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	The intent of this bill is to help modernize California's water management practices and provide long-term reliable supplies in response to the current climate challenges. Metropolitan supported a similar version of this bill in 2024, SB 366 (Caballero), which passed the Legislature and was vetoed by the Governor.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 394 **B. Allen** **(D – Santa Monica)** **Sponsor:** Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Amended in Assembly Judiciary Committee on 7/2/2025. Senate Floor	**Water theft: fire hydrants** SB 394 would allow a local agency that provides water service the ability to increase fines and penalties for water theft from fire hydrants. The bill also adds tampering with a fire hydrant, fire hydrant meter, or fire detector check, or the unauthorized diversion of water from a fire hydrant to the list of acts for which a utility may bring a civil cause of action.	**Support** Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	Metropolitan Member Agencies and subagencies that provide local water services could adopt ordinances with enhanced penalties for water theft from a fire hydrant.
SB 454 **J. McNerney** **(D – Stockton)** **Sponsor:** Association of California Water Agencies	Amended in Senate Appropriations Committee on 5/23/2025. Assembly Appropriations Committee	**State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program** SB 454 would establish a PFAS Mitigation Fund to address PFAS contamination in California's drinking water and wastewater systems. Administered by the SWRCB, the fund will provide financial support through grants, loans, and contracts to water suppliers and wastewater operators to cover or reduce treatment and disposal costs, ensuring safe and clean water across the state with a focus on disadvantaged communities.	**Support** Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	The proposed bill would be highly beneficial to Metropolitan, its Member Agencies, and other water and wastewater agencies currently grappling with increased PFAS-related regulations and source contamination issues. By allowing for grants, loans, and contracts through the PFAS Mitigation Fund, and the provision of assistance services, the bill provides much-needed financial relief and assistance to support treatment and mitigation efforts.

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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 601 **B. Allen** **(D – Santa Monica)** **Sponsors:** California Coastkeeper Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife	Amended in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 7/10/2025. Assembly Appropriations Committee	**Water: waste discharge** The intent of this bill is to restore Clean Water Act protections in California that were removed per the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision. However, the bill goes beyond restoring statute and includes several provisions that expand regulatory requirements without the benefit of scientific analysis.	**Oppose** Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	Currently, AB 601 poses risks to Metropolitan and its member agencies by: adopting EPA's drinking water standards for PFAS/PFOS, bypassing the state rulemaking process; increasing costs of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) permits for discharges of water when dewatering or operating water supply infrastructure, potentially requiring all such water to be recycled regardless of cost to comply; exposing Metropolitan and its Member Agencies to citizen suits in state court, and, for certain nexus waters, both state and federal court; and creating uncertainty in discharge permitting as the bill's ambiguous provisions and implications are likely to be litigated.

Item No. 4

INFORMATION ITEM
September 3, 2025

TO: **Board of Directors**

FROM: **Harvey De La Torre, General Manager**

Staff Contact: Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Manager
Kevin Hostert, Senior Water Resources Analyst
Jared Dawson, Water Resources – Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: **METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT (MET) ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors receive and file the information.

REPORT

This report provides a brief update on the status of the following key MET issues that may affect Orange County:

a. MET's Finance and Rate Issues
b. Water Supply Condition Update
c. Water Quality Update
d. Colorado River Issues
e. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

ISSUE BRIEF A

SUBJECT: MET Finance and Rate Issues

RECENT ACTIVITY

Water Transactions for August 2025 (for water delivered in June 2025) totaled 106.0 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 11.8 TAF lower than the budget of 117.9 TAF and translates to $142.8 million in receipts for August 2025, which were $7.3 million lower than the budget of $150.1 million.

Year-to-date water transactions through August 2025 (for water delivered in May 2025 through June 2025) were 210.9 TAF, which was 17.8 TAF lower than the budget of 228.7 TAF.

Year-to-date water receipts through August 2025 were $264.2 million, which was $8.8 million lower than the budget of $273.0 million.

Month		Acre-Feet (AF)[1]		Variance		Revenue ($)[2]		Variance	
Delivered/Billed In	To be Collected in	Budget	Actual	AF	%	Budget	Actual	$	%
May	July	110,834	104,883	(5,951)	-5%	122,873,000	121,413,402	(1,459,598)	-1%
June	August	117,893	106,070	(11,823)	-10%	150,144,000	142,830,958	(7,313,042)	-5%
YTD Total		**228,727**	**210,953**	**(17,774)**	-8%	**273,017,000**	**264,244,360**	**(8,772,640)**	-3%
July	September	130,799	-	-	0%	149,512,000	-	-	0%
August	October	133,060	-	-	0%	152,486,000	-	-	0%
September	November	125,227	-	-	0%	141,366,000	-	-	0%
October	December	126,161	-	-	0%	139,251,000	-	-	0%
November	January	128,056	-	-	0%	136,399,000	-	-	0%
December	February	107,621	-	-	0%	112,940,000	-	-	0%
January	March	90,739	-	-	0%	105,776,000	-	-	0%
February	April	78,856	-	-	0%	91,212,000	-	-	0%
March	May	84,484	-	-	0%	98,206,000	-	-	0%
April	June	110,200	-	-	0%	129,990,000	-	-	0%
FY Total		**1,343,930**	**210,953**	**N/A**	N/A	**1,530,155,000**	**264,244,360**	**N/A**	N/A

