WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH METROPOLITAN DIRECTORS
18700 Ward Street, Conference Room 101, Fountain Valley, California
June 3, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

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

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**
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 THE 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. 2177

PRESENTATION ITEM

1. COLORADO RIVER UPDATE (PRESENTATION BY JESSICA NEUWERTH)

Recommendation: Receive and file the presentation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

a. Federal Legislative Report (Natural Resource Results)
b. State Legislative Report (West Coast Advisors)
c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)
d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)
e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix
f. Metropolitan Legislative Matrix

Recommendation: Review and discuss the information presented.

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

Recommendation: Receive input and discuss the information presented.

ACTION ITEMS

4. ASSEMBLY BILL 2739 (SORIA) – CALIFORNIA WATER AFFORDABILITY AND SYSTEM STABILIZATION ACT OF 2026

Recommendation: Adopt a support position on Assembly Bill 2739 (Soria).

5. SENATE BILL 1125 (MENJIVAR) – WATER RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Recommendation: Adopt a support position on Senate Bill 1125 (Menjivar).

6. SENATE BILL 952 (LAIRD) – STATE WATER PROJECT CLEAN ENERGY GOALS

Recommendation: Adopt a support position on Senate Bill 952 (Laird).

7. SENATE BILL 1048 (BECKER) – THE SEAL OF CLIMATE LITERACY ACT

Recommendation: Adopt a support position on Senate Bill 1048 (Becker).

INFORMATION ITEMS

8. METROPOLITAN ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

a. Metropolitan’s Finances
b. Metropolitan’s Water Supply Condition Update
c. Metropolitan’s Water Quality Update
d. Colorado River Issues
e. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

9. METROPOLITAN BOARD AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Summary regarding May Metropolitan Board Meeting
b. Review items of significance for the Metropolitan Board Agenda

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
June 3, 2026

TO: **Board of Directors**

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

Staff Contact: Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs

SUBJECT: **COLORADO RIVER UPDATE (PRESENTATION BY JESSICA NEUWERTH)**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors receive the presentation.

REPORT

Purpose

Staff invited the Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California, Jessica Neuwerth, to provide an overview of the Board and an update on the Colorado River, Post-2026 Operating Guidelines negotiations.

Background

The Colorado River Board of California represents the State of California and its members in discussions and negotiations with the Colorado River Basin States, federal, state, and local governmental agencies, as well as the Republic of Mexico regarding the management and operations of the Colorado River.

The Colorado River Board of California consists of eight members who are appointed by the Governor, including six representing water agencies, two members of the public, and the Directors of the California Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The current members of the Colorado River Board of California are:

Member:	Representative:
Coachella Valley Water District	Peter Nelson
Imperial Irrigation District	John B. Hamby (Chairman)
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	David Pettijohn
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Gloria Cordero
Palo Verde Irrigation District	Dana Bart Fisher, Jr.
San Diego County Water Authority	Jim Madaffer (Vice Chairman)
California Department of Water Resources	Karla Nemeth
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Charlton H. Bonham
Public Member	Jordan D. Joaquin
Public Member	Frank Ruiz

Discussion

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is advancing a ten-year "preferred alternative" framework that would establish broad operating principles and sideboards (operational constraints) for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, while updating specific operational rules every two years. Key disputes center on how much water should be released from Lake Powell, how much the Lower Basin must reduce consumption, and whether states can use Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) water to offset shortages.

The Lower Division States of Arizona, California, and Nevada submitted a proposal (Attachment 1) for Reclamation to consider in selecting a preferred alternative in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for post-2026 operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The seven Colorado River Basin states worked to reach a consensus proposal for post-2026 operations, but to date have been unable to agree on various operational elements. The Lower Division States proposal is an integrated, non-severable package that addresses:

- Lake Powell Releases
- Upper Initial Units Operations
- Lower Basin reductions by state of 1.25 million acre-feet annually
- Additional Lower Basin Conservation
- ICS
- Establishment of a Tribal Pool
- Infrastructure Improvements, including Glen Canyon Dam, as well as the development of system projects

The Lower Basin states argue their proposal would protect both reservoirs through major conservation commitments, expanded ICS flexibility, and additional releases from upstream reservoirs, while federal officials remain concerned that some provisions could jeopardize Lake Powell.

There is growing concern that negotiations could end in litigation if a compromise is not reached. Arizona officials strongly criticized Reclamation's preliminary framework, arguing it prioritizes Lake Powell at the expense of Lake Mead and Hoover Dam, while Upper Basin officials warned that worsening hydrology and historically dry conditions could force difficult future actions. At the same time, basin states are pursuing large-scale conservation, infrastructure, and water supply projects, including Arizona groundwater importation deals, new Yuma drainage recovery wells, and requests for expanded federal funding. Despite the conflict, officials across the basin repeatedly emphasized that litigation would slow progress and fail to resolve the river's long-term water shortage challenges.

Next Steps

Reclamation formally released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in January 2026, opening a 45-day public comment period that closed on March 2. Reclamation has indicated it is working toward releasing a final draft environmental impact statement and record of decision (ROD) for the post-2026 guidelines this summer, ahead of the Final EIS and ROD, which are required by October 1, the date on which the new operating guidelines take effect.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- ☒ *Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
- ☒ *Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and OC values and interests.*
- ☐ *Strengthen communication 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: Lower Division States' Proposal for Short-Term Operations of the Colorado River

Lower Division States' Proposal for Short-Term Operations of the Colorado River

Recognizing the dire hydrology and Colorado River system conditions, the Lower Division States have come together to propose a path forward through the end of 2028. Through this plan, the Lower Basin offers tools and commitments to Reclamation that are not otherwise available at the expiration of the 2007 Interim Guidelines.

This plan includes at least 3.2 million acre-feet (MAF) of savings by Lower Basin water users in the U.S., consisting of 1.25 MAF of reductions in 2027 and 2028, while providing proactive protection to the system through creation of an additional expected 700 thousand acre-feet (KAF) of conservation. These commitments are dependent on the other operational and financial components outlined below, to protect existing uses as much as possible while sustaining the Colorado River system.

While the prospect of litigation necessarily remains in the absence of a 7-state agreement, the proposal described below will benefit the entire Basin through the substantial water savings and the voluntary commitments that would be made in the agreements required for implementation. We hope these actions can provide additional time to develop a longer-term approach involving actions to achieve reductions in use by all seven states when the system demands it, which would limit or eliminate the prospect of interstate litigation and provide Reclamation with the fullest set of tools and resources to effectively manage the system.

Term

The Lower Division States' proposal is intended to cover the Calendar Years 2026, 2027 and 2028 ("implementation term"). The Lower Division States commit to reconsult to establish operating plans for post-2028.

Lower Basin Reductions

The Lower Division States' reductions in 2027 and 2028 will be 1.25 MAFY, allocated as follows: Arizona 760 KAFY, California 440 KAFY, and Nevada 50 KAFY. For calendar years 2027 and 2028, contributions may be reflected through reduced water orders or the application of a corresponding quantity of ICS subject to the ICS limitations set forth in the table below. The Lower Division States will consult regarding the effects of higher elevations in Lake Mead on these reductions and surplus conditions consistent with the provisions outlined in the Lower Division States' Alternative submitted in March 2024.

If the most probable projection of any 24-MS shows Lake Mead falling below 1,010', Reclamation will consult with the Lower Division States for additional actions, if any, that may be required to protect elevation 975'.

Intentionally Created Surplus

With the exception of the modifications set forth below, the existing DCP ICS framework and rules will be extended through the implementation term. Time limits for ICS withdrawal will be extended from 2036 to 2038. IID will also benefit from the same ICS framework as other parties, upon approval of the new agreement(s).

Annual evaporation losses of 3% will be assessed on all ICS other than Brock Reservoir ICS[1] beginning in 2027. The Extraordinary Conservation ("EC") ICS account of each state will be increased. Arizona's storage limit will be increased by 500 KAF. California's and Nevada's storage limits will each be increased by 300 KAF. Beginning in 2027, all newly created ICS will be subject to a 10% assessment upon creation, which shall become system water.

Due to additional ICS creation for the Tribal Pool (described below), the Arizona EC ICS creation limit will be increased by 25 KAF per year. The EC ICS creation limits for each state will be as follows: Arizona – 125 KAF; California – 400 KAF; Nevada – 125 KAF.

The goal is to achieve operational neutrality of ICS. The Lower Division States will consult to determine when and how to convert ICS to operational neutrality at higher elevations in Lake Mead.

[1] Brock Reservoir ICS is System Efficiency ICS created pursuant to Exhibit C of the 2007 Lower Basin ICS Agreement.

Use of ICS for delivery and to offset reductions is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 – Use of ICS[2]

Elevation of Lake Mead, January 1st, Year N (feet MSL)	Maximum withdrawal of ICS in Year N (CA / AZ / NV) (KAF)
Above 1025	400[3] / 200 / 50
At or below 1025 and above 1010	267 / 100 / 50
At or below 1010 and above 1000	133 / 33 / 33
At or below 1000	0 / 0 / 0

The Lower Division States recognize that withdrawals of ICS at lower Lake Mead elevations may affect the likelihood of reaching critical thresholds and express a shared objective of considering reservoir conditions in the timing of such withdrawals, while maintaining flexibility for ICS contractors to access supplies when warranted by water supply conditions. Contractors with ICS accounts may offset inadvertent overruns in any year subject to a 25 KAF state limit.

Tribal Pool

A new conservation pool in Lake Mead will be established to ensure the federal government can meet trust commitments to Indian Tribes in Arizona (Tribal Pool). The Tribal Pool will be accounted for within the ICS limitations applicable to the State of Arizona and will *not* be operationally neutral.

The Tribal Pool will be primarily a federal responsibility. Arizona tribes will also contribute water to the Tribal Pool at discounted prices. There will be no Lower Division State contribution to the Tribal Pool. It is anticipated this pool will need to be of a magnitude of approximately 280 KAF through 2028. Sufficient Tribal water can be acquired to fill this pool when including existing ICS Reclamation has already acquired. Subject to the ICS delivery limits outlined above, a portion of the water made available through the Tribal Pool

[2] The limitations in Table 1 do not apply to Tributary ICS created pursuant to Exhibit A to the 2007 Lower Colorado River ICS Agreement.
[3] California will use ICS credits to offset no more than a total of 600 KAF of its reductions over the implementation term, except that if the Powell release is higher than 7.5 MAF in either 2027 or 2028, the limit on California ICS use increases to 680 KAF.

will be made available to meet the federal trust responsibilities within Arizona. The Gila River Indian Community will contribute a portion of the water made available to it from the Tribal Pool to be converted to system water as part of Arizona's additional conservation. The remainder shall remain as Tribally owned ICS in Lake Mead for the implementation term.

Additional Lower Basin Conservation

In recognition of the poor condition of the Colorado River system, the Lower Division States intend to conserve a cumulative contribution of a minimum of 700 KAF in addition to the reductions described above during the implementation term. While this is the minimum amount of cumulative contribution, the Lower Division States anticipate working to exceed this amount if possible to a target of a cumulative contribution of at least 1 MAF. Sources could include expansion/continuation of SEIS activities (above and beyond activities required to generate 1.25 MAF), voluntary or compensated contributions of Binational ICS or other stored water, or establishment of a Lower Basin/Federal 700+ plan. To create conservation of this magnitude, the Lower Division States and Reclamation expect to develop a plan by August 2026 to identify specific contributions. With appropriate funding, the Lower Division States estimate minimum contributions from each of the Lower Division States as follows: California – 300 KAF; Arizona – 300 KAF; and Nevada – 100 KAF. Reclamation will account for all additional system conservation separately in its Decree Accounting Report and will apply annual evaporation losses of 3% to the total volume.

The Lower Division States' contributions are contingent on appropriate funding being available to facilitate the contribution of water. Any water acquired by Reclamation as part of the Lower Basin conservation program will be done at a cost-share with the Bureau of Reclamation. The cost-share will be either in kind, at a price discounted from prior federal programs, or made up with funding contributions at the state level. Reclamation will work to streamline environmental permitting in support of contractor actions required to implement the provisions of this proposal and will work with California contractors to facilitate additional considerations that may be necessary, including Federal funding, to address potential impacts to the Salton Sea and adjacent/underlying federal lands.

The long-term goal of the Lower Division States is to create an operationally neutral common pool of new water savings to be strategically deployed at low elevations to help delay and offset additional reductions to the Lower Division States beyond the 1.25 MAF.

Operation of the Upper Initial Units of the Colorado River Storage Project Act (UIU)

The Lower Division States appreciate Reclamation's approach to Flaming Gorge operations and Glen Canyon Dam releases described in Secretary Burgum's letter on April 22, 2026. The range of releases described for Flaming Gorge should trend heavily towards releasing as close to 1 MAF as possible to protect Lake Powell infrastructure as we see near-record low inflows and record high heat creating significant uncertainty in summer flow forecasts. Should unanticipated improvement in hydrology occur such that lower releases from Flaming Gorge are needed, the commensurate adjustments should be made to Glen Canyon Dam releases in water year 2026 and 2027 in a way that both the Flaming Gorge recovery and recovering the Glen Canyon Dam release modification occur simultaneously.

Given operational experience on the river since 2019, Reclamation should initiate the process early enough to begin UIU releases above baseline in early March, beginning in 2027. Releases above baseline should be dependent upon Lake Powell projected elevations; should Lake Powell be projected to fall below elevation 3,515' in the minimum projection, at least 600 KAF should be released above baseline. The UIU target elevations should be lowered until the release from Lake Powell is at least 8.23 MAF (i.e., Lake Powell elevation is at least 3,565'). The intent under improved hydrology is to share the benefits of improved hydrology between both basins. This logic should be applied in each successive year of operations under the proposed approach.

Releases above baseline from UIUs shall be system water and shall not be considered operationally neutral for determining operations of Lake Powell. Reclamation should determine annual UIU release volumes above baseline and commit to making those releases before making any decisions that reduce annual Lake Powell releases.

Release from Lake Powell to Lake Mead

The release for water year 2026 is expected to be maintained at 6.0 MAF. In the event Lake Powell is projected to end water year 2026 above elevation 3,530', additional water should be released.

Starting in water year 2027, the scheduled release from Lake Powell will be 8.0 MAF if Lake Powell is at or above 3,540' on October 1 of the preceding year. If Lake Powell is below 3,540' on October 1, the scheduled release from Lake Powell will be 7.0 MAF. Under either starting condition, the release may be adjusted, following consultation among the Lower Division States and Reclamation, if Reclamation's Minimum Probable forecast of hydrologic conditions and UIU augmented releases are insufficient to keep Lake Powell from falling below elevation 3,500' during the water year. Consultation shall consider options including the use of the River Outlet Works (ROW).

If Lake Powell is projected to end the water year above 3,565', Reclamation will adjust the release from Lake Powell to 8.23 MAF or greater and allow for both recovery of water released from the UIUs and additional releases from Lake Powell to address any reduced releases,[4] to the extent possible without Lake Powell falling below elevation 3565'. Such adjustments will allow both basins to benefit from the improved hydrology. This process of determining Lake Powell release volumes should be iterative from October to April with the final determination for the water year based on the Most Probable projections in the April 24-MS.

By the end of calendar year 2027, the Department of the Interior shall develop and publish a plan to address long-term operational and structural risks at Glen Canyon Dam in order to increase the ability to deliver water at lower elevations and prioritize releases to the Lower Division States in compliance with the Law of the River. This plan must be developed in consultation with and with the approval of the Lower Division States, and Interior shall begin implementing the plan no later than the end of 2028.

As a pilot, Reclamation will operate the ROW to test infrastructure performance for extended release periods during the implementation term. Reclamation will consult with the Lower Division States regarding the parameters of this test.

Additional Items

Reclamation will expeditiously confirm and implement federal investment in various necessary improvements in the management of the Colorado River system, especially in federal infrastructure in the Yuma area.

Reclamation, with the Lower Division States and stakeholders, should develop a framework for the exchange of augmented water among existing Section 5 contractors. Water that is not withdrawn by the receiving contractor in the year the exchange occurs should be eligible to be stored in an ICS account under the rules of the ICS program. The evaporation and system assessments will occur if the exchanged water is stored as ICS, but do not occur if delivery of the exchange occurs in same calendar year.

Reclamation should study modifications to the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project Diversion at Navajo Reservoir to allow Navajo Reservoir's operating elevation to fluctuate and release additional water downstream as originally intended in its enacting legislation.

[4] For purposes of this proposal, "reduced releases" will be addressed when (a) the WY 2026 reduction in Lake Powell's release from 7.48 MAF to 6 MAF is recovered and (b) the difference between 8.23 MAF and Lake Powell's actual release in WY 2027 or WY 2028 (if any) is recovered.

Reclamation should evaluate and, as appropriate, seek new compliance to release additional water from the UIU when operating for their authorized purposes including protecting downstream infrastructure and meeting Compact requirements.

Possible extension of term and scope

If additional federal funding is available before December 31, 2027, the Lower Division States will consider extending the implementation term by an additional year, or more, as circumstances allow.

The Lower Division States and water users have prepared this proposal on a voluntary and non-precedential basis, to address the dire hydrologic conditions affecting the Colorado River system. Nothing in this proposal, including any party's participation or the magnitude or form of any party's contributions, shall be construed as a waiver, relinquishment, or modification of any party's rights, claims, or defenses under the Law of the River, all of which are expressly reserved.

To: Board of Directors, *Municipal Water District of Orange County*
From: Natural Resource Results
RE: Monthly Board Report – June 2026

Colorado River

We anticipate the Bureau of Reclamation will release a Final EIS for the Post 2026 guidelines at some point in late June and begin consultation on the draft Record of Decision shortly thereafter. A Record of Decision is expected to be signed in late July. Reclamation is advancing a ten-year "preferred alternative" framework that would establish broad operating principles and sideboards for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, while updating specific operational rules every two years. Key disputes among the states center on how much water should be released from Lake Powell, how much the Lower Basin must reduce consumption, and whether states can use Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) water to offset shortages. The Lower Basin states argue their proposal would protect both reservoirs through major conservation commitments, expanded ICS flexibility, and additional releases from upstream reservoirs, while federal officials remain concerned that some provisions could jeopardize Lake Powell.

There is growing concern that negotiations could end in litigation if compromise is not reached. Arizona officials strongly criticized Reclamation's preliminary framework, arguing it prioritizes Lake Powell at the expense of Lake Mead and Hoover Dam, while Upper Basin officials warned that worsening hydrology and historically dry conditions could force difficult future actions. At the same time, basin states are pursuing large-scale conservation, infrastructure, and water supply projects, including Arizona groundwater importation deals, new Yuma drainage recovery wells, and requests for expanded federal funding. Despite the conflict, officials across the basin repeatedly emphasized that litigation would slow progress and fail to solve the river's long-term water shortage challenges.

Sites Reservoir Water Right

On March 20, 2026, the Administrative Hearings Office (AHO) of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued a draft water right decision and associated draft permit for the Sites Reservoir Project — a significant milestone following over a year of evidentiary hearings that concluded with reply briefs in June 2025. The hearing process was extensive, involving 21 parties, 60 witnesses, 2,115 evidentiary documents, and 32 separate hearing days with a two-day site visit.

The draft decision proposes to grant the water right with conditions, but those conditions are considerably more restrictive than what the Sites Project Authority requested. Key permit

conditions include: (1) annual diversions capped at 986,000 acre-feet — substantially below the project's proposed 1.5 million acre-foot capacity; (2) a requirement that Delta outflow through the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary be at or above 55% of unimpaired (natural) flow before diversions may occur; (3) operating criteria at the two diversion facilities (near Red Bluff and Hamilton City) to protect Sacramento River fisheries; and (4) a requirement to align the water right with ongoing Bay-Delta watershed planning processes.

Neither side is satisfied with the draft. Environmental groups and NGO protestants argue the conditions do not go far enough, and several have indicated they will push for outright denial during the comment process. A 60-day public comment period closed May 22nd. The AHO will evaluate comments and may revise the draft before submitting it to the full SWRCB board. The Sites Project Authority, among many other project supporters including Members of Congress, submitted detailed comments pushing back on the draft decision.

We expect a (possibly revised) draft final decision in July, which will go before the full SWRCB in September.

DOI Personnel

Aubrey Bettencourt has resigned as NRCS Chief and transitioned to the Department of the Interior. No official announcement has been made regarding her specific DOI role, but given her background — she previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at DOI during the first Trump administration, overseeing Bureau of Reclamation, USGS, and the Central Utah Project Completion Act — a senior water-related appointment such as Acting Commissioner would not be surprising.

Appropriations

The House Appropriations Committee approved its FY27 Energy and Water Development bill on May 20, 2026 and now awaits floor action. The FY27 budget request proposed a 22% reduction in Bureau of Reclamation and Central Utah Project funding (to $1.292 billion from $1.650 billion enacted in FY26), zeroed out WaterSMART entirely, and proposed no new WIIN Act Section 4007 water storage funding.

The House committee bill rejects these reductions and is expected to maintain or increase Section 4007 and WaterSMART.

For reference, the House FY27 bill proposes the following amounts for programs used by, or relevant to MWDOC:

- WaterSMART grants = $12 million (FY26 Enacted = $15 million)
- Title XVI (WaterSMART) = $41 million (FY26 Enacted = $12.5 million)
- Title XVI (WIIN Act) = $30 million (FY26 Enacted = $10 million)
- WIIN Act Storage Account = $201 million (FY26 Enacted = $62.5 million)
- Salton Sea= $915,000 (FY26 Enacted=$4.002 million)

Report language below is included to highlight the challenges that Reclamation is having getting funding out the door – Congress has noticed:

WaterSMART Program.—The Committee notes the recent progress made by Reclamation after delays to initiate funding opportunities under the WaterSMART program using previously appropriated funds. The Committee directs Reclamation to brief the Committee not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act on program timelines, funding availability, and steps taken to improve consistency in program delivery within WaterSMART. Reclamation is also reminded to notify the Committee when WaterSMART funding opportunities are initiated. While coordinating funding opportunities can maximize viable projects, make opportunities more accessible, and provide for a more holistic assessment of proposed work, Reclamation is reminded that the authorities for each program are controlling for those awards. Further, Reclamation is reminded that applications to support infrastructure deployment related to precision irrigation, conveyance, pressurized systems, and digital modernization for automation, are eligible to compete for WaterSMART grants.

The Energy and Water Appropriations bill also included report language regarding the Colorado River:

Of the additional funding provided under the heading ''Water Conservation and Delivery'', not less than $50,000,000 shall be to create or conserve recurring Colorado River water that contributes to supplies in Lake Mead and other Colorado River water reservoirs in the Lower Colorado River Basin or projects to improve the long-term efficiency of operations in the Lower Colorado River Basin. Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting existing or future opportunities to augment the water supplies of the Colorado River.

Colorado River Basin Drought.—The Committee maintains interest in the long-term drought afflicting the Colorado River Basin and the tribes, farmers, ecosystems, and communities that depend on reliable water and power deliveries from the system. Reclamation is encouraged to include in future budget submissions robust funding for activities that promote voluntary water conservation and enhance water supply infrastructure throughout the basin. In addition, the Committee is aware of unavoidable deliveries of water to Mexico in excess of treaty obligations. Additional infrastructure in the Lower Basin could enable this water to be captured and utilized domestically. The Committee appreciates Reclamation's response to the reporting requirement in the fiscal year 2026 Act and directs Reclamation to explore methods for reducing the over-deliveries to Mexico and to provide a status report to the Committee by not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Salton Sea.—The Committee remains interested in Reclamation's role in and plans for managing the air quality impacts of the estimated 8.75 square miles of lands it owns that will emerge from the receding sea over the next decade. Reclamation is directed to provide to the Committee not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act an updated estimate of anticipated exposed federal lands over the next decade and a funding estimate associated with meeting its Salton Sea obligations.

Precipitation Enhancement.—The Committee reaffirms the direction provided in the fiscal year 2026 Act encouraging the Bureau of Reclamation to consider all viable precipitation enhancing technologies and techniques when evaluating projects to improve water supplies and mitigate drought conditions. Reclamation is directed to submit a report to the Committee not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act that includes an assessment of existing Reclamation authorities applicable to the deployment of precipitation enhancement technologies.

West Coast Advisors
Strategic Public Affairs

May 27, 2026

To: Municipal Water District of Orange County

From: Michael Boccadoro
Beth Olhasso

RE: May Report

Overview:
California entered late spring with a mixed water outlook as reservoirs remained near historic highs despite the Sierra snowpack melting far earlier than normal after a record-hot March. Statewide precipitation through April reached 100% of average, but much of it fell as rain instead of snow, reducing the state's natural summer water storage. Reservoir conditions remain strong, with San Luis Reservoir at 106% of historical average, Lake Oroville at 120% of normal, and Lake Shasta at 105% of average for this time of year. Water managers cautioned that the weak snowpack could still create challenges later in the summer because reduced snowmelt limits steady runoff during the hottest months.

Governor Newsom's May Revise budget proposal preserved most major natural resources and climate programs but signaled a more restrained fiscal approach as California faces long-term budget pressures. The proposal includes $25 million for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program tied to Bay-Delta restoration and science efforts, while shifting some environmental agency costs away from the General Fund. Debate continues over the future of California's cap-and-trade, or "cap-and-invest," program, which supports transit, wildfire prevention and clean water projects. Lawmakers now face negotiations over environmental funding ahead of the June 15 budget deadline.

At the ACWA spring conference, Governor Newsom urged California water leaders to accelerate major infrastructure projects, particularly the Delta Conveyance Project, arguing the state's current water system was built for a climate that no longer exists. Newsom said California must modernize water conveyance, storage and groundwater systems to manage more volatile storms and longer droughts. He highlighted the Delta tunnel as a critical resilience project protecting State Water Project supplies from earthquakes, sea-level rise and declining snowpack. The Governor also emphasized investments in groundwater recharge, recycled water, Sites Reservoir and local water supply development.

California regulators and environmental groups are raising concerns over federal plans to increase water deliveries from Shasta Reservoir to Central Valley agricultural contractors. State officials warn that releasing too much cold water now could leave Sacramento River temperatures dangerously warm later this summer, threatening Chinook salmon spawning and survival.

A coalition of Tribal leaders, environmental organizations and fishing groups released a new "Water Renaissance Plan" calling for California to shift away from imported water projects and invest more heavily in local water supplies. The proposal emphasizes wastewater recycling,

stormwater capture, groundwater cleanup and conservation instead of the Delta tunnel, arguing Southern California could meet up to 85% of its demand locally by 2045.

The Legislature is entering the final push to move bills out of their house of origin before the May 29 deadline. SB 872 (McNerney), would create a long-term Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund providing up to $300 million annually for canal repairs and Delta levee improvements, though funding details are still under negotiation. Other key bills include AB 2215 extending deadlines tied to State Water Project permits and AB 2777 expanding financing flexibility for recycled water and wastewater projects. Lawmakers are also advancing bills related to tribal water rights, utility emergency access and invasive golden mussel prevention.

Municipal Water District of Orange County
Status Report – May 2026

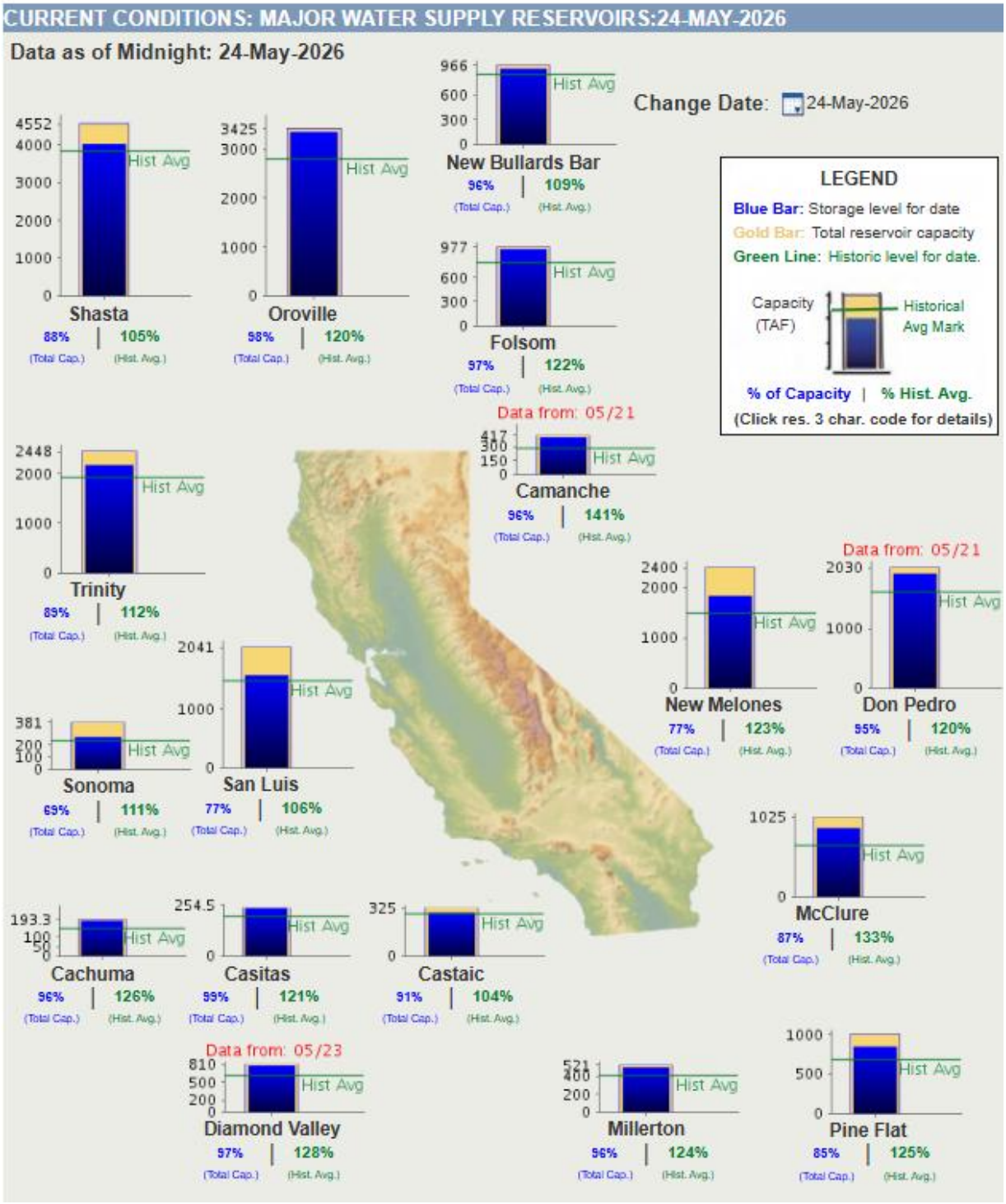
Water Supply Conditions

California entered the late spring with a sharply divided water picture: reservoirs remained near historic highs thanks to strong carryover storage and near-average precipitation, while the Sierra snowpack all but disappeared weeks ahead of schedule after a record-hot March.

According to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), statewide precipitation through the end of April measured 21.4 inches, or 100% of average for the water year. But despite average precipitation totals, California's mountain snowpack — the state's largest natural reservoir — collapsed unusually early.

Even with the poor snowpack, California's reservoirs remained exceptionally healthy because of water stored from prior wet years and continued spring precipitation. Water managers warned, however, that the weak snowpack could still create problems later in the summer because snowmelt typically provides a slow, steady source of runoff during the hottest months.

Reservoirs are still holding strong-- San Luis reservoir is at 106 percent of historical average and 77 percent capacity. Lake Oroville is at 98 percent capacity, 120 percent of normal; Lake Shasta is sitting at 88 percent of capacity, 105 percent of average for this time of the year.


CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS:24-MAY-2026
Data as of Midnight: 24-May-2026
Change Date: 24-May-2026
LEGEND
Blue Bar: Storage level for date
Gold Bar: Total reservoir capacity
Green Line: Historic level for date.
Capacity (TAF)
Historical Avg Mark
% of Capacity | % Hist. Avg.
(Click res. 3 char. code for details)
Shasta
88% | 105%
Oroville
58% | 120%
New Bullards Bar
96% | 109%
Folsom
97% | 122%
Data from: 05/21
Camanche
96% | 141%
Trinity
89% | 112%
Sonoma
69% | 111%
San Luis
77% | 106%
New Melones
77% | 123%
Data from: 05/21
Don Pedro
55% | 120%
McClure
87% | 133%
Cachuma
96% | 126%
Casitas
59% | 121%
Castaic
91% | 104%
Data from: 05/23
Diamond Valley
97% | 128%
Millerton
96% | 124%
Pine Flat
85% | 125%
Hist Avg
(Total Cap.)
(Hist. Avg.)

Governor Newsom Reveals May Revise Budget

California's natural resources programs escaped the deepest cuts in Gov. Gavin Newsom's May Revise budget proposal, but the spending plan signals a tighter fiscal era for environmental and conservation programs as lawmakers prepare for difficult negotiations ahead.

The revised 2026-27 budget, unveiled May 14, closes what the administration says was a projected deficit while preserving nearly $30 billion in reserves. The proposal leans heavily on stronger-than-expected tax revenues tied to California's booming artificial intelligence sector and stock market gains.

Even with the improved fiscal outlook, the May Revise reflects a broader shift away from the rapid expansion of climate and natural resources spending seen during the state's recent surplus years. The administration framed the proposal as one focused on "fiscal restraint" while still maintaining core investments in clean energy, wildfire resilience and ecosystem restoration.

Among the headline resource proposals budget adds $25 million for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program, aimed at supporting habitat restoration and science tied to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan update.

The administration also proposes shifting roughly $9.6 million in California Environmental Protection Agency costs away from the General Fund and onto alternative funding sources, including activities at the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the California Air Resources Board. Environmental advocates say the move highlights the growing pressure on agencies to find dedicated revenue streams as General Fund dollars tighten.

At the same time, uncertainty continues to hang over California's long-term climate funding structure. Debate is intensifying around the state's proposed overhaul of its cap-and-trade program — rebranded as "cap-and-invest" — which could significantly reduce revenues that currently support transit, affordable housing, wildfire prevention and clean water projects. Local governments and environmental groups warn the changes could strip billions from programs communities increasingly rely on to address climate resilience.

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) cautioned that while higher tax receipts improved the state's immediate condition, California still faces structural budget deficits in future years. The LAO noted that the May Revise relies on stronger revenues and reserves, but warned the state remains vulnerable to economic downturns because of its dependence on volatile capital gains taxes.

For natural resources agencies, the May Revise may ultimately represent a holding pattern rather than an expansion year. Core climate and conservation priorities largely remain intact, but new large-scale commitments are scarce, and agencies are increasingly being asked to stretch existing dollars further.

The Legislature now has until June 15 to pass a final budget, with environmental funding expected to remain a major point of negotiation between lawmakers, labor groups, local governments and climate advocates.

Governor Newsom Addresses ACWA Conference

Governor Newsom used his appearance at the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference to deliver an unmistakable message to the state's water leaders: California must move faster on major infrastructure projects — especially the Delta tunnel — if it hopes to adapt to a hotter and more volatile climate future.

Addressing water managers, local agency officials and industry leaders at the ACWA spring conference, Newsom framed the state's water challenges as part of a broader climate transformation that is rapidly outpacing the state's traditional infrastructure and regulatory systems.

"We built a water system for a world that no longer exists," Newsom said, arguing that California must modernize its conveyance, storage and groundwater systems to capture increasingly erratic storm flows and prepare for longer drought cycles.

The Governor repeatedly emphasized the Delta Conveyance Project, describing the proposed tunnel beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as one of the state's most important long-term resilience investments. Newsom argued that sea-level rise, earthquake risk and declining snowpack threaten the reliability of the State Water Project, which supplies water to roughly 27 million Californians.

The remarks came just weeks after the project achieved a major permitting milestone when the Delta Stewardship Council rejected most appeals challenging the tunnel's consistency with the Delta Plan. The ruling preserved the California Department of Water Resources' certification and allowed the project to continue advancing through the state approval process.

Newsom told conference attendees that California cannot continue delaying large-scale projects because of what he described as decades-long permitting and litigation cycles. He urged water agencies to support a more streamlined approach to environmental review and infrastructure delivery.

Alongside the Delta tunnel, Newsom highlighted investments in groundwater recharge, recycled water, Sites Reservoir and local storage projects. He also praised urban conservation efforts and acknowledged that water recycling and regional self-sufficiency will play a growing role in California's future water portfolio.

State Regulators Concerned About Federal Actions at Shasta

The latest battle in California's water wars is centering on Shasta Dam, where the Trump administration is moving to send more water to Central Valley farms despite warnings that the plan could threaten already struggling salmon populations.

Federal officials recently increased water allocations from the Central Valley Project to agricultural contractors south of the Delta, citing improved reservoir conditions after spring storms to 25 percent. But environmental groups, fishing organizations and California regulators say releasing too much cold water from Lake Shasta now could leave river temperatures

dangerously warm later this summer and fall — a critical period for Chinook salmon spawning in the Sacramento River.

State water regulators warned in a recent letter that the federal draft temperature management plan could lead to salmon egg mortality if conditions worsen later in the year. The concern stems from lessons learned during the 2021 drought, when warm river temperatures below Shasta Dam caused massive losses of winter-run Chinook eggs and juvenile fish.

The dispute highlights a broader political fight between California and the Trump administration over Delta pumping and water deliveries. Federal officials have pushed to weaken some environmental protections in order to move more water south to farms and communities, while California agencies argue the approach could damage fish populations, destabilize Delta operations and even reduce supplies available for Southern California cities.

Fishing advocates say the stakes are especially high because California's commercial salmon industry is only beginning to recover after multiple years of closures tied to collapsing fish populations. Water agencies serving agriculture, meanwhile, argue additional supplies are necessary after years of drought and ongoing uncertainty over Delta restrictions.

Tribal and Environmental Leaders Release "Water Renaissance Plan"

A new coalition of environmental organizations, fishing groups and Tribal leaders is calling for what it describes as a "Water Renaissance" in California — a sweeping shift away from large imported water projects and toward local, climate-resilient water supplies.

The newly released Water Renaissance Plan for California argues the state should prioritize investments in wastewater recycling, stormwater capture, groundwater cleanup and conservation rather than continue pursuing the controversial Delta Conveyance Project, also known as the Delta tunnel. The coalition says Southern California could eventually meet as much as 85% of its water demand through local supplies by 2045, compared with roughly 50% today.

Supporters of the plan say California's traditional reliance on imported water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the Colorado River and the Eastern Sierra is becoming increasingly unreliable because of climate change, shrinking snowpack and overallocation of river systems. The report estimates Southern California could develop between 1.8 million and 2 million acre-feet of drought-proof local water supplies through recycling, conservation and stormwater investments.

The coalition behind the proposal includes the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the River, Golden State Salmon Association, LA Waterkeeper, Restore the Delta, San Francisco Baykeeper, Sierra Club California, the Winnemem Wintu Tribe and Yosemite Rivers Alliance. More than a dozen additional organizations have endorsed the plan since its release.

The proposal arrives as Gov. Gavin Newsom intensifies his push for the Delta tunnel, which supporters argue is essential to protecting water deliveries from earthquakes, sea-level rise and climate disruption. But Water Renaissance advocates say the tunnel would lock California into

an expensive and outdated water strategy while further stressing the Delta ecosystem and struggling salmon populations.

Bruce Reznik, executive director of LA Waterkeeper, said the state should focus its investments on water supplies that are available "rain or shine," arguing local projects offer greater long-term reliability than importing water hundreds of miles across the state. Coalition leaders also point to growing uncertainty surrounding future Colorado River supplies and environmental restrictions in the Delta as evidence California must diversify its water portfolio.

Legislative Update

The Spring push to move bills through their first house is in the final stages. Bills have run through the gauntlet of policy committee and appropriations committee and now need to be off the floor of their house of origin by May 29.

The first house Suspense File consideration is generally more friendly than when bills are in the opposite house. Of the 332 measures on the Senate Suspense File, 242 were passed to the floor, with 90 being held (27% hold rate). In the Assembly, 468 of the 637 measures were passed, with 169 being held (26.5% hold rate). This is about standard for both houses.

State Water Contractors Sponsored Legislation:

SB 872 (McNerney) has been amended into a major climate and water infrastructure funding bill.

Under the revised language, SB 872 would create the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund that would fund toward critical water system upgrades over the next two decades — beginning in the 2026–27 fiscal year through 2046–47.

Key provisions include:

- $150 million annually to the California Department of Water Resources for capital improvements aimed at restoring original conveyance capacity in state water facilities affected by land subsidence — a growing problem as pumping lowers groundwater levels and damages canals.
- $150 million annually to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy for levee repairs and related projects in the Delta, strengthening flood protection and habitat conditions.

The bill was amended to take out a specific funding source, which will lead to more discussions on the concept during the budget process.

The bill also includes a restriction that these funds cannot be used for the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of new Delta conveyance facilities beyond existing infrastructure.

The bill has received bipartisan support throughout the process, passing to the Assembly on a 39-0 vote.

DWR has recently been talking about the bill and subsidence as budget discussions heat up. It seems they aren't backing the entire $300 million a year ask, but are supporting an investment in the budget, likely in the $25 million range for short-term.

AB 2215 (Calderon): moves a portion of the DCP Trailer Bill from 2025 into a policy bill. AB 2215 would require that the time periods for the application of water to beneficial use and for the completion of construction work for specific water right permits held by the Department of Water Resources for the operation of the State Water Project be December 31, 2045. The bill passed out of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee 11-0 and the Appropriations Committee and was approved by the full Assembly 52-1. ACWA recently took a support position on the bill.

State Water Project contractors and MWD member agencies are rallying behind these two bills as essential legislation to keep water flowing.

CASA & WateReuse CA:

CASA and WateReuse CA's co-sponsored legislation, AB 2777, to add more capacity to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and make it easier for agencies to get larger loans or reduce burdensome requirements in the contract has passed out of the Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee and Appropriations Committee and passed off the Assembly Floor 75-1.

Other significant legislation:

- **AB 1881 (Ramos)** and **AB 2218 (Kalra)** on tribal water rights. Both bills give tribes significant powers over infrastructure projects. Stakeholders have been working with the authors and sponsors to work out mutually aggregable language. Both bills passed out of Appropriations Committee and are awaiting action on the Assembly Floor.
- **SB 1001 (Archuletta)** Identification cards for utility workers to allow access during emergencies. This legislation was significantly amended to align with an already existing system at the CA Office of Emergency Services to offer Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable (PIV-I) cards to operators who apply and meet the requirements. This bill was held in Appropriations Committee.
- Golden Mussels Bills
    - **AB 2032 (Ransom)**: specifies specific actions for the state to undertake to research and provide best management practices for eradication. The bill has an urgency clause, but passed off the Assembly Floor well ahead of the 2/3 vote threshold with 78 "aye" votes.
    - **AB 1772 (Papan):** creates a standardized boat inspection program for all reservoir operators.
    - **AB 1894 (Rubio):** Looks to address some agencies forbidding SWP water from entering a system. The bill has made it to the Senate and has been referred to the Natural Resources and Water Committee where it is expected to be amended to address some concerns of other water users, including MWD.

These are just a few bills that will continue to work their way through the legislature in the coming months.

ACKERMAN CONSULTING

Legal and Regulatory

June 3, 2026

1. **Fresno County Rising:** We all are aware that the majority of the Central Valley in California has been experiencing serious ground subsidence. As a result of groundwater overdrafting, the State passed the Groundwater Management Act. The Act has been litigated, debated and implemented all at the same time. While the subsidence has been slowed down, it continues in most areas. There are some exceptions. Between Cantua Creek and Huron, in southern Fresno County, (near the 5 Freeway) the ground is actually rising. While the average rise is a little over one inch, it is still progress. Westlands Water District is taking credit due to its management and replenishment efforts. The largest subsidence (around 6 inches) continues in the Tulare, Madera and Alpaugh regions.

2. **Kentucky Derby:** While my horse bucked his jockey off before he got to the starting gate, the Derby has an interesting water history. The first Derby was held in 1875. The planners quickly realized they had a water issue. They were going to have an event with a lot of horses and lots of people (although not quite as many then as today) and not enough water. The southern part of Louisville had very little water service. So the Derby officials went to the Louisville Water Company board as asked them to run new mains from the Ohio River to the track. Fortunately, the board said yes and the rest is history. But engineers from the Water Company are also recognized for developing one of the earliest filtration systems. The Ohio River was very muddy. Later in 1896, they were one of the first to add chlorine to their drinking water.