ISSUE BRIEF B

SUBJECT: MET's Supply Condition Update

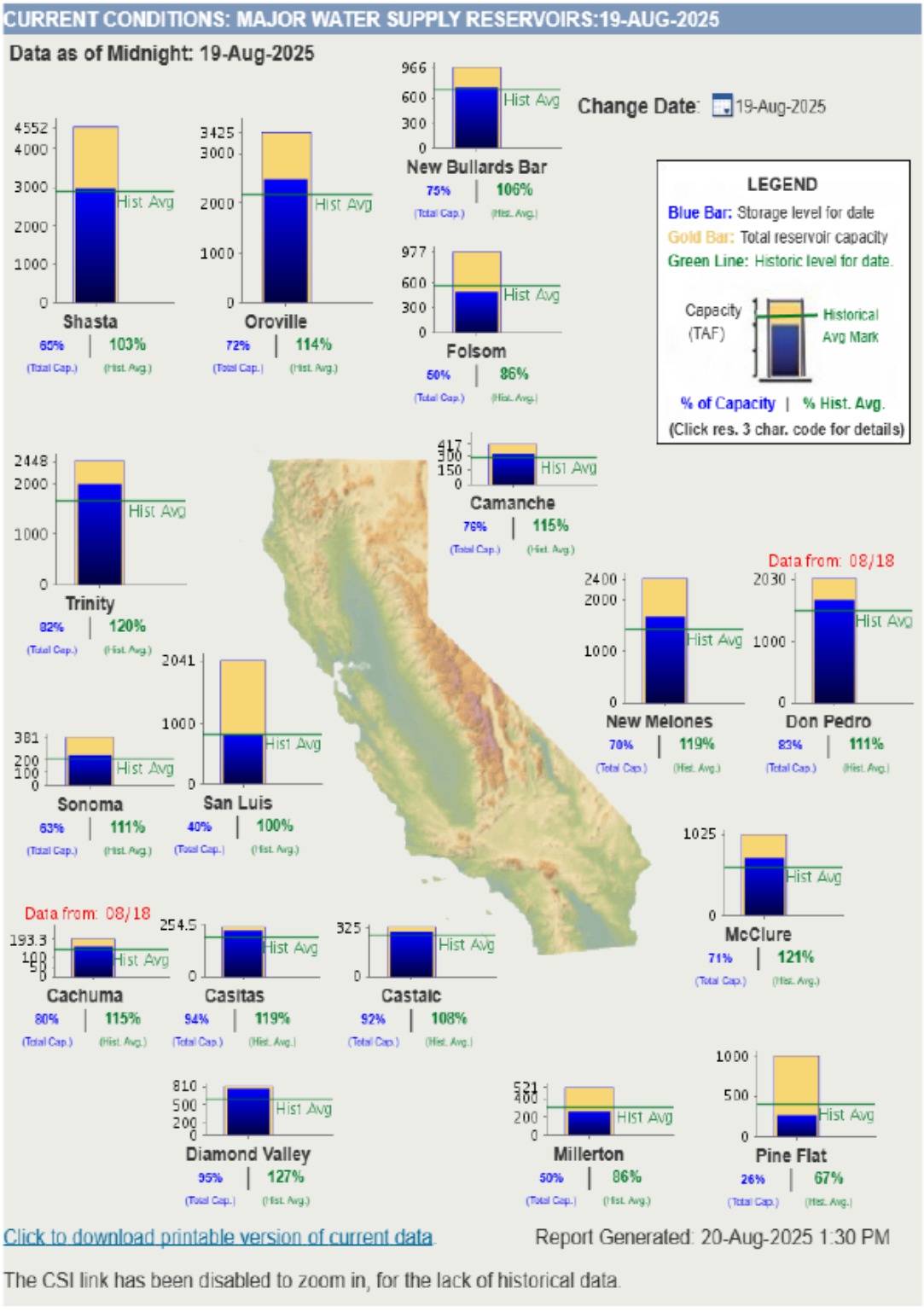
RECENT ACTIVITY

The 2024-25 Water Year (2024-25 WY) officially started on October 1, 2024. Thus far, Northern California accumulated precipitation (8-Station Index) reported ***55.5. inches or 113% of normal as of August 20th***. The Northern Sierra Snow Water Equivalent peaked at ***31.7 inches on April 4th***, which is ***112% of normal*** for that day. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has increased the State Water Project (SWP) ***"Table A" allocation to 50% as of June 2025.***

The Upper Colorado River Basin accumulated precipitation is reporting ***21.4 inches or 80% of normal as of August 10th***. On the Colorado River system, snowpack is measured across four states in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The Upper Colorado River Basin Snow Water Equivalent peaked at ***14.2 inches on March 24th***, which is ***98% of normal*** for that day. Due to the below average inflows into Lake Powell over the past several years, the United States Bureau of Reclamation **declared a shortage at Lake Mead that has been ongoing since January 1st, 2022 (below 1,075 feet storage level)**. As of July 2025, **there is a 93% chance of shortage continuing in CY 2026, a 87% chance in CY 2027 and a 80% chance in CY 2028. In addition, there is a 23% chance of a California (below 1,045 feet storage level) shortage in 2027.**

As of August 19th Lake Oroville storage is at **72*% of total capacity and 114% of normal.*** As of August 19th San Luis Reservoir has a current volume of **40*% of the reservoir's total capacity and is 100% of normal.***