3. **Pacific Ocean Hot:** During the first few months of the year, the Pacific Ocean has been heating up between San Francisco and the Mexican border. Temperatures on the surface have been 7 degrees higher and on the bottom have reached records going back 100 years. Strong high pressure in Southern California and weaker coastal winds are indicating a marine heat wave in the Ocean. It takes much more energy to heat water than air. This study done by Scripps believes human impact may push the temperatures even higher. This condition can impact weather, ecosystems, and public health. Some think this could be another “blob” which we experienced in 2014-2016. That event had a major negative impact on marine life, migration and algae blooms.

4. **Reservoir Gas:** Methane is escaping from our reservoirs. Plants in the water breakdown over time producing methane which bubbles up. Environmental groups want the State to order water districts and other agencies to monitor and measure how much methane is being discharged into the atmosphere. After that occurs they would like to regulate it. No one is exactly sure how much is put into the air as it is difficult to measure and varies in different circumstances. Experts from the enviro groups think the number is large and are generally opposed to new reservoirs (Sites) and dams. They would also like to see it considered

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when decisions about hydro power are being made. The groups submitted a petition to CARB last month to begin the process.

5. **California Shoreline Growing:** UCI, along with the US Geological Survey, have examined 40 years of satellite date measuring California's coastline. Their conclusion was that our coastline has grown by around 500 acres. This had not happened through nature but through man made actions. Adding sand to beaches (as we are doing in Orange County), building land and sea structures (jetties and breakwaters) and other efforts to stabilize beaches and erosion, all help to make more shoreline. Many areas, such as the delta in New Orleans, are creating new shoreline by using nature's forces. This research tells us which of our approaches are working and which are not.

6. **Nutria Cause:** The nutria invasion is continuing and California is spending millions of dollars attempting to control it. This 20 pound animal originally came from South America. As a result of the fur trade, it was imported to Oregon in 1937. Soon, they became so numerous and destructive, they were put on the eradicate list. In the 1970s, California was declared nutria clean. In 2017, a pregnant nutria was found in Merced County. Since she was alone, everyone suspected that some person brought her here in violation of State law. No one has been able to trace the culprit. A political debate has developed that the Governor of Louisiana did it to get back at Governor Newsom. They had a bitter battle over many issues. However, tests have shown that our nutria is of the Oregon variety, not Louisiana.

7. **PFAS and Covid:** East Lansing, Michigan has a serious PFAS issue in their water system. A study was done by Michigan State University, Wayne State University, Duke University and University of Colorado is PFAS was damaging to our body's immune system. The test was done with 74 people who consumed high PFAS water with respect to their reaction to Covid vaccinations. Their results showed a 40% drop in anti-body response. Their conclusion was the PFAS could be responsible for harming our immune system. They acknowledged that their sample was very small and 7 of those folks had Covid before.

8. **Contracts Upheld:** The US Bureau of Reclamation delivers water from the Central Valley Project to over 250 water contractors, including Westlands Water District. A group of environmental groups had filed suit to throw out these contracts on the basis that this was a "new" project. The Federal District Court dismissed their case saying that this was not a "new" project. This case has been in court for years.

9. **High on Salad:** Johns Hopkins researchers are examining the impact of drug residues in treated wastewater. Plants and vegetables that are irrigated with treated wastewater retain part of those drugs in their leaves which can be transmitted to us when we consume our salads. Only 3% of American crops are irrigated with treated human wastewater. Some states, like California and Florida, have a higher percentage. Also, a lot of our lettuce comes from Mexico, who still has to meet our FDA standards. Leaves store more of this residue than fruits and roots. The worse offending drugs are psychoactive used to treat many psychiatric conditions. Current belief is that the concentration is so low, that nothing bad to going to happen. However, the ag community is keeping an eye on this fact. Education is still the focus, so people do not put unused drugs in the water system.

10. **UN Gender Bias:** A United Nations report came out last month blaming the global water crisis on gender inequality. They claim women are responsible for obtaining water in 70% in under served rural communities. Those women could be spending their time on education, working or other things. They generally have poor sanitations conditions, do not own land or property, and are under represented in water management, jobs and governance. Their survey showed only 1 in 5 workers were women in 28 low and middle income countries. In 79 of the 109 responding countries, less than half of the water government jobs were held by women, less than 10% in a quarter of those countries. They closed by admonishing their member countries to take action to change this condition.

11. **Another PFAS Solution:** Warrington, Virginia had a PFAS contamination issue which required homeowners to help with individual filtration systems to ensure safe drinking water. A local high school teenager saw her parents system requiring constant changing of membrane filters to work. She saw the need to design a system without membranes, reduce costs and maintenance. So she did. She developed a prototype "spinning magnified vial" which used a reusable magnetic oil (ferrofluid). This oil attached to the plastics, so they could be removed. Her engineering sponsor believes that it may not be scalable but that there would be a market for at home models.

WHITTINGHAM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISORS

TO: MWDOC Board of Directors

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: June 3, 2026

SUBJECT: June 2026 Local Legislative Report

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

- The Garden Grove manufacturing site of GKN Aerospace, a global multi-technology leader in the aerospace industry which serves more than 90% of the world's aircraft and engine manufacturers, was the center of national focus due to a malfunctioning tank containing Methyl methacrylate, or MMA. Orange County Fire Authority officials evacuated more than 50,000 residents of Garden Grove and neighboring areas on the Friday before Memorial Day weekend as they worked with GKN personnel to address the growing threat of a chemical leak or an explosion of the tank. Both a State and Federal Emergency was declared to offer resources for those displaced from their homes, but after four days of monitoring the precarious situation, emergency response officials confirmed that a crack in the tank was enabling a temperature drop inside the structure, thereby reducing the threat of explosion. The final 16,000 evacuees were finally cleared to return to their homes the day after Memorial Day.

- Public opposition and outcry continue to grow regarding the use of herbicides by public agencies. The State Department of Fish and Wildlife continues its investigation into complaints of potential violations of the Fish and Game Code in San Juan Creek by Orange County Public Works. Fifth District Supervisor Katrina Foley had previously called for County Public Works to discontinue the use of herbicides to control foliage in San Juan and Trabuco Creeks and instead evaluate the costs and effectiveness of using "mechanical and manual methods" of removing growth in the creeks. The focus is the potential use of glyphosate, a chemical found in many herbicides and pesticides which is an effective weed killer but has faced several questions over whether it can cause health concerns, including cancer. Several cities had already banned the use of glyphosate and other chemicals, but a watchdog group has asserted that even in cities where their use was banned, there wasn't much oversight and spraying often continued. In response to complaints about the use of such products in San Juan Capistrano, City Manager Ben Siegel released a statement that said, "…the program has not been applied consistently at

City-maintained areas, with the exception of City trails…for other City-maintained areas, available records were insufficient to determine the specific nature and extent of pest management practices each time pesticides were used, or whether the landscape maintenance contractor consistently followed the prioritized approach." Public scrutiny has grown of similar programs in place at other cities and agencies, and the issue was the subject of a heated debate at the May 19 Board of Supervisors meeting.

- Orange County Waste & Recycling leadership has recently hosted elected officials and representatives of the cities of San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano at Prima Deshecha Landfill to tour the facility and share more about the proposed increase in the daily maximum trash intake at the landfill. The site visits coincided with an April 30 town hall attended by residents of the Talega community of San Clemente. Multiple members of Orange County's state delegation have signed onto a letter opposing the proposed increase in waste intake at Prima Deshecha.
  The proposed project is necessitated by the planned closure in several years of Olinda Alpha Landfill near Brea. Prima currently processes an average of 2,625 tons of waste per day, with approximately 30 percent of that waste, about 772 tons per day, imported from outside Orange County, primarily from Los Angeles County. The landfill is currently permitted to accept up to 4,000 tons per day and can legally import up to 1,840 tons per day under its existing permit. The proposed expansion would double the permitted daily capacity to 8,000 tons per day, with peak days reaching up to 10,000 tons.

- A variety of elected and appointed officials held a groundbreaking ceremony at a site near Rancho San Clemente Ridgeline Trail on Monday, May 18, announcing the latest OCFA HeloPod in South Orange County. The new solar-powered HeloPod, which has 3,775 gallons of water readily available, is scheduled to become operational this summer and will be added to the suite of existing HeloPods in Laguna Beach, Aliso Viejo, and San Juan Capistrano.

- The Aliso Viejo City Council named Brett Channing as its new City Manager. Channing, the son of former longtime Laguna Hills City Manager and one-time ACC-OC CEO Bruce Channing, served most recently as the Assistant City Manager in the City of Corona in Riverside County. Channing succeeds Mitzi Ortiz, who passed suddenly last December.

- Irvine City Manager Sean Crumby has unexpectedly submitted his resignation, effective August 14. Crumby was appointed to the position in October of 2025 after prior City Manager Oliver Chi announced he had accepted a similar position in the City of Santa Monica. Mr. Crumby previously served as the Interim City Manager and Public Works Director in Irvine, as well as Public Works Director in the cities of Stanton, Seal Beach, Long Beach, and Huntington Beach.

- Anaheim's Assistant City Manager, Greg Garcia, has been serving as Interim City Manager since the resignation of former City Manager Jim Vanderpool in early February. The Anaheim City Council recently approved a contract with

Sacramento-based CPS HR Consulting to undertake a nationwide recruitment for a new City Manager.

- At the County of Orange, the Board of Supervisors is considering options with the contract of current CEO Michelle Aguirre scheduled to conclude at the end of this month. The County has conducted three nationwide unsuccessful searches to identify a permanent CEO since Ms. Aguirre began serving as Interim CEO in mid-2024.

- The Rancho Santa Margarita City Council has approved a contract for the installation of cameras in Council chambers to facilitate live video streaming of Council meetings. Rancho Santa Margarita and La Palma are the last two cities in Orange County not to offer video recordings of City Council meetings. SB 707, enacted last October, mandated the availability of remote participation by members of the public via two-way audio and video by July 1, 2026.

- The results of the countywide Point in Time Count were recently released by the County of Orange, and for the first time since the biennial count was started, more people were found to be living in shelters or transitional housing than on the streets. Countywide homelessness dropped 13.7%, unsheltered family homelessness was down 34%, and homelessness among transitional-age youth (18-24) fell 20%.

- The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously at its May 19 meeting to adopt a year-long pilot program to add signs along roadways countywide, displaying warnings such as, "Watch Your Speed," "Don't Text and Drive," and "Don't Drink and Drive." County Public Works has worked with the Ohlwiler family of Rancho Santa Margarita since 2024 to establish the program, which will run through April 26, 2027. The Ohlwilers were on a sidewalk in Las Flores in April 2023 when they were struck by a driver who was under the influence and travelling more than 50 miles per hour, seriously injuring both parents and killing their son, Madden. In 2025, Orange County ranked fifth statewide in the overall number of fatal and serious injury crashes with 897 accidents, with the overwhelming majority of such crashes involving alcohol and/or speeding.

As part of our scope of work, Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors has continued to monitor the agendas of the 26 city 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

Municipal Water District of Orange County Legislative Matrix

Updated 5/27/26

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
Support						
AB 2215	Calderon, D	Water rights: permits: State Water Project.	05/15/2026 - Set for Hearing 5/18/2026	Senate Desk	This bill would require that the time periods for the application of water to beneficial use and for the completion of construction work for specific water right permits held by the Department of Water Resources for the operation of the State Water Project be December 31, 2046. (Based on 04/16/2026 text)	Support
SB 872	McNerney, D	Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.	05/26/2026 - Referred to Com. on W., P., & W.	05/26/2026 - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife	This bill would establish the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund in the State Treasury and, upon appropriation, would make the moneys in the fund available to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency for expenditure consistent with the allocations described below. The bill would authorize the secretary to seek out, and the fund to accept, state moneys from, among other sources, any bond funds, the General Fund, or the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The bill would authorize the fund to accept moneys from nonstate sources, including federal and private moneys, and would continuously appropriate those moneys without regard to fiscal year, for allocation as described, thereby making an appropriation. (Based on 05/14/2026 text)	Support
Watch						
AB 1603	Schultz, D	Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): Department of Pesticide Regulation.	05/21/2026 - Read third time and amended. Ordered to third reading.	05/19/2026 - Assembly THIRD READING	This bill would, commencing January 1, 2030, prohibit a person from using or marketing for agricultural use a pesticide, and from manufacturing, selling, delivering, holding, or offering for sale in commerce a pesticide registered for agricultural use, that contains specified PFAS pesticide ingredients and prohibit the registration for agricultural use of any pesticides containing these specified PFAS pesticide ingredients. (Based on 05/21/2026 text)	
AB 1752	Lackey, R	Eminent domain: appraisals.	05/19/2026 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.	05/19/2026 - Assembly THIRD READING	This bill would require a public entity that offers to purchase property under a threat of eminent domain related to specified purposes to pay the full reasonable costs of an independent appraisal ordered by the owner, not to exceed $8,000. (Based on 05/18/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
AB 1772	Papan, D	Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels.	05/18/2026 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.	05/18/2026 - Assembly THIRD READING	Existing law, until January 1, 2030, generally prohibits a person from possessing, importing, shipping, or transporting in the state, or from placing, planting, or causing to be placed or planted in any water in the state, invasive mussels, and authorizes the Director of Fish and Wildlife or the director's designee to engage in various enforcement activities, including ordering the areas in conveyance that contain water be drained, dried, or decontaminated, as provided. This bill would prohibit a conveyance from being launched until a specified drying period has completed, as provided. By expanding the scope of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the department to require water supply system operators to update their plans to address all invasive mussel species present in the operator's water system as of January 1, 2026, as provided. (Based on 04/27/2026 text)	
AB 1821	Pacheco, D	California Public Records Act: agency response time.	05/15/2026 - Set for Hearing 5/18/2026	05/15/2026 - Assembly THIRD READING	The California Public Records Act requires each state or local agency, upon a request for a copy of records that reasonably describes an identifiable record or records, to make the records promptly available to any person upon payment of fees covering direct costs of duplication, or a statutory fee if applicable, except with respect to public records exempt from disclosure by express provisions of law. Existing law requires each agency, within 10 days of a request for a copy of records, to determine whether the request seeks copies of disclosable public records in possession of the agency and to promptly notify the person of the determination and the reasons therefor. Existing law authorizes that time limit to be extended by no more than 14 days under unusual circumstances, as defined. This bill would instead require each agency to determine whether the request seeks copies of disclosable public records in possession of the agency and to promptly notify the person as described above within 10 business days of a request for a copy of records. (Based on 04/06/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
AB 1881	**Ramos, D**	California Indian Freedom Act of 2026.	05/19/2026 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading. Read third time and amended. Ordered to third reading.	05/19/2026 - Assembly THIRD READING	This bill, the California Indian Freedom Act of 2026, would prohibit a governmental agency from substantially burdening a California Indian or California Native American tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices on state lands, including their access to and use of sacred sites and objects, and their ability to perform religious ceremonies and rites, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, unless the governmental agency demonstrates that application of the burden is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is in the least restrictive means of furthering that interest. (Based on 05/19/2026 text)	
AB 1893	***Gallagher, R***	*Wildfire prevention: local assistance grant program: eligible activities.*	*05/14/2026 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/22/2026)*	*05/14/2026 - Assembly DEAD*	*This bill would expand eligible activities under the local assistance grant program to include projects undertaken by a local governmental entity involving the acquisition or installation of mobile rigid dip tanks or similar mobile and permanent infrastructure that is capable of providing helicopter-accessible water supplies for firefighting response or suppression purposes in very high fire and high fire hazard severity zones, as provided. (Based on 02/12/2026 text)*	
AB 1894	**Rubio, Blanca, D**	Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water.	05/13/2026 - Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.	05/13/2026 - Senate Natural Resources and Water	This bill would prohibit a public agency from prohibiting imported water deliveries, as defined, for groundwater replenishment due to invasive mussels unless there is substantial, documented evidence of a proven health and safety risk as a result of the invasive mussels. (Based on 04/16/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
AB 2013	***Bennett, D***	*High and very high fire risk areas: community water systems: preparedness and resiliency.*	*04/23/2026 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT on 4/7/2026)*	*04/23/2026 - Assembly DEAD*	*Existing law requires the State Fire Marshal to identify areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas. This bill would require a community water system that services more than 100 customers that are located in a high or very high fire risk area, as defined, to include an annex to its disaster preparedness plans, as provided, that includes information regarding system preparedness and resiliency during a wildfire. The bill would require the annex to contain several things, including, among others, an assessment that identifies the minimum number of and type of water pumps that are necessary to maintain average daily capacity, including, but not limited to, the operation of fire hydrant systems at the rated capacity. (Based on 04/06/2026 text)*	
AB 2032	**Ransom, D**	Fish and wildlife: golden mussels.	05/26/2026 - Read third time. Urgency clause adopted. Passed. Ordered to the Senate.	05/26/2026 - Senate DESK	This bill would exempt from the requirement to obtain a restricted species permit for golden mussels a public or private agency that operates a water supply system and has submitted a control plan to the department for maintenance and operational activities to control the spread of golden mussels in the water supply system, as specified. (Based on 05/18/2026 text)	
AB 2045	**Connolly, D**	Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act.	05/21/2026 - Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 73. Noes 0.) In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.	05/21/2026 - Senate Rules	The Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act authorizes a project proponent to submit a habitat restoration or enhancement project to the Director of Fish and Wildlife for approval. The act makes moneys in the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Account available to the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes of administering and implementing the act. Existing law repeals the act on January 1, 2027. This bill would extend the operation of the act until January 1, 2032, and would require the department to submit a report on the implementation of the act to the Legislature no later than December 31, 2029. (Based on 04/16/2026 text)	
AB 2218	**Kalra, D**	Water policy: California Native American tribes.	05/18/2026 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.	05/18/2026 - Assembly THIRD READING	Would require the state government to support California Native Americans to maintain cultural and linguistic traditions, practice ecosystem stewardship, and engage in good faith government-to-government consultations with all California Native American tribes regarding policies that may affect tribal communities. (Based on 04/16/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
AB 2381	Johnson, R	Local Agency Public Construction Act: municipal water districts: sanitation districts: lowest responsible bidder.	04/23/2026 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was L. GOV. on 3/9/2026)	04/23/2026 - Assembly DEAD	The Local Agency Public Construction Act sets forth the requirements for competitive bidding on various types of contracts awarded by local agencies. Under current law, a municipal water district and a sanitation district, when letting a contract for $35,000 or more, is required to let the contract to the lowest responsible bidder. This bill would increase that threshold dollar amount to $220,000. The bill would require the Controller, commencing January 1, 2028, to adjust that amount annually to reflect the percentage change, as specified, and publish the adjusted amount on its internet website. (Based on 02/20/2026 text)	
AB 2568	Johnson, R	Water district directors: compensation.	05/20/2026 - Referred to Com. on L. GOV.	05/20/2026 - Senate Local Government	Existing law authorizes a water district, as defined, to adopt an ordinance that provides compensation to members of the governing board, as specified. Existing law prohibits a water district from adopting an ordinance that compensates members of the governing board for more than a total of 10 days in any calendar month. This bill would, until January 1, 2032, authorize a water district that has at least 90,000 residents within its jurisdiction to adopt an ordinance that compensates members of the governing board for up to a total of 15 days in any calendar month, but would require the members of the governing board of a water district that compensates its members for more than 10 days in a calendar month to annually adopt a written policy describing, based on a finding supported by substantial evidence, why providing compensation for more than 10 days per calendar month is necessary for the effective operation of the water district. (Based on 04/27/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
AB 2619	**Papan, D**	Water resources: data centers.	05/18/2026 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.	05/18/2026 - Assembly THIRD READING	Existing law authorizes the legislative body of an incorporated city and the county board of supervisors to license businesses carried on within their respective jurisdictions and to set license fees, as specified. This bill 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, the anticipated source of water, and the data center's projected water use volume for the maximum day, maximum month, and average year. 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 report, under penalty of perjury, on the application, an estimate of the expected water use, the anticipated source of water, and the data center's projected water use volume for the maximum day, maximum month, and average year. 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 report, under penalty of perjury, on the application, the data center's annual water use for the preceding calendar year, including total water use, direct water use, and indirect water use, as prescribed. (Based on 04/08/2026 text)	
AB 2630	***Bennett, D***	*Water diversion and use: adoption of regulations.*	*04/23/2026 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was NAT. RES. on 3/24/2026)*	*04/23/2026 - Assembly DEAD*	*Existing law authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt regulations requiring measurement and reporting of water diversion and use by persons, including, among others, those authorized to appropriate water under a permit, a license, a registration for small domestic, small irrigation, or livestock stockpond use, or a certificate for livestock stockpond use. For the initial regulations, existing law requires that they be adopted as emergency regulations and provides that the emergency regulations remain in effect until revised by the state board. Existing law also exempts the initial regulations from the California Environmental Quality Act. This bill would require, until January 1, 2032, that all further regulations adopted by the state board pursuant to these provisions be adopted as emergency regulations and remain in effect until revised by the state board, and would exempt them from the California Environmental Quality Act. (Based on 03/26/2026 text)*	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
AB 2728	Soria, D	Open and Transparent Water Data Act.	05/26/2026 - Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate.	05/26/2026 - Senate DESK	Existing law, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act, requires the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to coordinate and integrate existing water and ecological data from local, state, and federal agencies for specified purposes, including, among others, improving the management of the state's water resources. This bill would specify for purposes of that provision that improving the management of the state's water resources includes improving the efficacy of management actions. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. (Based on 03/19/2026 text)	
AB 2739	Soria, D	Water: affordability and system stabilization.	05/26/2026 - Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate.	05/26/2026 - Senate DESK	This bill would establish in the State Treasury the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund for holding the principal and income of the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Trust, which the bill would create. The bill would designate the Treasurer as trustee of the trust, as specified, and would require the trustee, among other things, to hold, manage, and invest the principal of the trust with the obligation of providing a growing perpetual source of annual funding to the Water Rate Assistance Fund, administered by the state board, and the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund, administered by the department, beginning 25 years after the Legislature transfers funding from the General Fund to the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund. (Based on 04/06/2026 text)	
SB 952	Laird, D	State Water Project: renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources.	05/26/2026 - Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 36. Noes 0.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.	05/26/2026 - Assembly DESK	This bill would require the Department of Water Resources , in procuring electricity to serve all state agencies, to consider portfolio diversity, resource type, location, and hours of typical peak operation. The bill would expand the scope of the department's authorization to defer the procurement of those resource quantities to apply to an existing contract to procure fossil generation entered into before January 1, 2011, rather than January 1, 2010. The bill would authorize, on and after January 1, 2036, excess procurement, as defined, of eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources in one year to be applied to any subsequent year's obligation, as provided. (Based on 05/18/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
SB 986	***Seyarto, R***	*Major regulations.*	*05/14/2026 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/27/2026)*	*05/14/2026 - Senate DEAD*	*harm to the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare. This bill would prohibit a major regulation from taking effect until submission to, and expiration of a 60-day review period by, the Legislature, except as provided for emergency regulations. The bill would, prior to the expiration of the 60-day review period, require the Legislature to hold an informational hearing on the major regulation. (Based on 04/15/2026 text)*	
SB 994	**Cabaldon, D**	Local agencies: nondisclosure agreements.	05/26/2026 - Referred to Coms. on JUD. and L. GOV.	05/26/2026 - Assembly Judiciary	This bill would prohibit a local agency official, as defined, acting in their official capacity from entering into, or requesting that another individual enter into, a nondisclosure agreement relating to public business that precludes their ability to share information with fellow local agency officials serving on the same council, board, commission, district, or agency. The bill would require a local agency official in violation of that provision to, among other things, disclose the existence of the nondisclosure agreement, as specified, and would provide that these requirements imposed on a local agency official also apply to a local agency official acting in their official capacity who entered into, or requested that another individual enter into, a nondisclosure agreement described above before January 1, 2027. (Based on 04/23/2026 text)	
SB 1001	***Archuleta, D***	*Local agency, public utility, or mutual water company: personnel access: Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable.*	*05/14/2026 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/27/2026)*	*05/14/2026 - Senate DEAD*	*Existing law authorizes officers of the Department of the This bill would, beginning on July 1, 2028, require the Office of Emergency Services, upon request, to issue a local agency, public utility, or mutual water company responsible for public works and critical infrastructure with specified credentialing to facilitate personnel access to an area during or following a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster. The bill would specify that the credentialing, a Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable (PIV-I), would conform with the federal Personal Identity Verification standards pursuant to federal National Incident Management System guidelines. (Based on 04/21/2026 text)*	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
SB 1085	Durazo, D	Water supply planning: housing developments.	05/26/2026 - Referred to Coms. on W., P., & W. and L. GOV.	05/26/2026 - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife	Existing law requires a city or county that determines a certain type of project is subject to the requirements of CEQA to identify any public water system that may supply water for the project and to request those public water systems to prepare a specified water supply assessment, as provided. This bill, among other things, would instead require a city or county, upon receipt of a preliminary application for a housing development project that meets certain conditions, or upon a development application for certain projects being determined as complete or deemed complete, to make that identification of public water systems. The bill would require a city or county, within 15 days of receiving an application that meets either of the above-mentioned criteria, to request each identified public water system to determine whether the projected water demand associated with the proposed project was included in the most recently adopted urban water management plan. (Based on 04/23/2026 text)	
SB 1123	Wiener, D	Administrative Procedure Act: major regulations.	05/26/2026 - Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 26. Noes 8.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.	05/26/2026 - Assembly DESK	This bill would require an agency, in estimating the economic impact of adopting, amending, or repealing a regulation, to identify and calculate any offsetting benefits, impacts, or savings that might result directly or indirectly from that adoption, amendment, or repeal and factor those benefits, impacts, or savings into its economic impact estimate. (Based on 02/17/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
SB 1125	Menjivar, D	Water Rate Assistance Program.	05/18/2026 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.	05/18/2026 - Senate THIRD READING	Existing law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a plan for the funding and implementation of the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program. Existing law requires the plan to include, among other things, a description of the method for collecting moneys to support and implement the program and a description of the method for determining the amount of moneys that may need to be collected from water ratepayers to fund the program. This bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Program. As part of the program, the bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Fund in the State Treasury, available upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide water affordability assistance for residential water services to low-income residential ratepayers, as specified. The bill would require the state board to take various actions in administering the fund, including, among other things, tracking and managing revenue in the fund separately from all other revenue. The bill would require the state board, in consultation with relevant agencies and after a public hearing, to adopt guidelines for implementation of the program and to adopt an annual report to be posted on the state board's internet website identifying how the fund has performed, as specified. The bill would require the guidelines to include minimum requirements for eligible systems, including the ability to confirm eligibility for enrollment through a request for self-certification of eligibility under penalty of perjury. By expanding the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. (Based on 05/14/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
SB 1153	Caballero, D	Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water systems: wildfire.	05/22/2026 - Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 33. Noes 0.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.	05/22/2026 - Assembly DESK	This bill, beginning January 1, 2028, would require all urban retail water suppliers, as defined, serving a high or very high fire hazard severity zone to include incident-specific response procedures for wildfires as part of their disaster preparedness plans, including any applicable emergency response plan as required by federal law. The bill would require these plans to include, among other things, mitigation actions, including actions, procedures, and equipment, that can obviate or significantly lessen the impact of a wildfire on the water system and the supply of drinking water provided by the water supplier. Because violation of these requirements by certain urban retail water suppliers would constitute a misdemeanor, the bill would expand the scope of a crime, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program. (Based on 04/28/2026 text)	
SB 1187	Durazo, D	Open meetings: majority.	05/18/2026 - Referred to Com. on L. GOV.	05/18/2026 - Assembly Local Government	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. Existing law defines “meetings” for these purposes to mean any congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body at the same time and location, as specified, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. This bill would define “majority” for purposes of the act to mean the number of members of the legislative body equaling more than half of the total number of seats on the legislative body. The bill would specify that if a seat on the legislative body is vacant, that seat is to still be counted as a seat on the legislative body. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. (Based on 02/19/2026 text)	