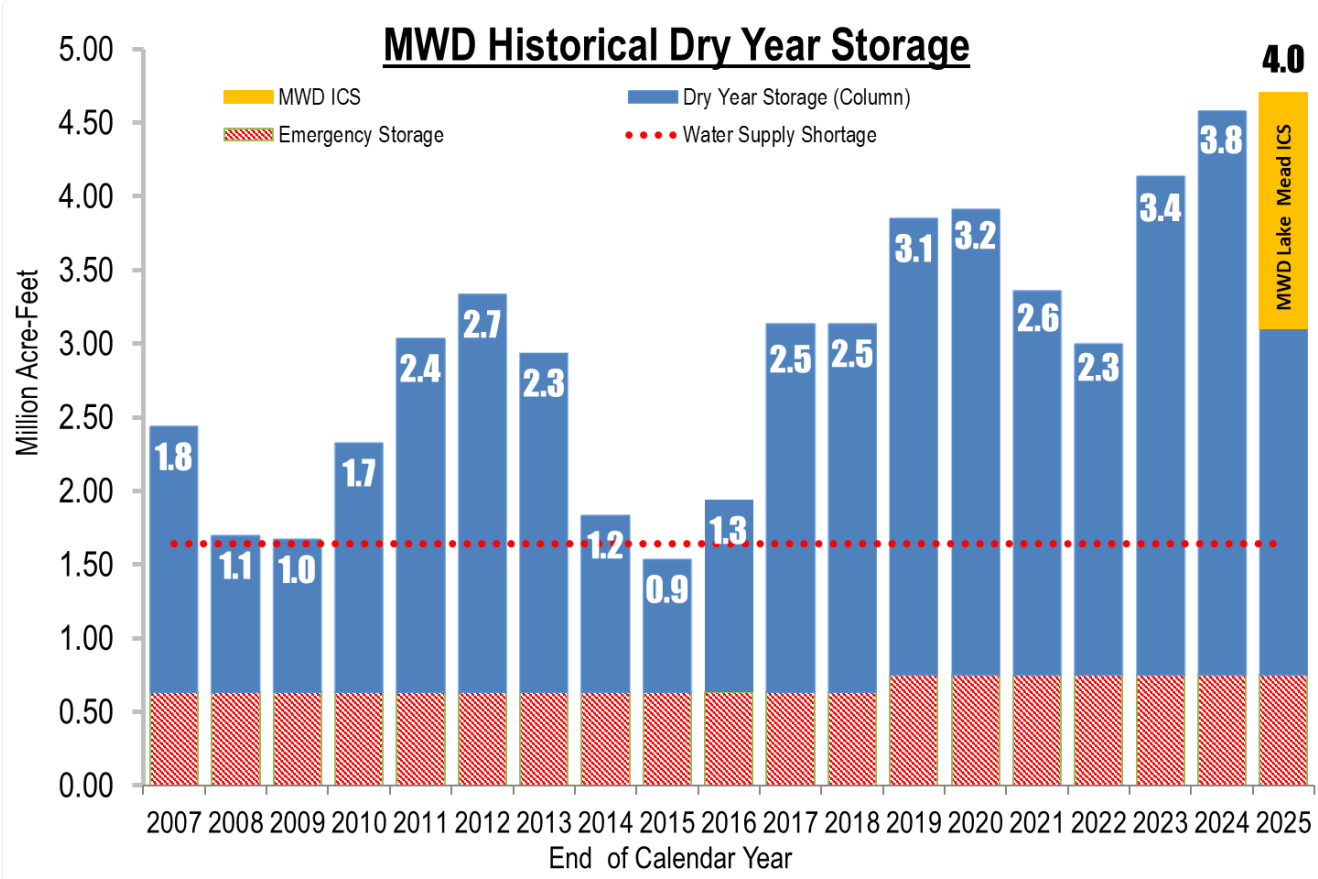
With Calendar Year (CY) 2025 estimated total demands and losses of 1.545 million acre-feet (MAF) and with a 50% SWP Table A Allocation, Metropolitan is projecting that supplies will exceed demand levels in CY 2025. Based on this, estimated total dry-year storage for Metropolitan at the end of ***CY 2025 will remain at approximately 4.0 MAF.***
A projected dry-year storage supply of ***4.0 MAF would be approximately 3.0 MAF from a typical level where Metropolitan's goes into Water Supply Allocations.*** A large factor in maintaining a high water storage level is lower than expected water demands***.*** We are seeing regional water demands reaching a 40-year low. **However, *with a majority of Metropolitan's water supplies stored in Lake Mead and with still a 5-year shortage projection at Lake Mead, there remains a lot of uncertainty about where supply balances will be in the future. In addition, Colorado River Basin States have been meeting for months to negotiate new post 2026 operations at Glen Canyon Dam at Lake Powell and Hoover Dam at Lake Mead.***

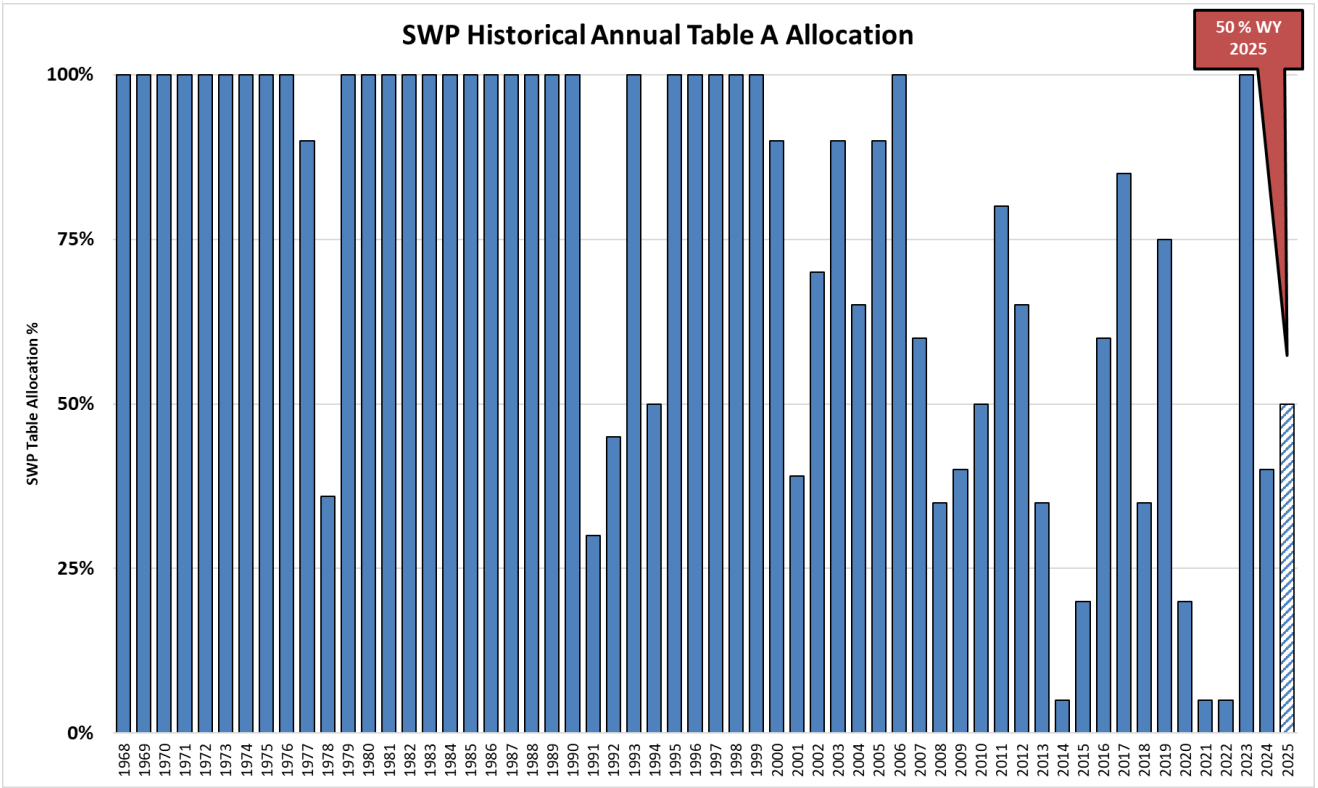


Click to download printable version of current data

Report Generated: 20-Aug-2025 1:30 PM

The CSI link has been disabled to zoom in, for the lack of historical data.


MWD Historical Dry Year Storage
MWD ICS
Dry Year Storage (Column)
Emergency Storage
Water Supply Shortage
Million Acre-Feet
5.00
4.50
4.00
3.50
3.00
2.50
2.00
1.50
1.00
0.50
0.00
1.8
1.1
1.0
1.7
2.4
2.7
2.3
1.2
0.9
1.3
2.5
2.5
3.1
3.2
2.6
2.3
3.4
3.8
4.0
MWD Lake Mead ICS
2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025
End of Calendar Year


SWP Historical Annual Table A Allocation
50 % WY 2025
SWP Table Allocation %
100%
75%
50%
25%
0%
1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025

2025 WSDM Storage Detail

WSDM Storage	1/1/2025 Estimated Storage Levels [1]	CY 2025 Maximum Put Capacity [2]	2025 Total Storage Capacity
Colorado River Aqueduct Delivery System	**1,544,000**	**78,000**	**1,622,000**
Lake Mead ICS	1,544,000 [3]	78,000	1,622,000 [3]
SWP System	**1,163,000**	**311,000**	**2,338,000**
MWD & DWCV Carryover	380,000	149,000	529,000 [4]
MWD Articles 14(b) and 12(e)	3,000 [5]	0	0
Castaic and Perris DWR Flex Storage	219,000	0	219,000
Arvin-Edison Storage Program	100,000	0 [6]	350,000
Semitropic Storage Program	227,000	67,000	350,000
Kern Delta Storage Program	142,000	48,000	250,000
Mojave Storage Program	19,000	0	330,000
AVEK Storage Program	27,000	0	30,000
AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program	45,000	47,000	280,000
In-Region Supplies and WSDM Actions	**1,060,000**	**60,000**	**1,246,000**
Diamond Valley Lake	788,000	22,000	810,000
Lake Mathews and Lake Skinner	188,000	38,000	226,000
Conjunctive Use Programs (CUP)	84,000	0	210,000 [7]
Other Programs	**762,000**	**223,000**	**1,181,000**
Other Emergency Storage	381,000	0	381,000
DWCV Advanced Delivery Account	381,000	223,000	800,000
Total	**4,529,000**	**673,000**	**6,387,000**
Emergency	750,000	0	750,000
Total WSDM Storage (AF) [8]	**3,779,000**	**673,000**	**5,637,000**

[1] Preliminary start of year balances, subject to DWR adjustments and USBR final accounting in May 2025.

[2] Put capacity assumed under a 40 percent SWP Table A Allocation. Storage program losses included where applicable.

[3] This amount is net of the water Metropolitan stored for IID in Lake Mead in an ICS sub-account.

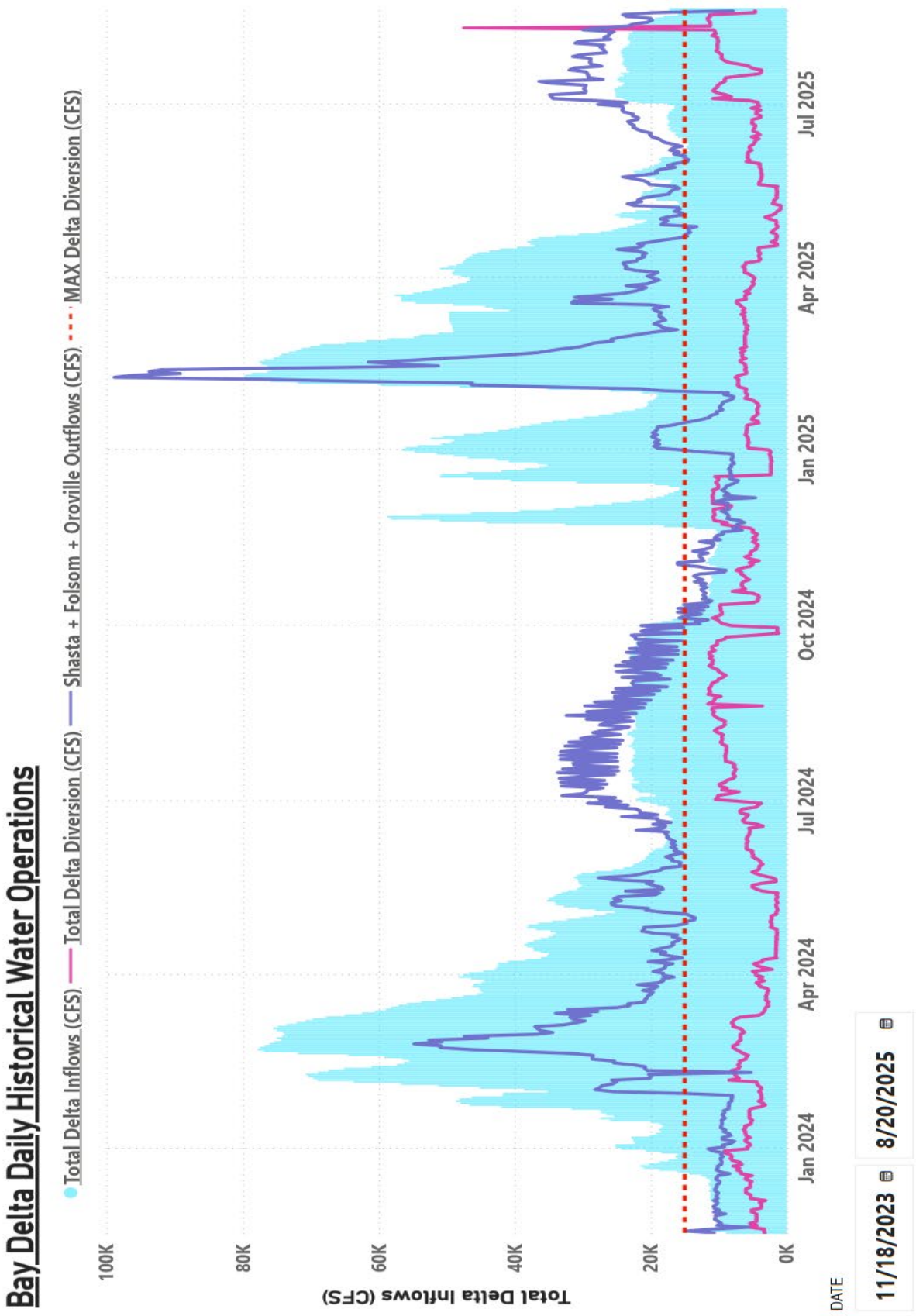
[4] Total storage capacity varies year-to-year as the contractual annual storage limit, based on the SWP Table A allocation, is combined with the remaining balance from the previous year. There is a potential risk that Metropolitan's stored water be converted to SWP contractor water if San Luis Reservoir approaches full capacity.