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
May 4, 2026

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 35 **D. Alvarez** **(D – San Diego)** Sponsor: San Diego County	Amended in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on 1/14/2026.	**Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.** This bill exempts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4) from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which establishes rulemaking procedures and standards for state agencies in California, to expedite funding allocations.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	AB 35 would streamline the funding process for Proposition 4 projects and allow Metropolitan, its member agencies, and partner agencies to access funds more quickly and accelerate project timelines. Proposition 4 funding includes multiple critical areas for Metropolitan, including funding for groundwater management, water recycling, Delta levees, and repairs to regional conveyance.
AB 259 **B. Rubio** **(D – Baldwin Park)** Sponsors: California Special Districts Association, Three Valleys Municipal Water District	Amended in the 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 2026 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.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
May 4, 2026

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 the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 4/10/2025. Two-Year Bill Dead	**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 2026 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.
AB 2215 **L. Calderon** **(D – Whittier)** **Sponsor:** State Water Contractors	Amended in the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on 3/19/2026.	**Water rights: permits: State Water Project.** This bill would extend the timeline for the full development of the State Water Project water right permits to December 31, 2046, the same term as existing, validated contracts for the State Water Project water supply.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	AB 2215 would grant a necessary time extension to more fully modernize the State Water Project infrastructure in response to climate change. This bill is consistent with the Governor's Executive Order N-16-15 (CA EO), January 31, 2025, which ordered the minimization of administrative obstacles to maximize water supplies. This legislative proposal implements this order without weakening environmental protections and while protecting existing due process protections.

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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2739 **E. Soria** **(D – Merced)** **Sponsors**: Irvine Ranch Water District, Rancho California Water District	Amended in the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on 4/6/2026.	**Water: affordability and system stabilization.** This bill would require the Department of Water Resources (DWR), upon appropriation, to develop the Community Water Affordability Program and would establish the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund within the State Treasury. The program would provide funding in the form of grants to local water suppliers for water system repairs, rehabilitation and enhancements, water safety and quality, and other local water system infrastructure projects, for the purpose of reducing the amount of local ratepayer funding required for those projects.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	AB 2739 aims to establish a durable statewide funding framework to address water affordability by targeting key cost drivers and by creating a sustainable funding source for a Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program and a system stabilization fund. This bill would support ratepayer affordability for our member agency retailers and also includes a fund that supports local infrastructure projects, which could be used to support upgrades to Metropolitan's water supply system and reductions in energy costs.

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 the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 7/10/2025. Two-Year Bill	**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 the statute and includes several provisions that expand regulatory requirements without the benefit of scientific analysis.	**Oppose** Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	Currently, AB 601 poses risks to Metropolitan and its member agencies by: 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.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
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SB 872 **J. McNerney** **(D – Pleasanton)**	Amended in Senate Environmental Quality Committee 3/26/2026.	**Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.** This bill would require, over the next 20 years, that $150M is to be appropriated annually to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to support capital improvements to restore water conveyance capacity for state water conveyance systems affected by subsidence. Additionally, this bill would require that $150M be appropriated to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy for levee improvements that would improve the sustainability of local or state water supplies, and projects that improve instream, riparian, flood plain, and wetland habitat.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	The proposed annual appropriation of $150M over 20 years to fund capital costs of subsidence repairs could reduce State Water Project charges to contractors. The total cost of SWP subsidence repairs is estimated at $3 billion, meaning this proposal could result in savings of up to $1.5B for Metropolitan ratepayers. Subsidence in the Central Valley has been caused by decades of overpumping of groundwater and was not caused by Metropolitan or the State Water Contractors. However, in the absence of state and federal funding, the costs for these critical repairs will be shifted to our agencies. The proposed allocations for improvements to levees within the Delta and other actions to improve the sustainability of local or state water supplies and projects that improve instream, riparian, floodplain, and wetland habitat would directly benefit Metropolitan by providing additional funding streams for levee improvements and indirectly through improvements within the Delta region.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 935 **S. Choi** **(R – Irvine)**	Assembly Desk.	**Local agency design-build projects: authorization.** This bill would repeal the sunset date of January 1, 2031, authorizing local agencies to use the design-build procurement process for public works construction projects more than $1,000,000 indefinitely.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	Repealing the sunset date for alternative project delivery processes is aligned with Metropolitan's policy to streamline procurement of public works construction contracts.
SB 952 **J. Laird** **(D – Santa Cruz)** **Sponsor:** State Water Contractors	Amended in Senate Rules Committee on 3/17/2026.	**State Water Project: renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources.** Existing law mandates that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) achieve a power portfolio that consists of 100% of renewable and zero-carbon energy by 2035. This bill would require DWR to also consider portfolio diversity, resource type, location, and hours of typical peak operation when procuring eligible resources to satisfy state agency obligations imposed on the State Water Project; and allow DWR to shift energy credits from one year to the next if DWR procures more energy than necessary in a given year.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	SB 952 is an important affordability measure for the 27 million customers within the SWP service area, as it would clarify generation attributes DWR may consider for procurement and create certainty for DWR by allowing excess energy procured in low water years be applied to years when SWP energy needs are high. Metropolitan pays a significant portion of the State Water Project's energy cost. This proposal provides a continued commitment to environmental sustainability while adding flexibility that maintains affordability.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 1125 **C. Menjivar** **(D – San Fernando Valley)**	Amended in Senate Environmental Quality Committee on 3/23/2026.	**Water Rate Assistance Program.** This bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Program and Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to help provide water affordability assistance for drinking water to low-income residential ratepayers. This bill would authorize the State Board to provide for the deposit of the following moneys into the Fund: federal or state funding; voluntary contributions, including gifts, grants, or bequests; and returned funds.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	SB 1125 proposes a viable, reasonable path forward for Low-Income Rate Assistance that protects existing programs and limits the administrative burden on water suppliers. This bill is intended to be a companion measure to AB 2739 and would guide the State Board's implementation of a low-income water rate assistance program. Water rate assistance would provide needed relief at the local retail level, leading to improved revenue stability for local water systems.

Item No. 4

ACTION ITEM
June 3, 2026

TO: **Board of Directors**

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

Staff Contact: Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs

SUBJECT: **ASSEMBLY BILL 2739 (SORIA) – CALIFORNIA WATER AFFORDABILITY AND SYSTEM STABILIZATION ACT OF 2026**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt a support position on Assembly Bill 2739 (Soria) and join the sponsors' coalition letter.

REPORT

Purpose

This item requests the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) Board of Directors (Board) consider adopting a support position on Assembly Bill (AB) 2739, which would establish the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Trust (Trust Fund) as a charitable trust to generate ongoing funding for the Community Water Affordability Program administered by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Water Rate Assistance Fund administered by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Background

Nearly one-third of all Californians live at or near poverty, and the growing cost of goods and services across the state continues to place significant pressure on residents already struggling to make ends meet. Water is fundamental to life and broadly recognized as a critical service, yet many low-income households face challenges affording it.

Public water providers in California are bound by Proposition 218, enacted by voters in 1996, which prohibits property-related fees from exceeding the cost of providing service. This restriction, reinforced by significant court decisions since its passage, limits a public water system's ability to implement low-income assistance programs regardless of the agency's interest in doing so. The State has explored alternative policy approaches to

improve water affordability, but a dedicated and sustainable funding source has remained the missing piece.

Discussion

AB 2739, sponsored by Irvine Ranch Water District and Rancho California Water District, would establish the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund in the State Treasury. This trust-based funding structure will provide ongoing support for both household water rate assistance and system cost reduction.

Administered by the State Treasurer, the Trust Fund is designed to generate a perpetual funding stream. 90% of the Trust Funds will be split between near-term assistance, with equal dollar allocations to advance a statewide Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program, and an account administered by DWR to fund local infrastructure projects that improve reliability and reduce ratepayer cost pressures. The remaining 10% will be utilized to perpetuate the Trust Fund, well after the initial infusions are exhausted.

This bill includes strong fiscal safeguards to ensure accountability and efficiency. It does not impose any new taxes or fees, prohibits the diversion of funds for unrelated purposes, and caps administrative costs so that most of the funding is directed toward affordability assistance and infrastructure improvements.

Below is a partial list of registered supporters:

Irvine Ranch Water District (co-sponsor)
Rancho California Water District (co-sponsor)
Association of California Cities - Orange County (ACC-OC)
Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)
California Chamber of Commerce
California Water Association
City of Roseville
City of Sacramento
Clean Water Action
Eastern Municipal Water District
El Toro Water District
Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability
Metropolitan Water District
Orange County Business Council
South Coast Water District
South Orange County Economic Coalition
Southern California Water Coalition
Three Valleys Municipal Water District
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Western Municipal Water District

There is no opposition on file.

Next Steps

Staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt a support position on AB 2739 (Soria) and join the sponsors' coalition letter.

Staff will work with our state advocates, West Coast Advisors, to ensure our position on this legislation is communicated to the Orange County delegation, the bill author, and relevant committees throughout the legislative process.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

☒ *Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
☐ *Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and OC values and interests.*
☐ *Strengthen communication 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.*

BOARD OPTIONS

Option #1: Adopt a support position on AB 2739 (Soria) and join the sponsors' coalition letter.

Fiscal Impact: Ongoing annual General Fund costs of an unknown amount, likely in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, for the State Treasurer to serve as the trustee for the Trust Fund and implement the requirements of the bill. The bill allows the trustee to use up to 1% of the trust's income earned July 1 to June 30, inclusive, of each fiscal year to pay necessary and reasonable expenses incident to the administration of the trust during that same period.

Option #2: Take no action.

Fiscal Impact: Regardless of the Board's support, the fiscal impact remains the same as above.

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

Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: AB 2739 Full Text

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2026

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2026

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL No. 2739

Introduced by Assembly Member Soria
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Davies)

February 20, 2026

An act to add Part 7.5 (commencing with Section 12965) to Division 6 of the Water Code, relating to ~~water.~~ *water, and making an appropriation therefor.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2739, as amended, Soria. ~~Community Water Affordability Program.~~ *Water: affordability and system stabilization.*

Existing law establishes in the Natural Resources Agency the Department of Water Resources. Existing law vests in the department powers, duties, purposes, responsibilities, and jurisdiction in matters pertaining to water or dams. Existing law declares the responsibility of the state to assist local governments in providing certain essential services and facilities where water resource construction projects financed, in whole or in part, by the state or by the state jointly with the federal government create an undue burden on a local area's ability to provide these services and facilities.

Existing law, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, requires the State Water Resources Control Board to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. Existing law declares it to be the established policy of the state that every human

being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.

This bill would establish in the State Treasury the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund for holding the principal and income of the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Trust, which the bill would create. The bill would designate the Treasurer as trustee of the trust, as specified, and would require the trustee, among other things, to hold, manage, and invest the principal of the trust with the obligation of providing a growing perpetual source of annual funding to the Water Rate Assistance Fund, administered by the state board, and the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund, administered by the department, beginning 25 years after the Legislature transfers funding from the General Fund to the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund.

This bill would require, during the first 25 years following the Legislature's transfer, 45% of the income of the trust to be transferred from the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund to each of the Water Rate Assistance Fund and the continuously appropriated Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund, and would continuously appropriate the remaining 10% of the income of the trust to be invested as part of the principal of the trust. After the first 25 years, the bill would require 50% of the income of the trust to be transferred from the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund to each of the Water Rate Assistance Fund and the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund. The bill would continuously appropriate no more than 1% of the annual income of the trust to pay for administration of the trust. By making continuous appropriations and by transferring moneys into a continuously appropriated fund, the bill would make an appropriation.

This bill would ~~establish~~ *require the department, subject to a transfer of moneys by the Legislature, to develop and administer* the Community Water Affordability Program to provide funding in the form of grants to ~~local water suppliers for water system repairs, rehabilitation, and enhancements, water safety and quality, and other~~ *community water systems for* local water system infrastructure projects, *as specified,* for the purpose of reducing the amount of local ratepayer funding required for those ~~projects. The bill would require the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to develop and administer the program.~~ *projects and for avoiding costs that would otherwise be paid for by ratepayers.* The bill would require the department to develop and adopt

program guidelines and project solicitation documents before disbursing grant ~~funds.~~ *funds, and would exempt those guidelines and documents from the rulemaking procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act.* The bill would require the program guidelines ~~to~~ *to, among other things,* require an applicant for a grant to provide at least ~~50%~~ *25%* of the total funding required for the project, as provided. The bill would authorize the department to waive or reduce that minimum amount if that requirement would cause extreme financial hardship to the applicant. The bill would also establish the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund in the State ~~Treasury.~~ *Treasury and would provide for deposit into the fund contributions from private and public entities, as specified.* The bill would ~~make~~ *continuously appropriate* moneys in the fund ~~available, upon appropriation by the Legislature,~~ to the department for ~~the~~ purposes of the ~~program.~~ *program, including up to 5% annually for administration of the fund, thereby making an appropriation.*

Vote: ~~majority~~ *⅔*. Appropriation: ~~no~~ *yes*. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Part 7.5 (commencing with Section 12965) is added to Division 6 of the Water Code, to read:

PART 7.5. WATER AFFORDABILITY AND SYSTEM STABILIZATION

CHAPTER 1. WATER AFFORDABILITY AND SYSTEM STABILIZATION ACT

Article 1. General Provisions

12965. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Act.

12965.5. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) It is the established policy of the state, as stated in Section 106.3, that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.

(b) Addressing California's environmental justice challenges requires that the state work to improve water affordability for impacted communities and households.

(c) The cost of water has continued to rise, as has the cost of living in California. The increase in the cost of water is largely attributable to increases in the cost of infrastructure, energy, and regulatory compliance costs.

(d) Most of California's public water systems are governed by Proposition 218, which was passed by voters in November 1996, and requires that customers only be charged proportional, cost of service-based rates. Proposition 218 has been interpreted as prohibiting customers from being charged higher rates to subsidize the costs of other customers.

(e) At the same time, climate change has added, and will continue to add, significant additional cost pressure to water systems, as providers must increasingly invest in climate resilience and adaptive infrastructure, which in turn places cost pressure on rates.

(f) A low-income rate assistance program will assist in addressing affordability challenges for struggling households, but without addressing system costs, such a program will not be sufficiently effective because these cost pressures will continue to result in increased water rates.

(g) Federal and state funding of local water infrastructure helps reduce the amount of ratepayer money that a water system needs to collect to ensure a reliable, safe, and clean water supply for its community, and helps address system affordability constraints.

(h) It is in the interest of the people of the state to enact this chapter to establish a trust fund, funded by existing state revenues over multiple years, for the governmental purpose of providing a perpetual source of funding to assist with water system costs that place pressure on water affordability, and to provide low-income Californian households with direct assistance with their water bills, which will provide a benefit to Californians across the state.

(i) This chapter does not impose a levy, charge, or exaction of any kind, such as a tax or fee.

12966. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Beneficiary" means the people of the state, as represented by the board in its implementation of Chapter 6.2 (commencing

with Section 116930) of Part 12 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code and its administration of the Water Rate Assistance Fund established pursuant to Section 116932 of the Health and Safety Code, and the department in its implementation of Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 12968) and its administration of the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund established pursuant to Section 12968. The beneficiary's interest in the trust shall only be the distributions required to be made from the trust pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 12967.

(b) "Board" means the State Water Resources Control Board.

(c) "Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund" means the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund established pursuant to Section 12968.

(d) "Department" means the Department of Water Resources.

(e) "Income" means the money, enhanced value, or other income the trust receives as current return from the investment of the trust principal.

(f) "Net income" means the trust income earned July 1 to June 30, inclusive, of the previous fiscal year minus all of the necessary and reasonable expenses incident to the administration of the trust during that same period, up to 1 percent of the trust income pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of Section 12967.

(g) "Principal" means the trust property, that is held in trust for the beneficiary and to accomplish the purposes described in Section 12965.5.

(h) "Trust" means the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Trust.

(i) "Trust fund" means the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund established pursuant to Section 12966.5 to hold the trust property.

(j) "Trust property" means the money transferred to the trust fund and any donation to the trust fund received and accepted by the trustee on or after January 1, 2027.

(k) "Trustee" means the Treasurer, who shall serve as the trustee of the trust having all of the fiduciary duties, responsibilities, and obligations consistent with serving as a trustee of a trust under existing law.

(l) "Water Rate Assistance Fund" means the Water Rate Assistance Fund established pursuant to Section 116932 of the Health and Safety Code.

Article 2. Water Affordability and System Stabilization Trust

12966.5. (a) (1) There is hereby created in the State Treasury the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund for holding the trust property of the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Trust and for the purpose of implementing the public and governmental purposes of this chapter. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, all moneys in the trust fund are continuously appropriated to the trustee, without regard to fiscal year, for expenditure in accordance with this chapter.

(2) The distributions by the trustee from the income of the trust are hereby transferred to the board and the department for deposit into, and expenditure from, the Water Rate Assistance Fund and the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund, respectively, in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 12967.

(b) The primary purpose of the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Trust, a charitable trust established pursuant to this chapter, shall be to provide a perpetual source of funding each year to the Water Rate Assistance Fund and the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund in furtherance of the trust fund purposes described in subdivision (a).

(c) Moneys in the trust fund, including the trust principal and trust income, shall not be available for appropriation or be borrowed for use for any purpose not established in this chapter.