[5] DWR has approved carryover supplies under Article 14 (b) of the State Water Project Contract for delivery in 2025.

[6] Puts are limited due to water quality considerations.

[7] Total of all CUP programs including IEUA/TVMWD (Chino Basin); Long Beach (Central Basin); Long Beach (Lakewood); Foothill (Raymond and Monk Hill); MWDOC (Orange County Basin); Three Valleys (Live Oak); Three Valleys (Upper Claremont); and Western. On April 8, 2025, the Board authorized the termination of six inactive CUP agreements, effectively decreasing the CUP storage capacity to 115,000 AF by July 1, 2025. Future WSDM reports will reflect the decreased capacity once the termination agreements have been executed.

[8] Total WSDM Storage level subject to change based on accounting adjustments. Total may not sum due to rounding.


Bay Delta Daily Historical Water Operations
Total Delta Inflows (CFS)
Total Delta Diversion (CFS)
Shasta + Folsom + Oroville Outflows (CFS)
MAX Delta Diversion (CFS)
Total Delta Inflows (CFS)
100K
80K
60K
40K
20K
0K
Jan 2024
Apr 2024
Jul 2024
Oct 2024
Jan 2025
Apr 2025
Jul 2025
DATE
11/18/2023
8/20/2025

ISSUE BRIEF C

SUBJECT: MET's Water Quality Update

RECENT ACTIVITY

Water System Operations

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 131,000 acre-feet (AF) for July 2025, with an average of 4,200 AF per day, which was about 500 AF per day lower than in June. Treated water deliveries were 2,600 AF lower than June for a total of 72,200 AF, or 55 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) pumped a total of 88,400 AF in July. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 3,000 AF per day, totaling about 93,900 AF for the month. The target SWP blend is currently 40 percent for Diemer, Weymouth, and Skinner plants. SWP blends at Weymouth and Diemer were adjusted to 100 percent SWP temporarily to accommodate a five-day shutdown of the Lake Mathews facility.

Metropolitan has sufficient SWP, Colorado River supplies, and storage to meet demands in 2025. Water continues to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles and operational objectives with an emphasis on positioning SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP-dependent area. The SWP Table A Allocation is expected to remain at 50 percent for the calendar year. Metropolitan is continuing to manage Table A supplies to preserve supplies for the SWP-dependent area. At the same time, Metropolitan has shifted operations to manage surplus supplies. With the additional supplies, Metropolitan is delivering to member agency cyclic programs and to Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District in 2025.

Water Treatment and Distribution

The SWP target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants increased from 40 to 100 percent to support the Lake Mathews facility outage. Upon completion of the outage, the SWP target blend decreased to 60 percent by the end of July and is targeting 40 percent by early August. The SWP target blend entering Lake Skinner remained at 40 percent in July. Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from June 2024 through May 2025 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the CRA were 586 mg/L, 568 mg/L, and 569 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

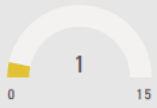
Weekly Operations Plan

For additional information, please contact Miluska Propersi at MPropersi@mwdh2o.com

08/14/2025 - 08/21/2025

Colorado River Aqueduct:
7-pump flow

Hydroelectric Generation:
9.9 MW
1 plant(s) in operation



Total Member Agency Demands
4,840 AF/Day

Change in Member Agency Demands*
▲ 180 AF/Day

Forecast August Deliveries to Member Agencies
141 TAF

East Branch SPW Imports

Rialto Pipeline	1300 AF/day	▶
Santa Ana Valley Pipeline	230 AF/day	▶
Inland Feeder	670 AF/day	▲

West Branch SPW Imports

Castaic Lake	920 AF/day	▼
SCVWA (formerly CLWA)	160 AF/day	▲

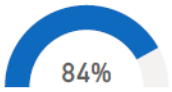
Water Quality

Plant Name	Targeted Blend (% SPW) As of 8/13/2025	TDS (mg/L) As of 8/13/2025	TTHMs (µg/L) As of 8/4/2025
Weymouth	40	486	24.0
Diemer	40	493	23.0
Skinner	40	482	21.0
Jensen	100	289	8.4
Mills	100	195	18.0

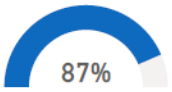
Terminal Reservoirs

as of 8/13/2025

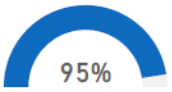
Lake Mathews
153,600 AF
▲ 1,300 AF*



Lake Skinner
38,100 AF
▼ -1,800 AF*



Diamond Valley Lake
772,900 AF
▼ -1,100 AF*



** = data from 8/6/2025*

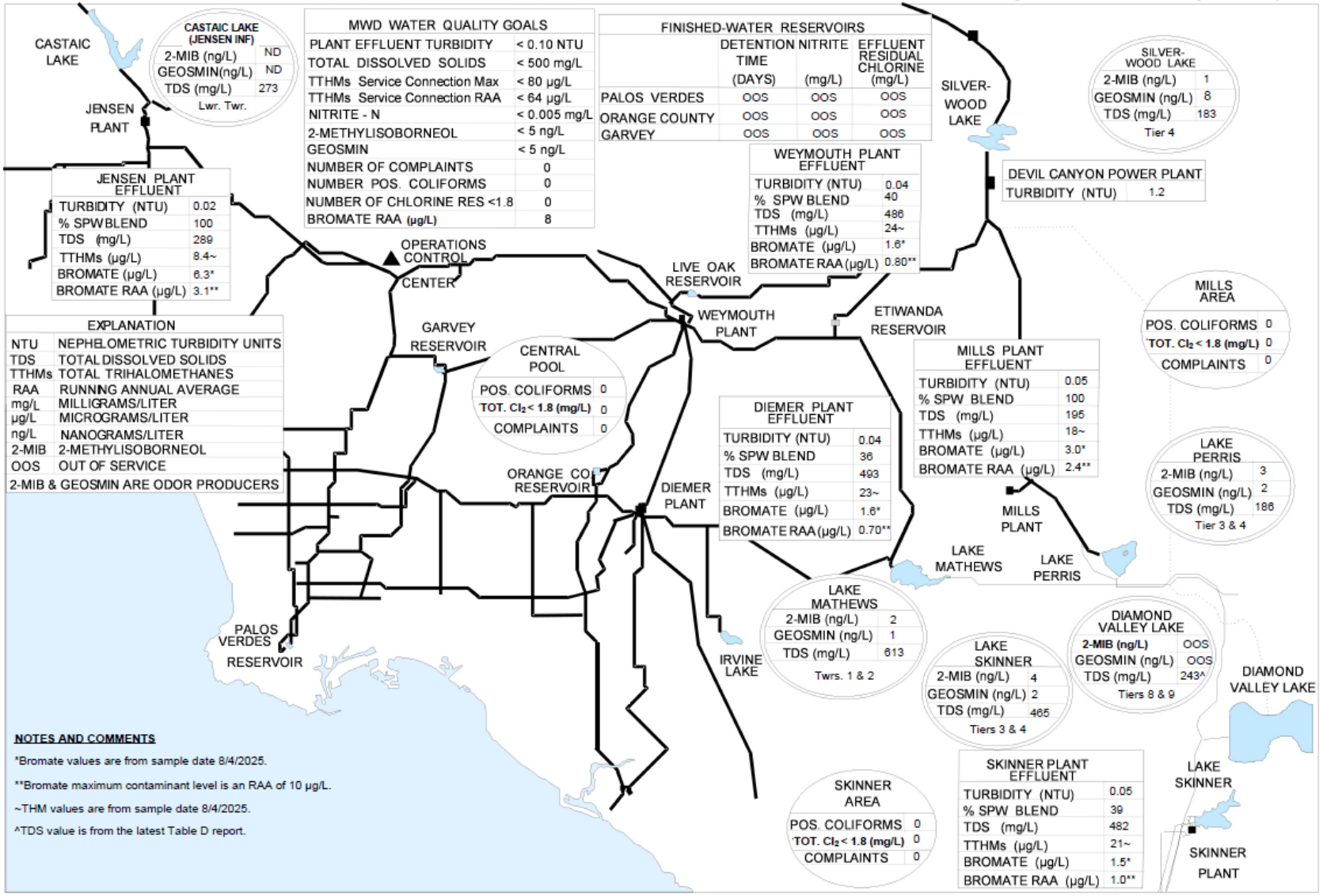
Weekly Water Quality System Status

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Generated On:8/13/2025 10:47:41 AM

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

No violations of State or Federal regulations were recorded during the current period.



EXPLANATION

NTU	NEPHELOMETRIC TURBIDITY UNITS
TDS	TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS
TTHMs	TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES
RAA	RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE
mg/L	MILLIGRAMS/LITER
µg/L	MICROGRAMS/LITER
ng/L	NANOGRAMS/LITER
2-MIB	2-METHYLISOBORNEOL
OOS	OUT OF SERVICE

2-MIB & GEOSMIN ARE ODOR PRODUCERS

NOTES AND COMMENTS

*Bromate values are from sample date 8/4/2025.

**Bromate maximum contaminant level is an RAA of 10 µg/L.

~THM values are from sample date 8/4/2025.

^TDS value is from the latest Table D report.

WATER QUALITY INFORMATION LINE: (800) 354-4420
VISIT MWD ON THE WEB AT http://www.mwdh2o.com

ISSUE BRIEF D

SUBJECT: Colorado River Issues

RECENT ACTIVITY

Develop Post-2026 Guidelines and Negotiate Implementation Agreements: Provide input that shapes U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) selected alternative Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) Meetings

The Basin States are meeting frequently in an effort to reach consensus on an alternative for Post-2026 operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. This spring, the Basin States agreed to focus on the Supply-Driven Alternative that would provide a fixed percentage of river inflow to the Upper Basin and base Lake Powell releases on the average of the last three years of inflow— using hydrology instead of reservoir elevations like the current guidelines. The releases from Lake Powell would supply both the Lower Basin and Mexico Treaty deliveries. The Interior Department and Reclamation support the Basin States effort to reach a consensus alternative that may be incorporated into the Post-2026 Guidelines. Metropolitan staff participate in these meetings as advisors to California's representative in the Basin States negotiations, JB Hamby, in his role as Chair of the Colorado River Board of California.

Develop Post-2026 Guidelines and Negotiate Implementation Agreements: Negotiate implementation agreements that protect and benefit Metropolitan's interests California 440 Meetings

California, Arizona, and Nevada have tentatively agreed to reduce Lower Basin water use by 1.5 million acre-feet (maf) under most system conditions to address evaporation and other system losses - often referred to as the structural deficit. The 1.5 maf of reductions includes 250,000 acre-feet (af) that is contingent on Mexico's participation at past levels. California's share of the 1.5 maf would be 440,000 af (440). The California contractors have started meeting to develop commitments to meet California's 440. Metropolitan staff are working with the other contractors to develop principles for sharing California's Colorado River reductions in the Post-2026 Guidelines. The agencies have agreed to develop a proposal for sharing reduction by November 2025. Metropolitan staff will provide updates and receive board direction on the process as it moves forward.