(d) Funding of the principal of the trust is hereby authorized and is subject to transfer by the Legislature from the General Fund into the trust fund. All future transfers to the trust fund are hereby irrevocably transferred from the General Fund during the fiscal year the moneys are transferred to the trustee for deposit into the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund for distribution and investment to accomplish the purposes of this chapter and on the conditions prescribed in Section 12967.

(e) Notwithstanding any other law, moneys deposited into the trust fund or to fund the trust shall not be transferred to the General Fund.

12967. (a) (1) The trustee shall hold the property of the trust for the primary benefit of the trust's beneficiary.

(2) The trustee shall hold, manage, and invest the principal of the trust in accordance with existing law with the obligation of providing a growing perpetual source of annual funding to the

Water Rate Assistance Fund and the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund, beginning 25 years after the Legislature transfers funding from the General Fund to the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund. The trustee shall not invade the principal of the trust.

(b) The trustee shall collect, receive, and monetize, if prudent and in accordance with existing law, the income of the trust, and shall distribute the income of the trust annually as follows:

(1) During the first 25 years following the Legislature's first transfer of revenue from the General Fund to the trust fund, the trustee shall distribute the income of the trust as follows:

(A) Transfer 45 percent of the total income deposited into the trust fund during the prior fiscal year to the Water Rate Assistance Fund for the board to expend in accordance with Chapter 6.2 (commencing with Section 116930) of Part 12 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code.

(B) Transfer 45 percent of the total income deposited into the trust fund during the prior fiscal year to the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund for the department to expend in accordance with Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 12968).

(C) In accordance with existing law, invest the remaining 10 percent of the total income deposited into the trust fund during the prior fiscal year as part of the trust principal.

(2) After the first 25 years following the Legislature's first transfer of revenue from the General Fund to the trust fund, the trustee shall distribute the income of the trust as follows:

(A) Transfer 50 percent of the total income deposited into the trust fund during the prior fiscal year to the Water Rate Assistance Fund for the board to expend in accordance with Chapter 6.2 (commencing with Section 116930) of Part 12 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code.

(B) Transfer 50 percent of the total income deposited into the trust fund during the prior fiscal year to the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund for the department to expend in accordance with Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 12968).

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, the trustee, and any employee or agent of the trustee, shall not sell, purchase, exchange, or otherwise deal with or dispose of all or any parts of the principal of the trust.

(d) The trustee shall exercise its administration of the trust as a fiduciary to the beneficiary. The trustee, in its administration of the trust, shall abide by the Uniform Prudent Investor Act (Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 16045) of Chapter 1 of Part 4 of Division 9 of the Probate Code). The trustee shall have the powers, obligations, and responsibilities of a trustee prescribed in Part 4 (commencing with Section 16000) of Division 9 of the Probate Code that are not inconsistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(e) The trustee shall:

(1) Have the power to accept donations that shall be deemed property of the trust and increase the principal of the trust. Donations shall not be expended or transferred until the Legislature transfers funding from the General Fund to the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund.

(2) Use no more than 1 percent of the income of the trust earned July 1 to June 30, inclusive, of each fiscal year to pay for the necessary and reasonable expenses incident to the administration of the trust during that same period.

(f) The trustee shall provide for appropriate, as determined by the trustee, audit, accounting, and fiscal management services, plans, and reports relative to the trust fund, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

(g) The trustee annually shall provide the board and the department with an accounting of the investments and a forecast of the projected income to be distributed from the trust fund in future fiscal years.

(h) The trust shall be deemed a charitable trust subject to the supervision of the Attorney General.

CHAPTER 2. COMMUNITY WATER AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM

12968. (a) For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the State Water Resources Control Board.

(2) "Community water system" has the same meaning as defined in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

(3) "Department" means the Department of Water Resources.

(4) "Fund" means the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund.

(5) "Program" means the Community Water Affordability Program.

(b) (1) The department shall, subject to transfer of moneys into the fund by the Legislature, develop and administer the Community Water Affordability Program. The program shall provide funding in the form of grants to community water systems for local water infrastructure projects that shall include, but are not limited to, projects that improve water supplies, resiliency, or quality, and projects that reduce energy costs for a community water system. The purpose of the grants shall be reducing the amount of local ratepayer funding required for those projects and for avoiding costs that would otherwise be paid for by ratepayers.

(2) (A) Before disbursing grant funds pursuant to this section, the department shall develop and adopt program guidelines and project solicitation documents, after soliciting public comment and feedback inclusive of community water systems. The guidelines and project solicitation documents developed pursuant to this section are not subject to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(B) The program guidelines shall do all of the following:

(i) Require an applicant for a grant to provide at least 25 percent of the total funding required for the project. Federal funding and other state loans and grants may be included in this amount. The department may waive or reduce that minimum amount if that requirement would cause extreme financial hardship to the applicant.

(ii) Establish a methodology for evaluating projects for purposes of a grant award by consideration of factors that include, but are not limited to, the net present value of the cost avoided on a per account basis over a 25-year period of time, the applicant's ability to complete the project in a timely manner, and the number of households it would benefit.

(iii) The established methodology for evaluating projects for purposes of a grant award shall not consider an applicant's ability to provide the minimum amount of total funding required by clause (i) and shall not prejudice an applicant for requesting that the department waive or reduce that minimum amount due to financial hardship.

(C) Before adopting program guidelines and project solicitation documents, the department shall hold at least three public

workshops throughout the state on draft program guidelines and shall provide at least 45 days of public comment on the draft.

(3) The department shall annually post on its internet website a report on the revenues, expenditures, and benefits of the fund for the prior fiscal year. The report shall include the cumulative and fiscal year number of households the Community Water Assistance Program has benefited and the estimated amount of cost the program has caused to be avoided.

(4) The department shall coordinate with the board for projects that seek to combine funding from the program and the board.

(c) The department may undertake any of the following actions to implement the fund:

(1) Provide for the deposit of any of the following moneys into the fund:

(A) Federal contributions.

(B) Voluntary contributions, gifts, grants, or bequests.

(C) Financial participation by a public agency in an activity authorized for funding from the fund.

(2) Enter into agreements for contributions to the fund from the federal government, local or state agencies, or private corporations or nonprofit organizations.

(3) Take additional action as may be appropriate for adequate administration and operation of the fund.

(4) Expend moneys from the fund for reasonable costs associated with administration of the fund, including outreach regarding the availability of the funding. The department shall not expend more than 5 percent of the annual revenue from the fund for reasonable costs associated with the administration of the fund.

(d) The department may set appropriate requirements as a condition of funding, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

(1) An audit.

(2) Improvements to reduce costs and increase efficiencies of the infrastructure project funded.

(3) An evaluation of alternatives.

(e) The Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund is hereby established in the State Treasury. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, all moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the department, without regard to fiscal year, in accordance with this chapter. Moneys in the fund

at the close of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and shall not revert to the General Fund. Moneys in the fund shall not be available for appropriation or borrowed for use for any purpose not established in this chapter unless that use of the moneys is authorized by statute that receives an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership in each house of the Legislature.

~~SECTION 1. Part 7.5 (commencing with Section 12965) is added to Division 6 of the Water Code, to read:~~

~~PART 7.5. COMMUNITY WATER AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM~~

~~12965. (a) For purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:~~

~~(1) "Fund" means the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund.~~

~~(2) "Program" means the Community Water Affordability Program.~~

~~(b) (1) The department shall, upon appropriation by the Legislature, develop and administer the Community Water Affordability Program. The program shall provide funding in the form of grants to local water suppliers for water system repairs, rehabilitation, and enhancements, water safety and quality, and other local water system infrastructure projects, for the purpose of reducing the amount of local ratepayer funding required for those projects.~~

~~(2) (A) Before disbursing grant funds pursuant to this section, the department shall develop and adopt program guidelines and project solicitation documents. The guidelines and project solicitation documents developed pursuant to this section are not subject to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.~~

~~(B) The program guidelines shall require an applicant for a grant to provide at least 50 percent of the total funding required for the project. Federal funding and other state loans and grants may be included in this amount. The department may waive or reduce that minimum amount if that requirement would cause extreme financial hardship to the applicant.~~

~~(c) The Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund is hereby established in the State Treasury. Upon appropriation by~~

~~the Legislature, moneys in the fund shall be made available to the department for the purposes of the program.~~

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ACTION ITEM
June 3, 2026

TO: **Board of Directors**

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

Staff Contact: Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs

SUBJECT: **SENATE BILL 1125 (MENJIVAR) – WATER RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt a support position on Senate Bill 1125 (Menjivar).

REPORT

Purpose

This item requests the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) Board of Directors (Board) consider adopting a support position on Senate Bill (SB) 1125, which would establish a statewide low-income water assistance (LIRA) program administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Upon appropriation, the program would provide direct bill credits to eligible customers.

Background

The high and rising costs of basic needs for California residents, including housing, food, and other utility services, can force families to make difficult and risky tradeoffs that could harm their health and welfare.

According to a report by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Luskin Center for Innovation, in Los Angeles County alone, water rates rose 60% from 2015 to 2025. Approximately 1.6 million households, or 1 in 8 Californians, have household water debt. Water remains the only utility without a consumer subsidy program at the State or Federal level.

Public water systems are limited in their ability to offer a low-income rate assistance program to their customers, largely because of funding limitations imposed on publicly

owned water systems by Proposition 218 (1996). These limitations severely limit revenue uses; systems must use non-rate revenue to provide low-income assistance, and many, if not most, lack sufficient non-rate revenue to provide a comprehensive subsidy program.

To date, existing state and federal water affordability efforts, including the state Water & Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program and the federal Low Income Household Water Assistance Program, have focused solely on addressing existing water debt, not on water rates. Even after nearly $1 billion in assistance through 2023 to California households, high levels of water debt remain, and water shutoffs for nonpayment have resumed in most parts of the state.

Where affordability programs exist, they typically serve fewer than 20% of eligible households, leaving hundreds of thousands of low-income California families at risk of having their water shut off for nonpayment.

Discussion

SB 1125 would address these challenges by creating a water rate affordability program across the state, administered by the SWRCB, thereby avoiding any Proposition 218 barriers to assistance. SB 1125 would require the following:

- Direct bill credits to eligible ratepayers;
- Annual report on SWRCB's website related to the program's performance metrics and needs;
- A cap of 10% on administrative spending to ensure maximum consumer benefits are provided; and
- The availability of third-party contracting as needed for technical assistance, eligibility determinations, and the annual recertification of customer accounts.

Next Steps

Staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt a support position on SB 1125 (Menjivar).

Staff will work with our state advocates, West Coast Advisors, to ensure our position on this legislation is communicated to the Orange County delegation, the bill author, and relevant committees throughout the legislative process.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

☒ *Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
☐ *Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and OC values and interests.*
☐ *Strengthen communication 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.*

BOARD OPTIONS

Option #1: Adopt a support position on SB 1125 (Menjivar).

Fiscal Impact: Not determined at this time.

Option #2: Take no action.

Fiscal Impact: Regardless of the Board's support, the fiscal impact remains the same as above.

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

Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: SB 1125 Full Text

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 14, 2026

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 25, 2026

SENATE BILL No. 1125

Introduced by Senator Menjivar
(Coauthors: Senators Durazo and Gonzalez)

February 17, 2026

An act to add Chapter 6.2 (commencing with Section 116930) to Part 12 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to drinking water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1125, as amended, Menjivar. Water Rate Assistance Program.

Existing law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a plan for the funding and implementation of the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program. Existing law requires the plan to include, among other things, a description of the method for collecting moneys to support and implement the program and a description of the method for determining the amount of moneys that may need to be collected from water ratepayers to fund the program.

This bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Program. As part of the program, the bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Fund in the State Treasury, available upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide water affordability assistance for residential water services to low-income residential ratepayers, as specified. The bill would require the state board to take various actions in administering the fund, including, among other things, tracking and managing revenue in the fund separately from all other revenue. The bill would require the state board, in consultation with relevant agencies and after a public hearing, to adopt guidelines for implementation of the program and to adopt an

annual report to be posted on the state board's internet website identifying how the fund has performed, as specified. The bill would require the guidelines to include minimum requirements for eligible systems, including the ability to confirm eligibility for enrollment through a request for self-certification of eligibility under penalty of perjury. By expanding the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the state board to take various actions in administering the program, including, but not limited to, providing guidance, oversight, and funding for low-income rate assistance for residential ratepayers of eligible systems. The bill would authorize the Attorney General, at the request of the state board, to bring an action in state court to restrain the use of any method, act, or practice in violation of these provisions, except as provided. The bill would make the implementation of all of these provisions contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 6.2 (commencing with Section 116930) is added to Part 12 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

Chapter 6.2. Water Rate Assistance Program

116930. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) Existing state law declares that it is the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.

(2) In 2015, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 401 (Chapter 662 of the Statutes of 2015) that required the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a plan, informed by the public and the

State Board of Equalization, for a statewide low-income rate assistance for water.

(3) In 2020, the state board released a report pursuant to Assembly Bill 401 (Chapter 662 of the Statutes of 2015), which is entitled "Recommendations for Implementation of a Statewide Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program," that found that it would take over one hundred forty million dollars ($140,000,000) annually to create a low-income water rate assistance program.

(4) The cost of water has continued to rise, outpacing the rate of inflation and putting too many California families at risk of water shutoffs.

(5) Climate change adds additional cost pressure to water and sewer systems, which increasingly must invest in climate resilience.

(6) While many public water systems offer some form of bill assistance to a limited number of customers, Proposition 218, as approved by the voters at the November 5, 1996, statewide general election, limits their ability to fully fund those programs.

(7) California must continue to lead the nation by establishing statewide low-income rate assistance for water and sewer and, by doing so, help to ensure universal access to essential services.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that funding for a water affordability program be progressive, not create affordability challenges for ratepayers, and be durable.

116931. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Community water system" has the same meaning as defined in Section 116275.

(b) "Effective date" means the effective date of the appropriation described in Section 116942.

(c) "Eligible system" means a community water system, or a participating tribal water system.

(d) "Fund" means the Water Rate Assistance Fund created pursuant to Section 116932.

(e) "Local water rate assistance program" means a drinking water low-income rate assistance program that is established, funded, and administered by a community water system to provide water rate assistance to its eligible low-income ratepayers. Local water rate assistance programs may be funded through any funding a community water system has available to provide water rate assistance to its ratepayers, provided it does not use any funding

derived from a fee or charge levied pursuant to Article XIII D of the California Constitution.

(f) "Low-income" means an annual household income that is no greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline level and consistent with the guidelines established for the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 739.1 of the Public Utilities Code.

(g) "Program" means the Water Rate Assistance Program established pursuant to this chapter.

(h) "Relevant agencies" means those agencies that have a role, through data collection, regulation, or enforcement, in providing services, oversight, and assistance to public water systems and low-income ratepayers.

(i) "Residential ratepayer" means a resident of a single-family or multifamily residence who receives a bill for residential water.

(j) "State board" means the State Water Resources Control Board.

116932. (a) The Water Rate Assistance Fund is hereby established in the State Treasury to provide water affordability assistance for residential water services to low-income residential ratepayers. Moneys in the fund shall be available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the state board to provide, in consultation with relevant agencies, direct water bill assistance to low-income residential ratepayers served by eligible systems.

(b) The program shall be entirely funded by the fund or other available state or federal funding.

(c) (1) The state board shall, upon appropriation by the Legislature, expend moneys from the fund for reasonable costs associated with the administration of this chapter.

(2) Commencing 365 days after the effective date, funds for the reasonable costs associated with the administration of this chapter shall not exceed 10 percent of the average annual deposits into the fund. "Reasonable costs associated with the administration of this chapter" includes relevant agencies' administrative costs associated with this chapter. The state board shall pay eligible systems for reasonable costs associated with the administration of this chapter, which shall not count toward the 10-percent limitation.

(3) Commencing 450 days after the effective date, a minimum of 80 percent of total expenditures from the fund shall be directly applied to residential ratepayer accounts.

(d) The state board may undertake any of the following actions to implement this chapter:

(1) Provide for the deposit of any of the following moneys into the fund:

(A) Federal or state funding.

(B) Voluntary contributions, including, but not limited to, gifts, grants, or bequests.

(C) Any previously distributed funds returned to the fund pursuant to a process developed pursuant to paragraph (10) of subdivision (b) of Section 116934.

(2) Enter into funding agreements with the federal government, local or state agencies, private entities, or nonprofit organizations.

(3) Take additional action as necessary and appropriate for adequate administration and operation of the fund and provision of direct residential water bill assistance.

116933. The state board shall do all of the following in administering the fund:

(a) Track and manage revenue in the fund separately from all other revenue.

(b) Develop and implement a process for the state board to disburse program funds to eligible systems for direct application to the system's low-income residential ratepayer accounts, including controls to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.

(c) Manage and maintain fund balances in conjunction with the Controller, the Treasurer, the California State Auditor's Office, and the Department of Finance, as appropriate.

(d) (1) Expend, upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in the fund for grants, contracts, or services to provide benefits to eligible residential ratepayers.

(2) Services may include technical assistance to eligible systems serving fewer than 3,300 connections to administer the application of funds to low-income residential ratepayer accounts, including initial startup costs.

(3) The state board shall identify and contract with one or more third-party providers, to the extent authorized by Section 19130 of the Government Code. The scope of work for a third-party provider shall include, but not be limited to, the receipt of California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) enrollment data pursuant to the mechanism established pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 116936, the receipt of information from eligible systems,

the creation of eligible customer lists to be provided to eligible systems, call center services, internet-based enrollments, document intake and processing, and provision of notices to eligible customers of enrollment into the program and an opportunity for a customer to opt out of the program.

(e) Establish a process for contracted third-party providers or other entities responsible for enrollment to regularly confirm the eligibility of recipients, based upon income eligibility pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 116931.

116934. (a) Within 270 days of the effective date, the state board, in consultation with relevant agencies and after a public hearing, shall adopt guidelines for implementation of the program.

(b) The guidelines shall include, at minimum, all of the following:

(1) (A) Direction to eligible systems to automatically enroll households in the program if the residential ratepayer's household is a utility customer enrolled in the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program established pursuant to Section 739.1 of the Public Utilities Code.

(B) A process to enroll other households if available information shows that any member of the residential ratepayer's household is a current enrollee in, or recipient of, CalWORKs, CalFresh, general assistance, Medi-Cal, Supplemental Security Income or the State Supplementary Payment Program, or the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

(2) Eligibility criteria for enrollment into the program for customers not automatically enrolled shall ensure customers satisfy the definition of low-income.

(3) Minimum requirements for eligible systems, including all of the following:

(A) Participation in the statewide program.

(B) A process for enrollment into the program for households that meet the eligibility criteria pursuant to paragraph (2).

(C) The ability to confirm eligibility for enrollment through a request for self-certification of eligibility under penalty of perjury.

(D) A process for eligible systems, at their sole discretion, to elect whether and the extent to which they will rely on third-party providers for the services within the scope of work set forth in

paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 116933, or instead elect to perform one or more of these services itself.

(E) A process for eligible systems to share information with third-party providers, to the extent necessary for third-party providers to provide the services elected by the eligible system pursuant to subparagraph (D).

(4) A process for the state board to provide funding to eligible systems for application to eligible low-income residential ratepayer accounts. Funding shall be provided to eligible systems on, at minimum, an annual basis.

(5) Consistent with Article XIII D of the California Constitution, guidance to eligible systems regarding payment of reasonable costs for administration of the program. Reasonable costs for administration shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

(A) Staff costs to implement the program.

(B) Changes to billing systems needed to provide bill credits.

(C) Communication materials to customers about the program.

(6) (A) A process for eligible systems to provide a flat bill credit to low-income residential ratepayers of no less than twenty dollars ~~($20.00)~~ *($20)* per month. The state board shall update the flat bill credit annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index.

(B) A process for eligible systems to opt to instead provide a bill credit to low-income residential ratepayers of 20 percent of the total water charges for a volume of water similar to that identified in Section 10609.4 of the Water Code, if this bill credit would be higher than the flat bill credit developed by the state board pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(7) A provision to audit eligible systems receiving funds under this chapter regarding the receipt and distribution of those funds.

(8) Parameters and options for providing funding to eligible systems that bill exclusively or partially on the property tax roll.

(9) A process for exemption of eligible systems from providing low-income rate assistance upon determination by the state board that the system does not have eligible residential ratepayers. Exemptions shall be reviewed periodically to determine whether any residential ratepayers of the eligible system have become eligible for assistance.

(10) A process for eligible systems to return funds to the state if needed.

(11) (A) In the event that full funding is not immediately available, a process for determining how implementation will be prioritized among eligible systems.

(B) If an eligible system does not receive funding as part of the prioritization process, the eligible system shall not be required to comply with this chapter. The state board shall provide notice to eligible systems if they are not required to comply with this chapter.

(12) A requirement that the state board provide an eligible system with no fewer than 180 days' notice before the first day that the system will be required to provide water rate assistance pursuant to this chapter.

(c) The state board shall hold at least three public workshops throughout the state on the draft guidelines, and shall provide at least 45 days for public comment on the draft.

116935. (a) The state board shall, in consultation with relevant agencies and after a public hearing, adopt an annual report to be posted on the state board's internet website identifying how the fund has performed.

(b) The annual report shall contain all of the following:

(1) A report of expenditures from the fund for the prior fiscal year, including how many households were served, and estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year.

(2) An estimate of the number of households eligible for assistance. The estimate shall not be based on a household-by-household evaluation.

(3) An evaluation of available relevant information regarding any household-level water affordability issues that remain after application of bill assistance.

(4) A description of methods to include public participation and efforts to encourage enrollment in the program.

(5) An estimate of the anticipated funding needs for the next fiscal year.

(c) The state board shall, to the extent feasible, rely on existing data collected pursuant to Section 116530.

116936. (a) Within 365 days of the effective date, the Public Utilities Commission shall establish a mechanism for electrical corporations and gas corporations to regularly share data that includes customer names and account addresses with the third-party providers regarding the utility customers enrolled in, or eligible to be enrolled in, the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)

program established pursuant to Section 739.1 of the Public Utilities Code. Electrical corporations and gas corporations shall regularly share that data with third-party providers through the mechanism.

(b) (1) The state board and third-party providers may enter into agreements with local publicly owned electric utilities and local publicly owned gas utilities, including, but not limited to, municipal utility districts and irrigation districts, for the purpose of regularly sharing data that includes customer names and account addresses with the third-party provider regarding utility customers enrolled in, or eligible to be enrolled in, affordability programs benefiting low-income residential ratepayers.

(2) The agreements may authorize third-party providers to provide data pursuant to this subdivision to eligible systems for the sole purpose of assisting with the administration of the program.

(c) Data shared pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) is subject to Section 7927.410 of the Government Code and the Information Practices Act of 1977 (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1798) of Title 1.8 of Part 4 of Division 3 of the Civil Code).

(d) Data shared pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) shall not be considered a disclosure under Section 1798.83 of the Civil Code.

116937. (a) Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code does not apply to any guidelines developed by the state board pursuant to this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding Section 11019 of the Government Code, the state board shall, to the extent permissible, make advance payments to eligible systems for direct residential water bill assistance, for related administrative costs, and to implement the purposes of this chapter.

(2) Before distribution of an advance payment, eligible systems shall provide to the state board an estimate of the *anticipated administrative costs, the* number of households enrolled in the ~~program~~ *program*, and their expected bill credits.

(3) The state board shall have discretion regarding the terms and conditions that apply to advance ~~payment.~~ *payment; however, the state board shall not require an eligible system to provide a bill credit in advance of the state board providing the eligible system the funds to cover the portion of the water bill that the credit is designed to cover for the customer. Eligible systems shall*

not be required by any provision of this chapter to advance funds or extend credit to cover the cost of the direct bill credits.

(c) An eligible system shall provide a full accounting of its expenditures on an annual basis and as requested by the state board.

~~(d) The state board, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, may authorize up to 5 percent of program funding to establish pilot projects that include expenditures that improve residential water or wastewater affordability for low-income residential households through installation of water efficiency measures or assistance programs that otherwise improve residential water or wastewater affordability in mobilehome parks, multifamily housing, or other households that do not directly pay a residential water or wastewater bill.~~

(d) An eligible system shall not be required to establish or maintain the administrative infrastructure, including staff, changes to billing systems, or other reasonable actions necessary to comply with this chapter, unless the fund has sufficient funds therein to comply with paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), and a distribution for reasonable administrative costs has been provided to the eligible system.

116938. The state board shall do all of the following in administering the program:

(a) Provide guidance, oversight, and funding for low-income rate assistance for residential ratepayers of eligible systems.

(b) Coordinate with the Public Utilities Commission, to the extent reasonable and consistent with this chapter and related policy goals, to align criteria between all existing water rate assistance programs offered by investor-owned utilities, and to ensure timely processing of payments to investor-owned utilities.

(c) For an eligible system that is not regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, consult with relevant agencies on options to provide oversight of the eligible system's application of program funds to the system's low-income residential ratepayer accounts pursuant to this chapter to ensure effectiveness and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.

(d) Coordinate with other relevant state agencies and resolve disputes as necessary.

(e) Consider identifying alternative entities to distribute and track benefits if the state board determines that an eligible system

is incapable of applying program funds to residential ratepayers of the system pursuant to this chapter.

116939. (a) This chapter does not prohibit an eligible system from administering a local water rate assistance program that is in addition to, or on top of, or different from, the assistance provided through the program. Local water rate assistance programs are administered independently and separately from the program without oversight from the state board.

(b) (1) An eligible system that offers assistance through a local water rate assistance program that is in addition to the assistance provided through the program to the qualifying ratepayers served by the program shall still receive funds from the program for the eligible portion of the assistance.

(2) An eligible system with a local water rate assistance program may request that the state board allocate the funds from the program to an existing local water rate assistance program by entering into a memorandum of understanding with the state board that describes the parameters, eligibility criteria, and enrollment of the local water rate assistance program. Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) to (11), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 116934, an eligible system may customize its local water rate assistance program through a memorandum of understanding with the state board as long as comparable benefits will be offered to the system's low-income residential ratepayers.

116940. (a) Within 450 days of the effective date, or by any other date set by the state board based on a process for prioritization among eligible systems established pursuant to paragraph (11) of subdivision (b) of Section 116934, all nontribal community water systems shall begin providing water rate assistance to residential ratepayers in compliance with the minimum requirements specified in subdivision (c) of Section 116932. A tribal water system may offer water rate assistance. Eligible systems shall continue to provide water rate assistance to low-income residential ratepayers as long as there is sufficient state or federal funding available to provide water rate assistance and fund eligible systems for reasonable costs for administration of the program.

(b) If the state board has not met the deadline in subdivision (a) of Section 116934 for the adoption of program implementation guidelines within 270 days of the effective date, the deadline in subdivision (a) of this section shall be delayed by the total number

of additional days the state board takes to adopt program implementation guidelines to the first date that is the beginning of an eligible system's billing cycle.

116941. (a) The Attorney General, at the request of the state board, may bring an action in state court to restrain, by temporary or permanent injunction, the use of any method, act, or practice declared in this chapter to be unlawful, including nonparticipation by a public water system within the program.

(b) The state board shall not request an action nor shall the Attorney General bring an action against an eligible system for failing to meet the requirements of Sections 116938 and 116940, as long as the eligible system makes a good faith effort to implement this chapter or the eligible system has been notified that they do not need to comply with this chapter pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (11) of subdivision (b) of Section 116934.

116942. Implementation of this chapter is contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature for its purposes.

SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

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Item No. 6

ACTION ITEM
June 3, 2026

TO: **Board of Directors**

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

Staff Contact: Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs

SUBJECT: **SENATE BILL 952 (LAIRD) – STATE WATER PROJECT CLEAN ENERGY GOALS**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt a support position on Senate Bill 952 (Laird) and join the State Water Contractors' coalition letter.

REPORT

Purpose

This item requests the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) Board of Directors (Board) consider adopting a support position on Senate Bill (SB) 952, which would authorize the State Water Project (SWP), beginning on January 1, 2036, to apply excess procurement of eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources in one year to any subsequent year's obligation.

Background

The SWP, operated by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), provides water to 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of productive farmland and is one of the largest energy generators and consumers in California. SWP energy consumption can range from 6 to 9.5 million megawatt-hours (MWh) per year.

Senate Bill 1020 (Laird, 2022) required that 100% of the energy procured to serve state agencies, including the SWP, be provided by eligible renewable energy or zero-carbon resources by December 31, 2035. Currently, about 65% of the SWP's energy demand is met with its own eligible renewable resources or zero-carbon resources.

All costs associated with SWP operations and maintenance, averaging over $1.3 billion annually, are paid by 29 public water agencies, which includes the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, under contract with DWR. These agencies pay operational costs regardless of the amount of water delivered each year, and costs to procure 100% eligible renewable energy or zero-carbon resources are expected to increase SWP costs.

Discussion

SB 952 would lower costs for the SWP by giving the DWR procurement flexibility when meeting the state's clean energy goals. Specifically, the bill would allow DWR to apply excess renewable energy procurement to one year to future years' obligations and to account for additional factors, such as portfolio diversity and resource type. These savings would directly benefit the public water agencies contracted with DWR, ultimately reducing costs for SWP ratepayers.

Next Steps

Staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt a support position on SB 952 (Laird) and join the State Water Contractors' coalition letter.

Staff will work with our state advocates, West Coast Advisors, to ensure our position on this legislation is communicated to the Orange County delegation, the bill author, and relevant committees throughout the legislative process.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- ☒ *Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
- ☐ *Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and OC values and interests.*
- ☐ *Strengthen communication 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.*

BOARD OPTIONS

Option #1: Adopt a support position on Senate Bill 952 (Laird) and join the State Water Contractors' coalition letter.

Fiscal Impact: Not determined at this time.

Option #2: Take no action.

Fiscal Impact: None.

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

Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: SB 952 Full Text

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 18, 2026

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 17, 2026

SENATE BILL No. 952

Introduced by Senator Laird

February 2, 2026

An act to amend Section 80400 of the Water Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 952, as amended, Laird. State Water Project: renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources.

Under existing law, it is the policy of the state that eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 90% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2035, 95% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2040, 100% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2045, and 100% of electricity procured to serve all state agencies by December 31, 2035, as specified. Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources to procure eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources to satisfy those *state agency* obligations imposed on the State Water Resources Development System, commonly known as the State Water Project, pursuant to that policy. *Existing law authorizes the department to defer, until no later than December 31, 2040, procuring zero-carbon electricity resource quantities equal to the amount of electricity provided under an existing contract to procure fossil generation entered into before January 1, 2010, if the department determines that the full achievement of the state agency obligations imposed on the State Water Project would require the early termination of the existing contract and that early termination of the existing*

contract would result in significant uneconomic costs. Existing law requires the department, in conducting procurement, to consider specified factors and requires that all resources procured be used first to meet the department's own electricity needs.

This bill would require the department, in conducting *that* procurement, to consider portfolio diversity, resource type, location, and hours of typical peak operation. *The bill would expand the scope of the department's authorization to defer the procurement of those resource quantities to apply to an existing contract to procure fossil generation entered into before January 1, 2011, rather than January 1, 2010.* The bill would authorize, on and after January 1, 2036, excess procurement, as defined, of eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources in one year to be applied to any subsequent year's obligation, as provided.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 80400 of the Water Code is amended to read:

80400. (a) (1) The department shall procure eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources to satisfy the state agency obligations imposed on the State Water Resources Development System, commonly known as the State Water Project, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 454.53 of the Public Utilities Code.

(2) If the department determines that the full achievement of the state agency obligations imposed on the State Water Resources Development System would require the early termination of an existing contract to procure fossil generation entered before January 1, ~~2010,~~ *2011,* and that early termination would result in significant uneconomic costs, the department may defer procuring zero-carbon electricity resource quantities equal to the amount of electricity provided under the existing contract until no later than December 31, 2040.

(3) In the event that extraordinary circumstances, catastrophic events, considerable supply chain disruptions and equipment shortages, or threats of significant economic harm render full achievement of the obligations imposed on the State Water

Resources Development System pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 454.53 of the Public Utilities Code infeasible, the Governor may adjust the applicable deadline for the department's compliance to the earliest feasible date, but that date shall be no later than December 31, 2040.

(b) The department may satisfy all or a portion of the obligation on the State Water Resources Development System pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 454.53 of the Public Utilities Code by installing or connecting zero-carbon resources or eligible renewable energy resources behind the meter on State Water Resources Development System property or properties to service its load.

(c) All resources procured pursuant to subdivision (a) after February 1, 2022, shall satisfy both of the following criteria:

(1) The eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources shall either be newly developed as a result of contracting by the department or constitute incremental production from existing resources and reach initial commercial operations on or after January 1, 2023. This requirement may be satisfied if the resource is newly developed by a local publicly owned electric utility with the expectation that the output would be sold to the department in support of the State Water Resources Development System.

(2) The eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources shall be located within California or have a first point of interconnection to a California balancing authority.

(d) In conducting procurement pursuant to subdivision (a), the department shall consider all of the following:

(1) Procurement commitments that may yield maximum long-term employment, stimulate new economic activity, generate local and state tax revenues, and assist with the development of new industries.

(2) Attributes, including resource adequacy, flexibility, and integration value, the ability to provide firm clean electricity, and local air quality benefits.

(3) The results of integrated resource planning modeling conducted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Section 454.52 of the Public Utilities Code.

(4) Portfolio diversity, resource type, location, and hours of typical peak operation.

(e) The department shall consider doing all of the following to reduce the costs of any procurement made pursuant to this section:

(1) Coordinate with the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank to make low-cost financing assistance available to new projects included in any procurement commitments.

(2) Coordinate with other state agencies to identify incentives from existing programs for new projects included in any procurement commitments.

(3) (A) If reasonably expected to provide incremental benefits, secure an ownership stake or royalties for any project or economic activity resulting from a contractual commitment.

(B) (i) Incremental benefits of ownership may include the election by the department of payment of applicable credits pursuant to the federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-169). If the department elects for direct payment of those applicable credits, those payments shall be deposited directly into the California Water Resources Development Bond Account created pursuant to Section 12935.5.

(ii) Within 10 days of any payments being deposited in the California Water Resources Development Bond Account, described in clause (i), the department shall provide written notice to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, who shall provide a copy of the notice to the relevant policy committees. The notice shall include the source, purpose, timeliness, and other relevant information as determined by the department.

(f) (1) All resources procured pursuant to this section shall be used first to meet the department's own electricity needs. On and after January 1, 2036, excess procurement of eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources in one year may be applied to any subsequent year's obligation imposed pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 454.53 of the Public Utilities Code. A renewable energy credit, as defined in Section 399.12 of the Public Utilities Code, associated with the electricity used to satisfy the obligations of the department and the State Water Resources Development System under this section shall be retired and shall not be transferred or resold.

(2) For purposes of this subdivision, "excess procurement of eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources" means procurement of eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources in one year that exceed 100 percent of the

annual retail sales in the same year for the department and State Water Resources Development System and for which all environmental and renewable attributes associated with the procurement are retired and not transferred or resold.

(g) The department shall enter into an agreement to procure energy from a new energy generation facility only if the seller requires its contractors to use a multicraft project labor agreement, as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 2500 of the Public Contract Code, for construction of the facility. Those project labor agreements shall conform to the industry standard agreements recently used for other similar private projects, including side letters for high-voltage transmission and related work.

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Item No. 7

ACTION ITEM
June 3, 2026

TO: **Board of Directors**

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

Staff Contact: Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs

SUBJECT: **SENATE BILL 1048 (BECKER) – THE SEAL OF CLIMATE LITERACY ACT**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt a support position on Senate Bill 1048 (Becker).

REPORT

Purpose

This item requests the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) Board of Directors (Board) consider adopting a support position on Senate Bill (SB) 1048, which would create the Seal of Climate Literacy, a voluntary high school diploma distinction that would be conferred to students who demonstrate climate literacy through classroom, extracurricular, and community experiences.

Background

In 2024, Colorado became the first state to adopt a State Seal of Climate Literacy as a voluntary diploma distinction for high school students. Adopting a parallel Seal in California would affirm and strengthen the state's leadership in climate education and action.

Currently, California offers two Seals:

- The State Seal of Civic Engagement to recognize pupils who have demonstrated excellence in civics education and participation.

- The State Seal of Biliteracy to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English.

Discussion

SB 1048 would establish the Seal of Climate Literacy, a diploma distinction awarded by a school district to recognize climate literacy achieved through both classroom and experiential learning. Participation by a school district in awarding the Seal is voluntary.

To earn the Seal, students must:

- Successfully complete two courses in climate literacy, approved by a local educational agency and including at least one science course.

- Conduct an experiential learning project focused on understanding and addressing the effects of climate change in their local community. Projects may include, but are not limited to: fieldwork, capstones, community projects, internships or employment, or other student-led initiatives.

Seals may be earned with:

- Industry distinction, for students who demonstrate proficiency in technical green skills. Participating school districts are encouraged to work with local businesses, nonprofits, and industry to identify relevant skills.

- Higher educational distinction, for students who earn college credit while completing the requirements of the Seal.

The Seal addresses the need for environmental awareness and education that prepares youth to navigate the economic and social impacts of a changing climate. It also responds to growing student interest in climate-related learning and careers. The Seal aligns with and advances California's climate mitigation and adaptation goals by providing unique recognition for students who integrate experiential learning within climate education.

This bill would also direct the Department of Education to submit an annual report to the legislature summarizing the data it receives.

Next Steps

Staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt a support position on SB 1048 (Becker).

Staff will work with our state advocates, West Coast Advisors, to ensure our position on this legislation is communicated to the Orange County delegation, the bill author, and relevant committees throughout the legislative process.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

☐ *Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
☐ *Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and OC values and interests.*
☐ *Strengthen communication 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.*

BOARD OPTIONS

Option #1: Adopt a support position on Senate Bill 1048 (Becker).

Fiscal Impact: Not determined at this time.

Option #2: Take no action.

Fiscal Impact: Regardless of the Board's support, the fiscal impact remains the same as above.

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

Attachments/Links:
Attachment 1: SB 1048 Full Text

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2026

SENATE BILL No. 1048

Introduced by Senator Becker
(Coauthor: Senator Gonzalez)
~~(Coauthor: Assembly Member Garcia)~~
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta and Garcia)

February 12, 2026

An act to add Article 8 (commencing with Section 51480) to Chapter 3 of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1048, as amended, Becker. State Seal of Climate Literacy.

Existing law establishes the State Seal of Civic Engagement to recognize pupils who have demonstrated excellence in civics education and participation and have demonstrated an understanding of the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government, as provided, and establishes the State Seal of Biliteracy to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English.

This bill would establish the State Seal of Climate Literacy ~~to recognize~~ *for the purpose of giving* high school ~~graduates~~ *pupils personal agency to help them and their communities understand and adapt to the effects of climate change. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, on or before March 15, 2027, to recommend to the State Board of Education criteria for awarding a State Seal of Climate Literacy to pupils* who have demonstrated mastery in climate literacy ~~disciplines and have attained~~ *disciplines*, green skills

or technical green skills, as ~~defined.~~ *defined, and any and all other best practices for climate literacy.* The bill would require the ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction to,~~ *Superintendent, in developing the criteria, to consider including (1) the successful completion of at least 2 approved courses in the area of climate literacy and (2) the successful completion and presentation of a climate literacy final experiential learning project, as provided. The bill would require the Superintendent to also recommend to the state board the criteria necessary to award a State Seal of Climate Literacy with specified distinctions. The bill would require the state board, on or before May 1, 2027, to adopt, or adopt with modifications, the criteria recommended by the Superintendent. The bill would require the Superintendent to,* among other things, prepare and deliver to participating local educational agencies an appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of the pupil indicating that the pupil has been awarded a State Seal of Climate Literacy by the Superintendent. The bill would make a local educational agency's participation in awarding the State Seal of Climate Literacy voluntary. For a local educational agency that chooses to participate, the bill would require the local educational agency ~~to (1) award a State Seal of Climate Literacy to a pupil that successfully completes at least 2 courses in the area of climate literacy and a climate literacy final experiential learning project that focuses on the effects of climate change in the pupil's local community, as provided, (2) maintain appropriate records in order to identify pupils who have earned a State Seal of Climate Literacy, and (3)~~ *to, among other things, establish a process for determining if a pupil has met the criteria necessary to earn a State Seal of Climate Literacy and* on or before ~~July 1,~~ *September 15,* 2027, and on or before ~~July 1~~ *September 15* of each year thereafter, provide specified data to the State Department of Education. ~~The bill would require the department, on or before October 1, 2027, and on or before October 1 of each year thereafter, to submit a report to the Legislature with the data collected by participating local educational agencies.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Article 8 (commencing with Section 51480) is added to Chapter 3 of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 8. State Seal of Climate Literacy

51480. (a) The State Seal of Climate Literacy is established ~~to recognize high school graduates who have demonstrated mastery in climate literacy disciplines and have attained green skills or technical green skills. The purpose of the State Seal of Climate Literacy is to give~~ *for the purpose of giving* high school pupils personal agency to help ~~the pupil and the pupil's~~ *them and their* communities understand and adapt to the effects of climate change.

(b) A local educational agency's participation in awarding the State Seal of Climate Literacy to pupils under this article is voluntary.

51481. (a) ~~A participating local educational agency shall award~~ *On or before March 15, 2027, the Superintendent shall recommend to the state board criteria for awarding* a State Seal of Climate Literacy to ~~a pupil that meets~~ *pupils who have demonstrated mastery in climate literacy disciplines, green skills or technical green skills, and any and all other best practices for climate literacy. In developing criteria for the State Seal of Climate Literacy, the Superintendent shall consider including* both of the following criteria:

(1) Successful completion of at least two approved courses in the area of climate literacy. ~~A participating local educational agency shall create, maintain, and share with pupils a list of approved courses that pupils may complete to satisfy this requirement.~~ Approved courses may include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(A) High-school-level or advanced placement courses that cover physical science, life science, or earth science.

(B) Dual or concurrent enrollment, career technical education, or high-school-level courses that integrate climate literacy.

(C) Courses that integrate the state's environmental principles and concepts ~~or courses that integrate the Seeds to Solutions curriculum developed~~ pursuant to Section 71301 of the Public Resources ~~Code.~~ *Code or courses that integrate the state's Seeds to Solutions curriculum.*

(2) ~~(A)~~ Successful completion *and presentation* of a climate literacy final experiential learning project that focuses on the *causes and* effects of climate change in the pupil's local community and demonstrates an academic understanding of climate literacy

through the practical application of climate literacy that addresses local climate issues present in the pupil's community. ~~The pupil shall present the final project to an individual or group that is identified and selected by the pupil and the local educational agency or climate literacy experiential learning provider.~~ Final projects may include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

~~(i)~~

(A) A capstone project centered on the pupil's community and the community's effect on climate change.

~~(ii)~~

(B) Field experiences or practica related to the coursework described in paragraph (1).

~~(iii)~~

(C) Internships, externships, or employment with climate literacy *or green career* experiential learning providers.

~~(iv)~~

(D) One or more community projects with a climate literacy experiential learning provider.

~~(v)~~

(E) Hands-on laboratory experiments.

~~(vi)~~

(F) Original artwork or writing.

~~(vii)~~

(G) Pupil-led and designed programming that has an effect on the pupil's community and other pupils.

~~(B) A participating local educational agency shall approve a pupil's final project proposal or authorize a climate literacy experiential learning provider to facilitate, support, and approve a pupil's final project proposal before the pupil begins the final project.~~

(b) ~~A~~ *The Superintendent shall also recommend to the state board the criteria necessary for a* participating local educational agency ~~may also~~ *to additionally* award to a pupil ~~that~~ *who* meets the requirements for the State Seal of Climate ~~Literacy~~ *Literacy,* one or both of the following distinctions:

(1) A State Seal of Climate Literacy with Industry Distinction ~~may be earned by~~ *to recognize* a pupil ~~that~~ *who* demonstrates proficiency in technical green skills through coursework or the pupil's final experiential learning ~~project. To~~ *project together with an authorization for a local educational agency to* identify the

technical green skills needed for a climate-impacted or green ~~career, a participating local educational agency is encouraged to collaborate~~ *career by collaborating* with local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and industry leaders.

(2) A State Seal of Climate Literacy with Higher Education Distinction ~~may be earned by~~ *to recognize* a pupil ~~that~~ *who* earns college credit in attaining the *State* Seal of Climate Literacy.

(c) In developing criteria pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b), the Superintendent may partner with nonprofit organizations and shall ensure, to the greatest extent feasible, that the criteria adhere to all of the following:

(1) Provide all pupils with an opportunity to earn the State Seal of Climate Literacy.

(2) Recognize pupil excellence and outstanding achievement.

(3) Are not based primarily on pupil achievement that is already recognized through grades or other standard measures of pupil achievement.