Desert Water Agency (Desert), Coachella Valley Water District (Coachella), and Metropolitan meet to negotiate an extension of their Exchange Agreement

Staff from Desert, Coachella, and Metropolitan met in July 2025 to discuss terms for extending the three-party agreement for exchanging State Water Project with Colorado River supplies. The current agreement expires in 2035, and Desert and Coachella are interested in extending that agreement this year, so that they can be assured that the money they are considering investing in Sites Reservoir, the Delta Conveyance Project, and other State Water Project activities can result in water deliveries post 2035. The agencies are targeting board actions in December 2025. Metropolitan staff will provide updates to the Board as the negotiations develop.

ISSUE BRIEF E

SUBJECT: Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

RECENT ACTIVITY

Maintain and Advocate for Metropolitan's Interests in Delta Conveyance Project Planning and Associated Funding

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has concluded its Change in Point of Diversion petition case-in-chief to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). On July 11, 2025, the State Water Contractors and the protestant parties filed their case-in-chief testimony to the SWRCB.

At the regularly scheduled board meeting on June 18, 2025, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board approved resolutions to secure deputy executive director services, facilitation services, and executive strategic support services to support the DCA's ongoing operations and strategic initiatives.

Bring Sites Reservoir Analyses and Options to Board for Consideration

At the Joint Reservoir Committee and Sites Authority Board meeting on June 20, 2025, the Reservoir Committee and the Authority Board authorized the Executive Director to resubmit the Project's Clean Water Act 404 permit and 401 certification applications.

Advance Science and Multi-Benefit Solutions That Improve the Sustainability of the Delta and Inform Regulation

Metropolitan staff presented to the Environmental Science Work Group on the proposed Non-Flow Action for 2025/2026. The proposed action would consist of collaborating with the Division of Boating and Waterways to adjust their Aquatic Weed Control Program to focus on removing submerged aquatic vegetation from Delta smelt habitat.

Metropolitan staff co-instructed a week-long intro course on Structured Decision Making (SDM) for 30 staff from DWR, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and public water agencies. The training sought to broaden knowledge of SDM and decision analysis tools among Bay-Delta managers and technical staff in support of meeting state and federal permits for operating the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project which have identified over a dozen decisions that will require some form of SDM.

Implement Risk Reduction Strategies to Protect Delta Assets and Minimize Supply Disruption

The Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project received concurrence from CDFW that the project is statutorily exempt from CEQA paving the way for expedited permitting.

Summary Report for
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Board Meeting
August 19, 2025

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

Approved new Ad Hoc Committee on Colorado River Negotiations and appointed as Chair, Adán Ortega, Vice Chair, Nancy Sutley, and members David De Jesus, Cynthia Kurtz, Gloria Cordero, and Mark Gold. **(Agenda Item 6B)**

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

Authorized an agreement with Kaygen Inc., in an amount not to exceed $473,640 for MyWarehouse Shopping Cart Replacement project with the understanding that staff evaluate whether the project can be made beneficial to other utilities. **(Agenda Item 7-1)**

Authorized an on-call agreement with Allied Reliability, Inc. for a not-to-exceed total amount of $1.75 million for a maximum period of three years, to provide asset reliability services. **(Agenda Item 7-2)**

Awarded a $1,454,000 construction contract to MMC Inc. to replace the San Jacinto Diversion Structure slide gates. **(Agenda Item 7-3)**

Awarded a $370,900 construction contract to American Wrecking Inc. for the removal of three existing gate frames in support of the San Gabriel Tower Improvements. **(Agenda Item 7-4)**

Reviewed and considered the California Public Utilities Commission Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report, adopted the Commission's findings, and authorized the General Manager to grant a permanent easement to Southern California Edison for overhead electrical transmission purposes on Metropolitan fee-owned property in the County of Riverside and identified as Assessor Parcel Number 189-110-011 and 189-120-005. **(Agenda Item 7-5)**

Authorized the General Manager to convert seventeen Operations and Maintenance Assistant positions at the Gene Pumping Plant from recurrent to regular part-time status with corresponding Position Control Numbers and Human Resources to take all necessary actions to implement the conversion, including negotiating any required language with the unions. **(Agenda Item 7-6)**

OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

Adopted the resolution establishing the Ad Valorem property tax rate for fiscal year 2025/26. **(Agenda Item 8-1)**

Authorized an increase of $300,000 to an existing agreement with HydroFocus, Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of $455,000 for environmental monitoring services. **(Agenda Item 8-2)**

Authorized the Local Supply Exchange Framework; delegated authority to the General Manager to enter into agreements to facilitate the exchange; and amended the Metropolitan Administrative Code to facilitate exchanges. The General Manager shall provide a written assessment of exchange agreements involving supplies receiving Local Resources Program funding and provide a written status report following the first 100,000 acre-feet of exchange activity facilitated by Metropolitan in addition to periodic updates. **(Agenda Item 8-3)**

Authorized the General Manager to enter into a new three-year sole source agreement with WaterWise Consulting Inc. for inspection and verification services for Metropolitan's Conservation Programs, for a total agreement not to exceed $4,500,000; by the end of the third year, the General Manager was directed to conduct a competitive process for the services provided by this agreement. **(Agenda Item 8-4)**

Adopted the resolution declaring approximately 5,497 acres of Metropolitan-owned real property in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta, commonly known as Webb Tract, as exempt surplus land under the Surplus Land Act. **(Agenda Item 8-5)**

Authorized a new agricultural lease agreement with Bouldin Farming Company for rice farming and related uses on portions of Metropolitan-owned real property in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta known as Webb Tract according to the price and terms given in closed session. **(Agenda Item 8-6)**

Authorized a new agricultural lease agreement with Lundberg Family Farms for rice farming and related uses on portions of Metropolitan-owned real property in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta known as Bacon Island according to the price and terms given in closed session. **(Agenda Item 8-7)**

Authorized a four percent cost of living salary adjustments for the General Counsel, General Auditor, and Ethics Officer. **(Agenda Item 10-1)**

Authorized a $15,000 one-time performance-based bonus to General Counsel. Authorized a $30,000 one-time performance-based bonus to General Manager to be paid out at the end of year upon General Manager departure. Authorized a 3.25% merit-based salary increase to General Auditor. **(Agenda Item 10-2)**

THIS INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING.