(4) Result in a seal that confers a benefit to pupils beyond high school.

(d) On or before May 1, 2027, the state board shall adopt, or adopt with modifications, all criteria recommended by the Superintendent pursuant to this section.

51482. The Superintendent shall do ~~both~~ *all* of the following:

(a) (1) Prepare and deliver to participating local educational agencies an appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of the pupil indicating that the pupil has been awarded a State Seal of Climate Literacy by the Superintendent.

(2) The Superintendent may partner with ~~relevant entities~~ *nonprofit organizations* to determine the best design for the insignia described in paragraph (1) and the fulfillment of the insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript.

(b) *(1)* Provide other information it deems necessary for local educational agencies to successfully participate in awarding the State Seal of Climate Literacy to pupils.

(2) The Superintendent may partner with nonprofit organizations to provide the information pursuant to paragraph (1), which may include any of the following:

(A) Guidance or criteria to support implementation.

(B) Sample project frameworks.

(C) Professional development resources.

(D) Guidance for developing partnerships with community-based organizations, industry leaders, or institutions of higher education.

(c) (1) Provide information to pupils who earn a State Seal of Climate Literacy about postsecondary opportunities and career pathways that leverage the knowledge and skills that pupils develop through earning the State Seal of Climate Literacy.

(2) The Superintendent may partner with nonprofit, labor, or private sector organizations to provide the information pursuant to paragraph (1).

51483. ~~A~~ *After the state board adopts criteria for the State Seal of Climate Literacy pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 51481, a* participating local educational agency shall do all of the following:

(a) Maintain appropriate records in order to identify pupils who have earned a State Seal of Climate Literacy.

(b) Affix the appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript of each pupil who earns a State Seal of Climate Literacy.

(c) Provide information to pupils about available options and supports, including, but not limited to, approved courses, experiential learning, or final projects that pupils may complete to meet the criteria to earn a State Seal of Climate Literacy.

(d) Establish a process for determining if a pupil has met the criteria necessary to earn a State Seal of Climate Literacy.

~~(c)~~

(e) On or before ~~July 1,~~ *September 15,* 2027, and on or before ~~July 1~~ *September 15* of each year thereafter, provide all of the following data to the department:

(1) The names of schools that awarded the State Seal of Climate Literacy.

(2) The number of pupils from each school of the local educational agency that received a State Seal of Climate Literacy.

~~(3) The types of final projects described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 51481 that pupils completed.~~

~~(4) The names of climate literacy experiential learning providers that approved, supported, and facilitated pupils' final projects, if applicable.~~

~~(5) A list of approved courses pupils completed to earn the State Seal of Climate Literacy.~~

(3) Evidence of how pupils who received a State Seal of Climate Literacy met the adopted criteria, including, but not limited to,

any final projects, coursework, or providers that the pupils worked with.

~~51484. Notwithstanding Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, on or before October 1, 2027, and on or before October 1 of each year thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the Legislature, consistent with Section 9795 of the Government Code, with a summary of the data the department receives pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 51483.~~

~~51485.~~

51484. For purposes of this article, ~~all of~~ the following definitions apply:

(a) "Climate literacy" means an understanding of the essential principles of the earth's climate system, assessing scientifically credible climate information, learning to communicate about the climate in a meaningful manner, and making informed and responsible decisions regarding actions that may affect the climate.

(b) "Climate literacy experiential learning provider" means a provider that facilitates a pupil's final project, including, but not limited to, a school organization or club, local media outlet, business, nonprofit organization, or industry focused on green skills or technical green skills.

(c) "Green jobs" *or "green career"* means occupations or employment positions that reduce harmful effects on the climate, adapt processes to minimize their effect on the climate, recognize and mitigate the disproportionate social effects of climate change, support the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of communities, or contribute to the well-being and resilience of present and future generations.

(d) "Green skills" means the knowledge, abilities, values, and attitudes to live in, develop, and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society.

(e) "Local educational agency" means a school district, county office of education, or charter school.

(f) "Technical green skills" means skills that fulfill the requirements of green jobs and that support the transition to a low-carbon sustainable economy.

O

Item No. 8

INFORMATION ITEM
June 3, 2026

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 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 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) issues that may affect Orange County:

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

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

☒ *Clarifying MWDOC's mission and role; defining functions and actions.*
☒ *Balance support for Metropolitan's regional mission and OC values and interests.*
☐ *Strengthen communication 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: Issue Briefs A-E

Issue Brief A

SUBJECT: Metropolitan Finances

RECENT ACTIVITY

Water Transactions for May 2026 (for water delivered in March 2026) totaled 78.6 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 5.9 TAF lower than the budget of 84.5 TAF. This translates to $92.4 million in receipts for May 2026, which were $5.8 million lower than the budget of $98.2 million.

Year-to-date water transactions through May 2026 (for water delivered in May 2025 through March 2026) were 1.14 million acre-feet (MAF), which was 94.8 TAF lower than the budget of 1.23 MAF.

Year-to-date water receipts through May 2026 were $1.3 billion, which was $91.8 million lower than the budget of $1.4 billion.

FY 2025/26 Cash Water Transactions and Revenues Budget vs Actual (Preliminary, subject to change)

Month		Acre-Feet (AF)[1]		Variance		Revenue ($)[2]		Variance	
Delivered/Billed In	Collected in	Budget	Actual	AF	%	Budget	Actual	$	%
May	July	110,834	104,802	(6,032)	-5%	122,873,672	134,899,988	12,026,316	10%
June	August	117,893	105,957	(11,936)	-10%	150,194,358	117,905,817	(32,288,541)	-21%
July	September	130,799	117,324	(13,475)	-10%	149,512,493	134,297,129	(15,215,364)	-10%
August	October	133,060	121,437	(11,623)	-9%	152,486,828	153,574,498	1,087,670	1%
September	November	125,227	131,836	6,609	5%	141,365,920	150,893,965	9,528,045	7%
October	December	126,161	123,200	(2,961)	-2%	139,251,899	132,150,366	(7,101,533)	-5%
November	January	128,056	103,951	(24,105)	-19%	136,399,566	109,283,424	(27,116,142)	-20%
December	February	107,621	118,702	11,081	10%	112,940,009	119,011,598	6,071,589	5%
January	March	90,739	78,972	(11,767)	-13%	105,775,733	97,372,901	(8,402,832)	-8%
February	April[3]	78,856	54,170	(24,686)	-31%	91,212,001	66,575,828	(24,636,173)	-27%
March	May[3]	84,484	78,592	(5,892)	-7%	98,206,004	92,435,206	(5,770,799)	-6%
YTD Total		**1,233,730**	**1,138,943**	**(94,787)**	-8%	**1,400,218,485**	**1,308,400,720**	**(91,817,765)**	**-7%**
April	June	110,200	-	-	0%	129,990,583	-	-	0%
FY Total		**1,343,930**	**1,138,943**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**1,530,209,068**	**1,308,400,720**	**N/A**	**N/A**

[1] AF reflected does not include non-member agency transactions.
[2] Includes Water Sales, Exchanges, and Wheeling for member agency and non-member agency.
[3] Information is presented on an accrual basis; corresponding cash data is not yet available.

ISSUE BRIEF B

SUBJECT: Metropolitan's Supply Condition Update

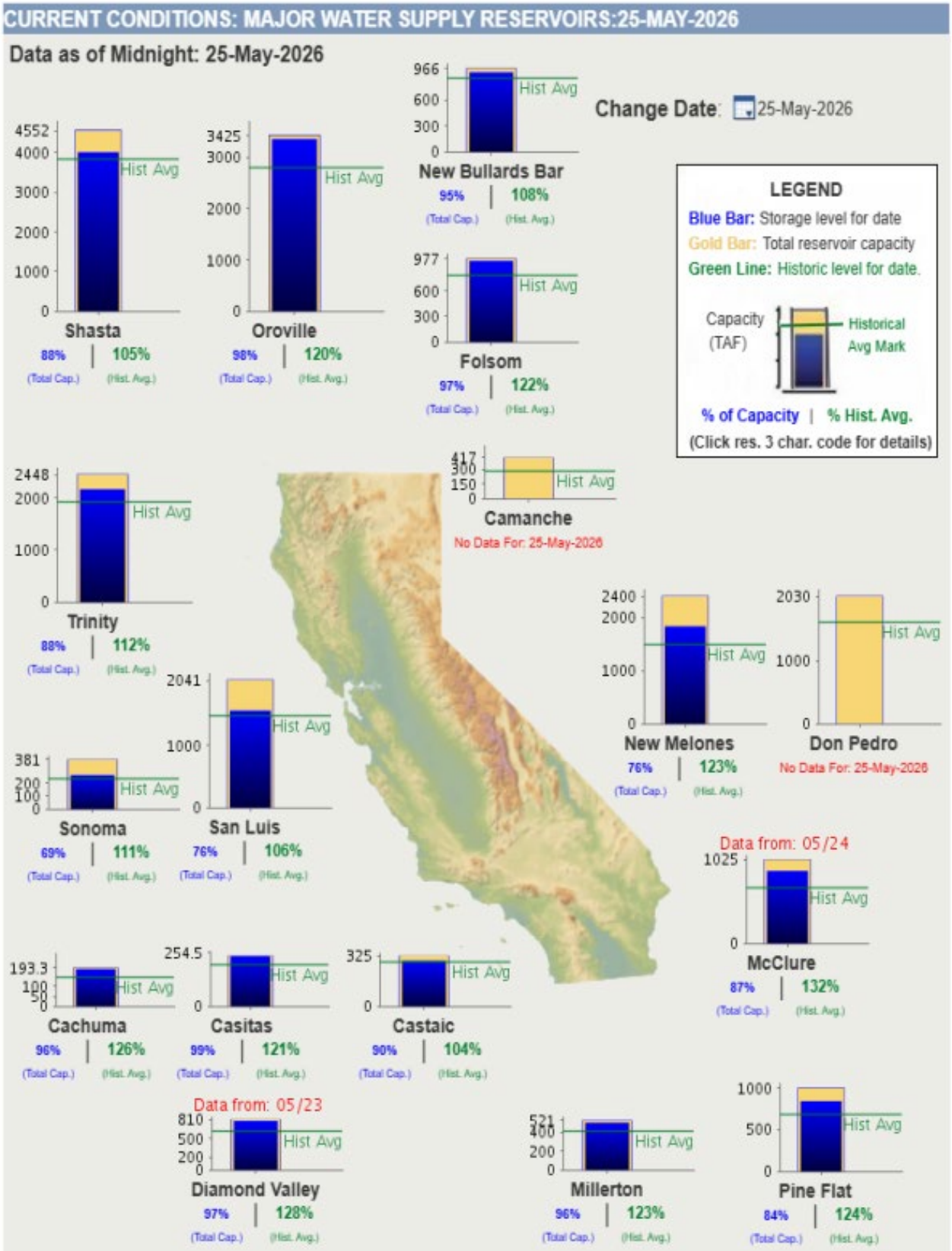
RECENT ACTIVITY

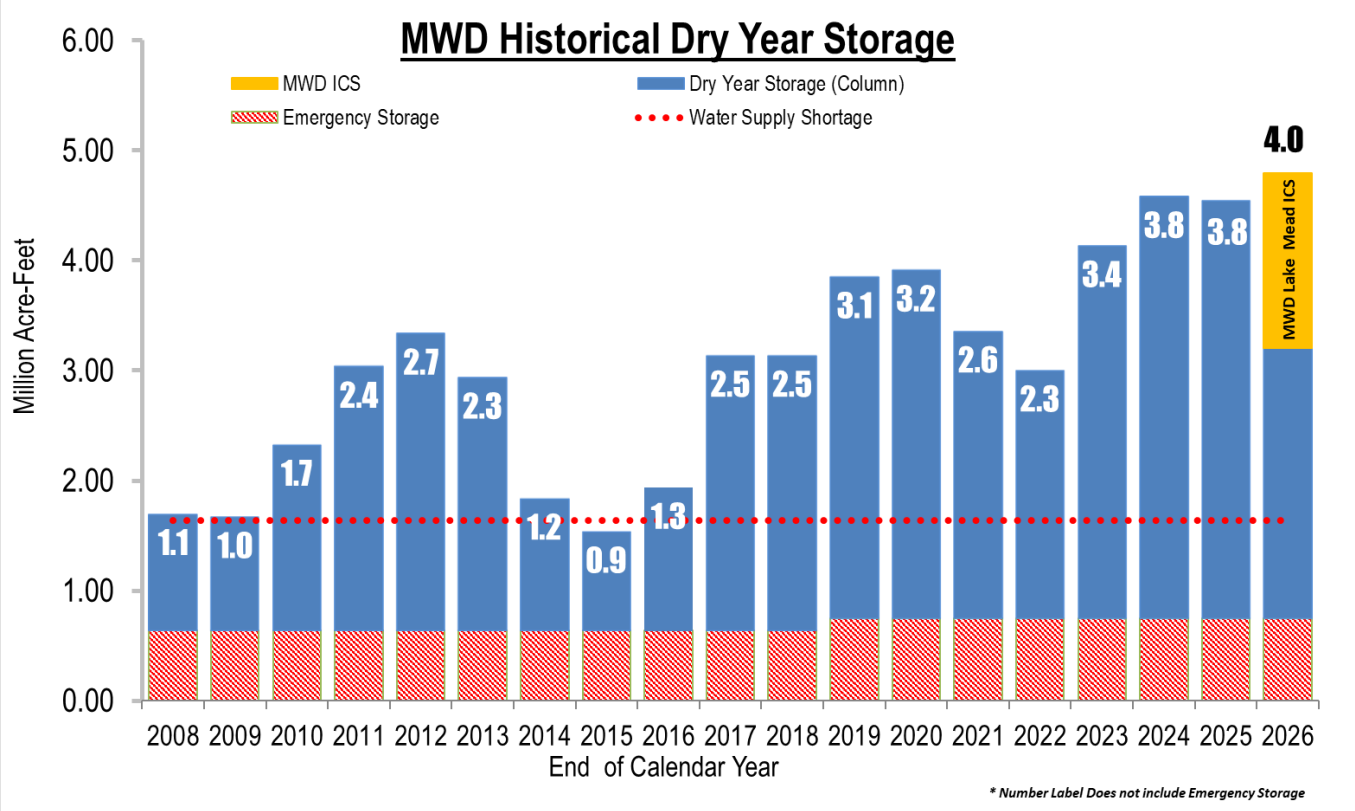
The 2025-26 Water Year (WY) officially started on October 1, 2025. Thus far, Northern California accumulated precipitation (8-Station Index) reported ***49.4 inches or 104% of normal as of May 26th.*** The Northern Sierra Snow Water Equivalent peaked at ***11.9 inches on February 24th***, which is ***49% of normal*** for that day. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has increased the initial State Water Project (SWP) ***"Table A" allocation for WY 2025-26 to 45%.***

The Upper Colorado River Basin has accumulated precipitation of ***17.8 inches, or 83% of normal, as of May 21st***. Snowpack is measured across four states in the Upper Colorado River Basin, encompassing the Colorado River system. The Upper Colorado River Basin Snow Water Equivalent peaked at ***9.37 inches as of March 9th***, which is ***69% of normal*** for that day. Due to below-average inflows into Lake Powell over the past several years, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation **declared a shortage at Lake Mead that has been ongoing since January 1, 2022 (below the 1,075-foot storage level)**. As of May 2026, **there is a 93% chance of the shortage continuing in Calendar Year (CY) 2027, a 97% chance in CY 2028, and a 90% chance in CY 2029. Additionally, there is a 13% chance of a California shortage (below a 1,045-foot storage level) in 2028.**

As of May 25th, Lake Oroville storage is at ***98% of total capacity and 120% of normal.*** Additionally, as of May 25th, San Luis Reservoir is at ***76% of its total capacity and is 106% of normal.***

With CY 2026 estimated total demands and losses of 1.493 million acre-feet (MAF) and with a 45% State Water Project (SWP) Table A Allocation, Metropolitan is projecting that supply will exceed demand levels in CY 2026. Based on this, the estimated total dry-year storage for Metropolitan at the end of ***CY 2026 will be approximately 4.0 MAF.*** A projected dry-year storage supply of ***4.0 MAF would be approximately 3.0 MAF above the typical level where Metropolitan enters Water Supply Allocations.*** A significant factor in maintaining high water storage levels 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, which still projects a five-year shortage, there remains considerable uncertainty about future supply balances. The Colorado River Basin States failed to meet the February 14, 2026, deadline to negotiate new, post-2026 operations at Glen Canyon Dam, located at Lake Powell, and Hoover Dam, located at Lake Mead.***


CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS:25-MAY-2026
Data as of Midnight: 25-May-2026
Change Date: 25-May-2026
LEGEND
Blue Bar: Storage level for date
Gold Bar: Total reservoir capacity
Green Line: Historic level for date.
Capacity (TAF)
Historical Avg Mark
% of Capacity | % Hist. Avg.
(Click res. 3 char. code for details)
Shasta
88% | 105%
Oroville
98% | 120%
New Bullards Bar
95% | 108%
Folsom
97% | 122%
Camanche
No Data For: 25-May-2026
Trinity
88% | 112%
Sonoma
69% | 111%
San Luis
76% | 106%
New Melones
76% | 123%
Don Pedro
No Data For: 25-May-2026
Data from: 05/24
McClure
87% | 132%
Cachuma
96% | 126%
Casitas
99% | 121%
Castaic
90% | 104%
Data from: 05/23
Diamond Valley
97% | 128%
Millerton
96% | 123%
Pine Flat
84% | 124%
Hist Avg


MWD Historical Dry Year Storage
MWD ICS
Dry Year Storage (Column)
Emergency Storage
Water Supply Shortage
Million Acre-Feet
6.00
5.00
4.00
3.00
2.00
1.00
0.00
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
3.8
4.0
MWD Lake Mead ICS
2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026
End of Calendar Year
* Number Label Does not include Emergency Storage

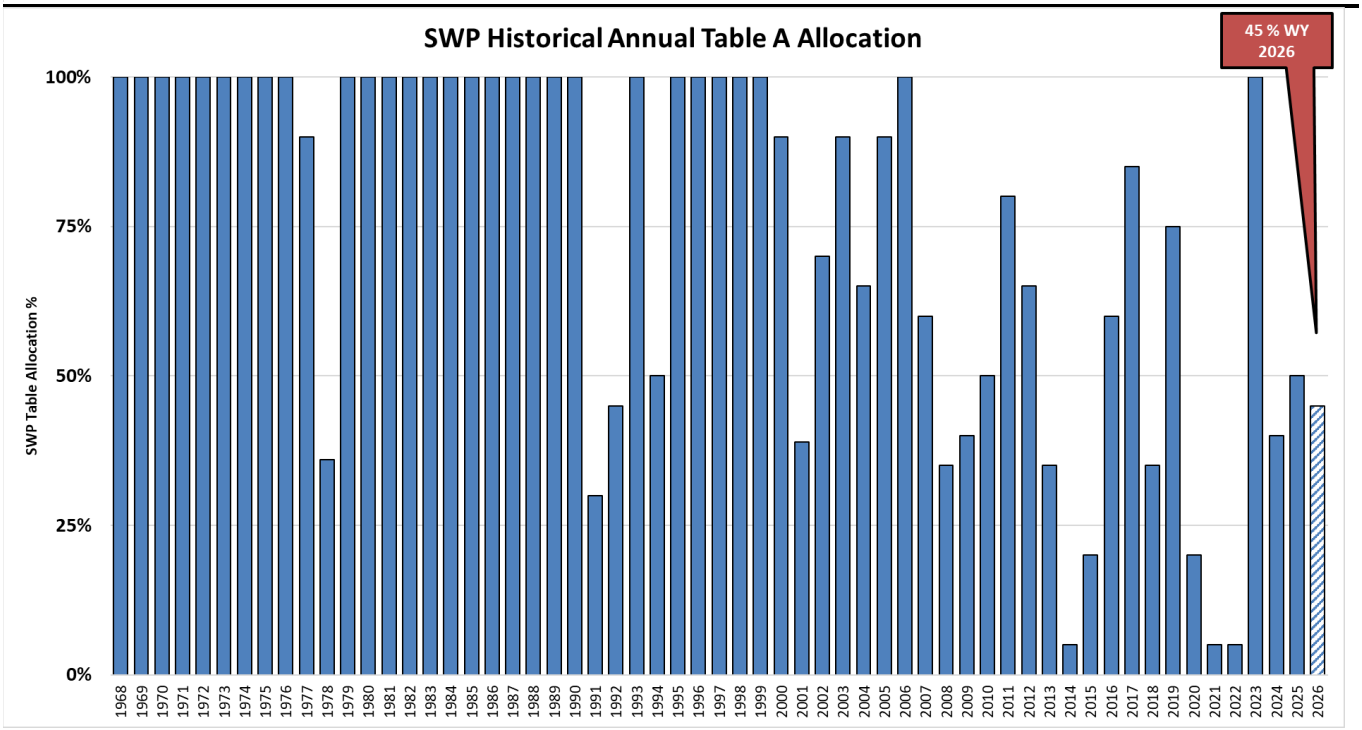

SWP Historical Annual Table A Allocation
45 % WY 2026
SWP Table Allocation %
100%
75%
50%
25%
0%
1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026

Table 4 shows WSDM Storage Detail as of 4/15/2026.

Table 4: WSDM Storage Detail

WSDM Storage	1/1/2026 Estimated Storage Levels[1]	CY 2026 Put Capacity [2]	CY 2026 Take Capacity [2]	2026 Total Storage Capacity
Colorado River Aqueduct Delivery System	**1,622,000**	**0**	**131,000**	**1,622,000**
Lake Mead ICS	1,622,000 [3]	0	131,000 [4]	1,622,000 [3]
State Water Project System	**1,265,000**	**356,000**	**768,000**	**2,430,000**
MWD and DWCV SWP Carryover	473,000 [5]	149,000	473,000	621,000 [6]
MWD Articles 14(b) and 12(e)	0	0	0	0
Castaic and Perris DWR Flex Storage	219,000	0	219,000	219,000
Arvin-Edison Storage Program	100,000	0 [7]	0	350,000
Semitropic Storage Program	237,000	92,000	45,000	350,000
Kern Delta Storage Program	142,000	45,000	32,000	250,000
Mojave Storage Program	19,000	0	0	330,000
AVEK Storage Program	30,000	0	0	30,000
AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program	45,000	70,000	0	280,000
In-Region Supplies & WSDM Actions	**1,042,000**	**71,000**	**633,000**	**1,151,000**
Diamond Valley Lake	760,000	50,000	503,000	810,000
Lake Mathews and Lake Skinner	204,000	22,000	92,000	226,000
Conjunctive Use Programs	77,000	0	38,000	115,000
Other Programs	**684,000**	**118,000**	**93,000**	**1,181,000**
Other Emergency Storage	381,000	0	0	381,000
DWCV Advanced Delivery Account	303,000	118,000	93,000	800,000
Total	**4,613,000**	**545,000**	**1,626,000**	**6,384,000**
Emergency	750,000	0	0	750,000
Total WSDM Storage (AF) [8]	**3,863,000**	**545,000**	**1,626,000**	**5,634,000**

[1] Preliminary start of year balances, subject to DWR adjustments and USBR final accounting in May 2026.

[2] Put and Take capacity assumed under a 30 percent SWP Table A Allocation. Storage program losses were included where applicable.

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

[4] Take capacity is based on planned maintenance activities and the current CRA supply estimate.

[5] The carryover beginning balance is subject to change based on actual December 2025 conditions.

[6] Total storage capacity varies year-to-year as the contractual annual storage limit, based on the current SWP Table A allocation of 30 percent, is combined with the remaining balance from the previous year. There is a potential risk that Metropolitan's stored water may be converted to SWP contractor water if the San Luis Reservoir approaches full capacity. Metropolitan is actively monitoring the storage in San Luis Reservoir and has plans to manage carryover supply should the reservoir fill.

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

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

ISSUE BRIEF C

SUBJECT: Metropolitan's Water Quality Update

RECENT ACTIVITY

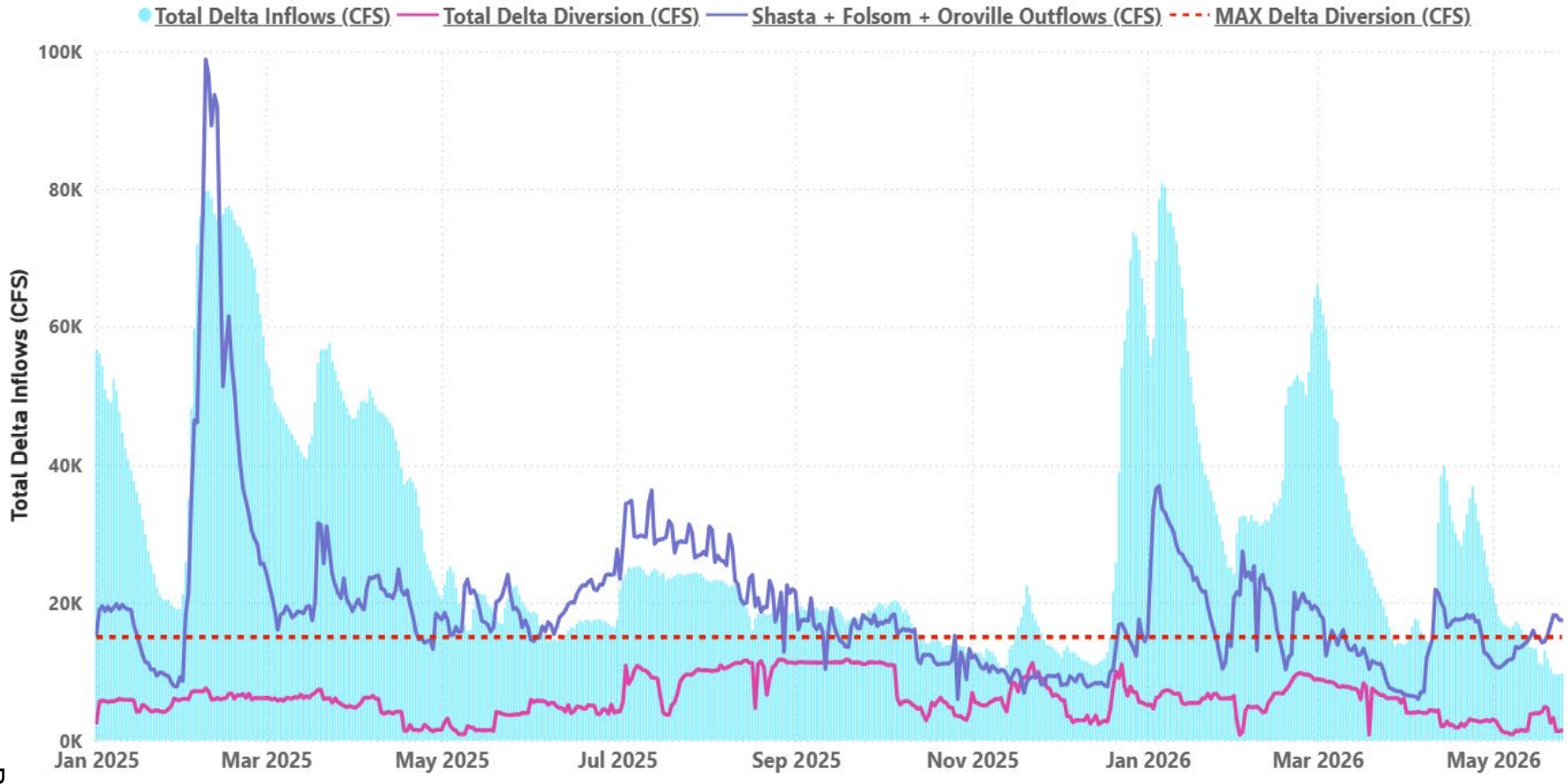
Water System Operations

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries are projected to be 111,700 acre-feet (AF) for April with an average of 3,720 AF per day, which is about 1,080 AF per day higher than in March. Treated water deliveries were 2,500 AF higher than in March for a total of 51,000 AF, or 46 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) projected diversions are 82,800 AF in April. SWP imports averaged 1,330 AF per day, totaling about 40,000 AF for the month.

The target SWP blend is 0 percent at the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants. SWP blends decreased to 0 percent in early April to help preserve carryover storage with the drier hydrologic conditions in March. With the end of 2025 marking another record storage level of over 3.8 million AF, Metropolitan has sufficient imported supplies and storage to meet demands in 2026. Water continues to be managed according to WSDM principles and operational objectives with an emphasis on positioning SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP-dependent area. DWR increased the SWP Project allocation to 45 percent. Metropolitan is managing the use of Table A and carryover supplies to guard against potential drought conditions as well as carryover spill.

The SWP target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants, and entering Lake Skinner, decreased from 50 percent to zero percent in April 2026. Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from March 2025 through February 2026 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the CRA were 472 mg/L, 469 mg/L, and 490 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Bay Delta Daily Historical Water Operations



DATE

1/1/2025 5/25/2026

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

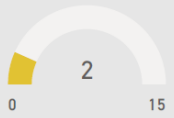
Weekly Operations Plan

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

05/07/2026 - 05/14/2026

Colorado River Aqueduct:
6-pump flow

Hydroelectric Generation:
6.7 MW
2 plant(s) in operation



Total Member Agency Demands

3,330 AF/Day

Change in Member Agency Demands*

▲ 80 AF/Day

Forecast
May
Deliveries to Member Agencies

104 TAF

East Branch SPW Imports

Rialto Pipeline	150 AF/day
Santa Ana Valley Pipeline	120 AF/day
Inland Feeder	190 AF/day

West Branch SPW Imports

Castaic Lake	920 AF/day
SCVWA (formerly CLWA)	120 AF/day

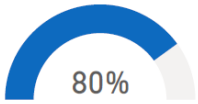
Water Quality

Plant Name	Targeted Blend (% SPW) As of 5/6/2026	TDS (mg/L) As of 5/6/2026	TTHMs (µg/L) As of 4/20/2026
Weymouth	0	597	29
Diemer	0	598	27
Skinner	0	534	26
Jensen	100	294	16
Mills	100	221	32

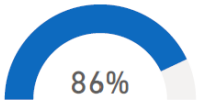
Terminal Reservoirs

as of 5/6/2026

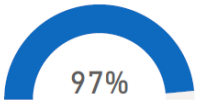
Lake Mathews
146,400 AF
▲ 2,110 AF*



Lake Skinner
38,000 AF
▼ -730 AF*



Diamond Valley Lake
786,200 AF
▼ -280 AF*



** = data from 5/6/2026*

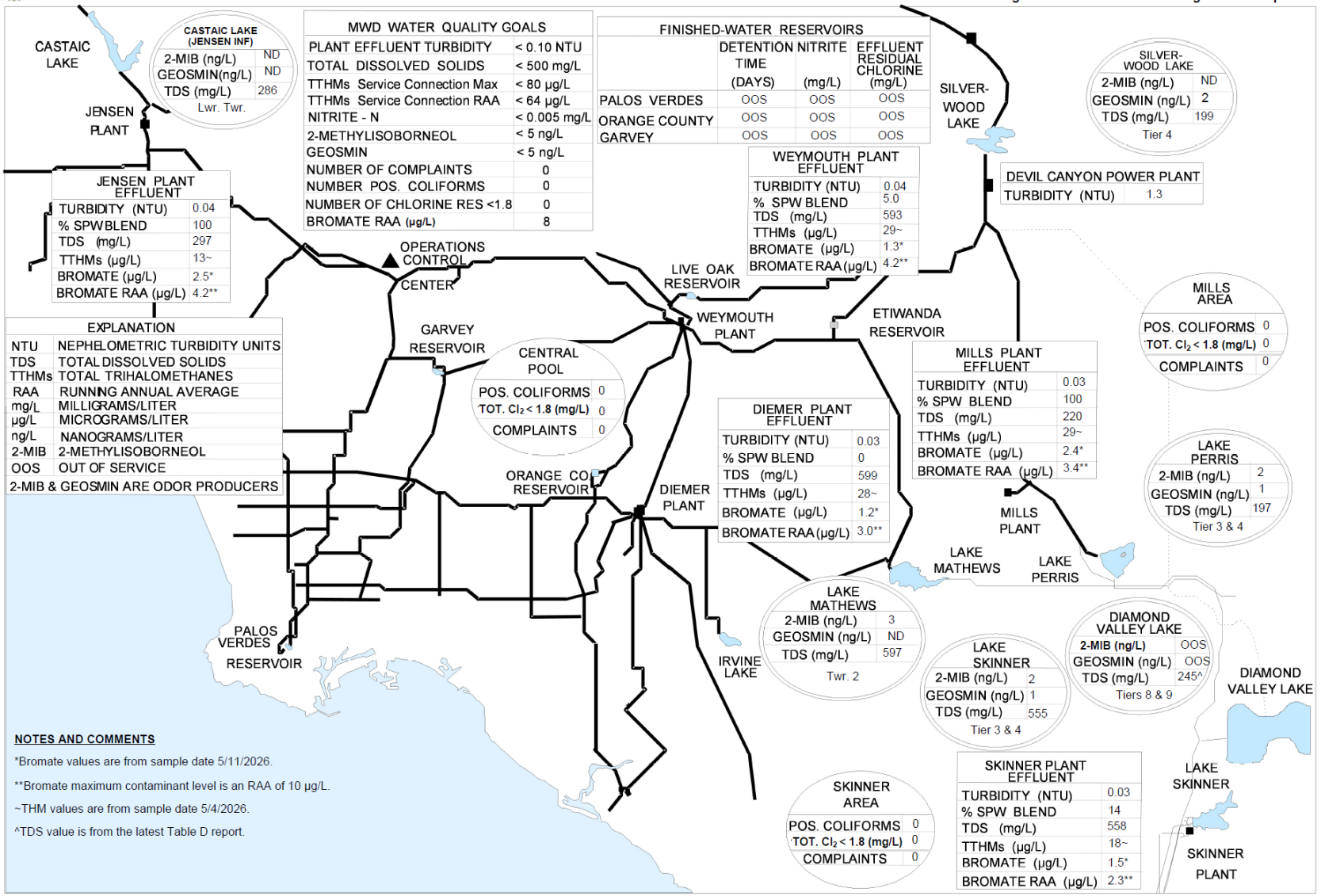
Weekly Water Quality System Status

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Generated On:5/20/2026 11:20:07 AM

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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



NOTES AND COMMENTS

*Bromate values are from sample date 5/11/2026.

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

~THM values are from sample date 5/4/2026.

^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

Bureau of Reclamation – April 24-Month Study

The Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) April 24-Month Study shows that inflow conditions into Lake Powell are critically low and represent the most pressing near-term risk to the system since the drought started in 2000. This study finds and forecasts:

- March observed unregulated inflow was 350,000 acre-feet (AF) –59 percent of the 30-year average
- April 2026 forecast: 550,000 AF – 61 percent of average
- April–July 2026 runoff season forecast: 1.40 million AF (MAF) – 22 percent of average
- WY 2026 total unregulated inflow forecast: 3.87 MAF – 40 percent of average

The April–July forecast is particularly alarming, representing roughly one-fifth of normal snowmelt-driven inflow during the peak runoff season.

The April 24- Month Study projects a steep and sustained decline in Lake Powell storage throughout Water Year (WY) 2026. The study incorporates an adjusted monthly release pattern that held back 598,000 AF of planned releases from Glen Canyon Dam for the period of December 2025 through April 2026 to protect the 3,525-foot target elevation. Lake Powell is projected to fall below the 3,500-foot infrastructure protection floor by August 2026 and reaching a low point of approximately 3,455 feet by March 2027 without any additional actions. This trajectory underscores the urgency of the 2024 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Section 6(E) consultation process currently underway to keep Powell above 3,500 feet.

Lake Mead is forecasted to remain near the 1,050-foot range through the remainder of calendar year 2026, but declines steeply through WY 2027. As Mead approaches the 1,035-foot range, the study projects only 29 percent of generating units will be available from April 2026 through November 2027, with capacity dropping to approximately 380 megawatts (MW), compared to over 1,300 MW at higher lake levels.

Bureau of Reclamation – Draft Drought Response Operations Plan

Reclamation announced a set of near-term drought response actions on April 18, 2026 in response to continued deterioration in hydrologic conditions across the Colorado River Basin, including historically low snowpack and projected inflows to Lake Powell at

approximately 29 percent of average. System storage is currently estimated at approximately 36 percent of capacity, and Reclamation has indicated that without intervention, Lake Powell could fall below the minimum power pool level later this year.

To address these risks, Reclamation is proposing two primary operational actions. First, increase releases from Flaming Gorge Reservoir into Lake Powell of between 660,000 AF to 1.0 MAF by April 2027. Second, a reduction in releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead from the planned 7.48 MAF to 6.0 MAF for WY 2026, a decrease of approximately 1.48 MAF from prior operating assumptions. These actions are intended to stabilize Lake Powell elevations and protect infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam.

Reclamation has acknowledged that reducing releases from Lake Powell will accelerate declines at Lake Mead, increasing the likelihood of deeper shortage conditions in the Lower Basin and reducing hydropower generation at Hoover Dam.

Develop Post-2026 Guidelines and Negotiate Implementation Agreements: Provide Input that Shapes Reclamation's Selected Alternative

The Lower Division States of Arizona, California, and Nevada submitted a proposal for Reclamation to consider in selecting a preferred alternative in the FEIS for post-2026 operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The seven Colorado River Basin states worked to reach a consensus proposal for post-2026 operations, but to date have been unable to agree on various operational elements, such as releases from the Colorado River Storage Project Initial Units, including Lake Powell, whether water use reductions would be shared by the Upper and Lower Basins, and the conditions under which Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) may be accessed. This proposal is an integrated, non-severable package that addresses:

- Lake Powell Releases.
- Upper Initial Units Operations.
- Lower Basin reductions by state of 1.25 million acre-feet annually.
- Additional Lower Basin Conservation.
- ICS.
- Establishment of a Tribal Pool.
- Infrastructure Improvements, including Glen Canyon Dam, as well as the development of system projects.

The Interior Department does not have the authority to implement the Lower Basin reductions and conservation activities in this proposal, absent agreement with the Lower Division States.

This proposal is intended to be a bridge to stabilize the system in the face of deteriorating hydrology, while preserving the opportunity to build towards a comprehensive seven-state solution for the longer-term. The Lower Division States are building on their record

of supporting the Colorado River System with significant water use reductions, including annual reductions of 1.25 million acre-feet (with an additional 250,000 acre-feet if agreement is reached with Mexico), and a new expanded effort to implement additional Lower Basin conservation of at least 700,000 acre-feet of conserved water (and a target of 1 million acre-feet) as well as a Tribal Pool. The implementation of these water contributions is contingent on the availability of federal and other funding at a sufficient scale. The Lower Division States anticipate a cost-sharing approach with the federal government for the new conservation.

Additional work is required to implement this proposal. The Lower Division States have committed to continuing to work on intrastate commitments and implementation agreements in the coming weeks and to work collaboratively with the Interior Department to finalize proposal elements. The final package will require approval of the necessary Section 5 Contractors in California—including the Metropolitan Board—and the Arizona legislature.

The proposal preserves legal accountability of the Upper Division States consistent with the Colorado River Compact, including Upper Division States delivery obligations to the Lower Division States under Articles III(C) and III(D). At the same time, the Lower Division States remain committed to a Basin-wide solution. Achieving sustainable operations will require net reductions in use across all Basin states.

ISSUE BRIEF E

SUBJECT: Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

RECENT ACTIVITY

Decide on Sites Reservoir and Bay-Delta Interests

Sites Reservoir

On April 17, 2026, the Sites Reservoir Committee and Authority Board approved an Exchange Agreement between the Sites Project Authority and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) governing voluntary exchanges of water between the Sites Project and the State Water Project (SWP) (Agreement). This Agreement is subject to final legal review and approval. The Agreement allows DWR to reduce SWP releases from Lake Oroville in exchange for providing an equivalent amount of SWP water to certain SWP Sites participants and for Proposition 1 ecosystem benefits, subject to legal, regulatory, and operational constraints. The Agreement preserves DWR's discretion over exchanges and incorporates comments received at the February 2026 Board meeting into the final version.

The Sites Reservoir Committee and Authority Board also authorized the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) related to accepting and conveying Incremental Level 4 refuge water as part of the Sites Reservoir Project's Proposition 1 ecosystem benefits (donation agreement). Under the donation agreement, the Sites Project Authority will deliver Proposition 1 Sites water to designated points of donation for conveyance by Reclamation to Central Valley Project Improvement Act refuges north and south of the Delta. The Sites Project Authority is responsible for delivery costs and losses to the points of donation, while Reclamation is responsible for conveyance costs to the refuges.

Delta Conveyance-Related Joint Power Authorities

At the April 16, 2026, meeting, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Board received updates on project engineering, environmental permitting, and organizational readiness. Executive Director Graham Bradner reported ongoing support for the DWR, including design advancement studies, preparation of updated cost estimates and a revised Basis of Design Report for early 2027, and development of internal procedures for the transition to the delivery phase.

The Department of Water Resources Environmental Manager reported issuance of key permits, including a biological opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for construction and Amendment 1 to the project's Incidental Take Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service on its construction biological opinion is ongoing.

Delta Conveyance Project

On April 23, 2026, the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) voted 6-1 to remand the DWR's Certification of Consistency for the Delta Conveyance Project on two narrow issues under two Delta Plan policies, while denying all other appeals from the ten appellant groups.

Before proceeding to implementation, DWR must submit a revised certification addressing: habitat impacts related to the invasive golden mussel; and potential conflicts between the Twin Cities Complex and the Sacramento Area Sewer District's Harvest Water project, including effects on ecosystem protection, agricultural use, groundwater recharge, and sandhill crane habitat. Once submitted, DWR anticipates a second round of appeals to the Council limited to the golden mussel and siting of the Twin Cities Complex, a process that takes 150 days.

The Council also directed DWR to submit annual implementation reports beginning March 1, 2028, consistent with the Council's independent oversight role.

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

Metropolitan staff presented to the Subcommittee on Imported Water an update on the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project. The objective of the project is to develop and determine the efficacy of innovative tools for the culture of Delta smelt. Recent milestones include the successful harvest of three sets of pond cultures for Delta smelt.

Metropolitan staff, along with researchers at Southern Illinois University, UC Davis, and USFWS, published work on Chinook Salmon outmigration pesticide hazard assessment. The paper is titled "Tracking pesticide accumulation in juvenile Chinook Salmon during outmigration through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta." The results of the study determined that outmigrating hatchery-origin juveniles from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta had greater hazard risks from the Feather River and Battle Creek. Elevated body burden of pesticides suggests increased predation risks. The results suggest that pesticide management in those rivers could improve outmigration survival.

Metropolitan released four addendums related to the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project bid solicitation. The bid opening occurred on May 14, and four bids were received. A July 2026 board action is planned to award the construction contract.

Summary Report for
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Board Meeting
May 12, 2026

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

Approved Committee Assignments:

Appointed Director Daniels as a member of the Finance, Affordability, Asset Management and Efficiency Committee, the Ethics Committee, and the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships.

Appointed Director Sutley as a member of the Legislation and Communications Committee

Approved Ad Hoc Committee on Delta Islands and appointed Director Desi Alvarez as Chair, and Directors Marty Miller, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley as members. **(Agenda Item 6B)**

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

Awarded a $511,294 procurement contract to Tricor Industrial Inc. to furnish two tanks to replace the sodium hypochlorite storage tanks at the Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant. **(Agenda Item 7-1)**

Authorized an agreement with Oracle America, Inc., in an amount not to exceed $4,603,698 for Metropolitan's Oracle E-Business Suite System migration to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure and Upgrade project. **(Agenda Item 7-2)**

Authorized an agreement with Bayen Group, LLC in an amount not to exceed $598,880 for Metropolitan's IntraMet Redesign project. **(Agenda Item 7-3)**

Approved Metropolitan's extended annual membership in the Center for Energy Advancement through Technological Innovation and annual dues payment of $68,000 for two additional interest groups, Dam Safety and Asset Management. **(Agenda Item 7-4)**

Adopted Metropolitan's 2025 Urban Water Management Plan and its corresponding resolution for submittal to the State of California, and dopted Metropolitan's Water Shortage Contingency Plan and its corresponding resolution for submittal to the State of California. **(Agenda Item 7-5)**

Authorized the General Manager to enter into six agreements for skilled labor temporary services with the following six agencies: Abacus Service Corporation, Diskriter Inc., Johnson Service Group Inc., PSP Group Inc., Tryfacta Inc., and 22nd Century Technologies Inc., each with up to four annual renewal options, with a maximum combined total not-to-exceed amount of $4.5 million per year. **(Agenda Item 7-7)**

Awarded