All current month materials, and materials after July 1, 2021 are available on the public website here: https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

This database contains archives from the year 1928 to June 30, 2021: https://bda.mwdh2o.com/Pages/Default.aspx

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Agenda

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

Board of Directors - Final

September 9, 2025

2:00 PM

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 Meeting Schedule
08:30 a.m. FAAME 10:30 a.m. LEGAL 12:30 p.m. Break 01:00 p.m. OPE 02:00 p.m. BOD

Written public comments received by 3:00 p.m. the business day before the meeting is scheduled will be posted under the Submitted Items and Responses tab available here: https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx.

The listen-only phone line is available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 891 1613 4145.

Members of the public may present their comments to the Board on matters within their jurisdiction as listed on the agenda via teleconference and in-person. To provide public comment by teleconference dial 1-833-548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 815 2066 4276 or to join by computer click here.

Disclaimer: Written and oral public comments are received in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. Please note that Metropolitan does not endorse or ensure the accuracy or reliability of the information provided as public comment or by third parties.

MWD Headquarters Building • 700 N. Alameda Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

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1. Call to Order

a. Invocation: Director Jay Lewitt, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

b. Pledge of Allegiance: TBD

2. Roll Call

3. Determination of a Quorum

4. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction. (As required by Gov. Code §54954.3(a))

5. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

Boardroom

A. Report on Directors' Events Attended at Metropolitan's Expense **21-5007**

B. Chair's Monthly Activity Report **21-5008**

C. General Manager's summary of activities **21-5009**

D. General Counsel's summary of activities **21-5010**

E. General Auditor's summary of activities **21-5011**

F. Ethics Officer's summary of activities **21-5012**

**** CONSENT CALENDAR ****

6. BOARD CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approval Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Organizational Personnel, and Effectiveness Committee for June 13, 2025 and the Special Joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and Workshop on Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for June 24, 2025 **21-5014**

B. Approve Committee Assignments

7. BOARD LETTERS CONSENT

7-1 Amend the Administrative Code to grant authority to the Ethics Officer to conduct systemic ethics-related reviews for the purpose of making recommendations that help foster an ethical culture and prevent ethics violations in support of SB 60 (CWC) **21-4960**

7-2 Authorize an agreement with West Monroe Partners in an amount not to exceed $722,500 for Metropolitan's Intramet Redesign project; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-4968**

7-3 Award a contract with EyeP Solutions Inc., in an amount not to exceed $334,791 to upgrade the Wireless Networks at Metropolitan's Riverside locations, including Skinner, Mills, Diamond Valley Lake and Lake Mathews; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-4969**

Attachments: 09092025 EOT 7-3 B-L

7-4 Authorize an agreement with Carasoft Technology Corp. in an amount not to exceed $920,000 for the Network Visibility and Situational Awareness Upgrades to enhance Metropolitan's network monitoring capabilities through the implementation of advanced technology; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-4970**

7-5 Amend the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 to include the Palos Verdes Reservoir Helicopter Dip Tank Facility project; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-4971**

7-6 Review and consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the Lead Agency for the project, and authorize the General Manager to execute a new 30-year license agreement with four options to extend the term in five-year increments for a maximum term of 50 years with the City of Fontana for supplemental parking for a Fire Station and Training Facility on Metropolitan fee-owned property in the city of Fontana, identified as San Bernardino County Assessor Parcel No. 0228-021-26 (FAAME) **21-4982**

7-7 Review and consider the Lead Agency's adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project, and adopt resolution approving an Agreement for Water Service with the Barona Band of Mission Indians, San Diego County Water Authority, Ramona Municipal Water District, and Metropolitan (FAAME) **21-4984**

7-8 Review and consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the Lead Agency for the project, and adopt a resolution approving an Agreement for Water Service with the Barona Band of Mission Indians, San Diego County Water Authority, Ramona Municipal Water District and Metropolitan (OWA) **21-4996**

7-9 Approve the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's salary schedules pursuant to CalPERS regulations; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (OPE) **21-5002**

7-10 Award a $7.988 million contract to Legion Contractors Inc. to construct electrical conduits at the Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant to support replacement of the plant's control system; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-4967**

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ****

8. BOARD ITEMS (ACTION)

8-1 Report on litigation in Encarnacion Gutierrez v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 23STCV11052; and authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with BDG Law Group, APLC, in the amount of $400,000 for a total amount not to exceed $900,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with legal counsel—existing litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] (LC) **21-5032**

8-2 Report on litigation in Dane Crawford v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Riverside County Superior Court Case No. CVPS2304015, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of $TBD for a total amount not to exceed $TBD; report on litigation in Dannelle-Mimi Phan v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 25STCV13693, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of $TBD for a total amount not to exceed $TBD; and report on litigation in Gina Chavez v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Bernardino County Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2521200, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of $TBD for a total amount not to exceed $TBD; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with legal counsel – existing litigation, to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] (LC) **21-4990**

9. BOARD ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

9-1 Report on Conservation Program **21-4985**

9-2 Review the applicability of the Metropolitan Water District Act Section 124.5 ad valorem property tax limitation for fiscal years 2026/27 through 2035/36, consistent with the Ten-Year Financial Forecast (FAAME) **21-4986**

9-3 Review Proposed Emergency Event Member Agency Payment Deferment Program, amendment to the Administrative Code to implement the Program, and delegation of authority to the General Manager to administer the Program (FAAME) **21-5029**

9-4 Update on research and framework for a community benefits program for Pure Water Southern California (LEG) **21-4991**

10. OTHER MATTERS

10-1 Consider authorizing merit-based salary increases and/or performance-based bonuses for the Ethics Officer; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA **21-5015**

11. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Each agenda item with a committee designation will be considered and a recommendation may be made by one or more committees prior to consideration and final action by the full Board of Directors. The committee designation appears in parenthesis at the end of the description of the agenda item, e.g. (EOT). Board agendas may be obtained on Metropolitan's Web site https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

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Requests for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Board Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation.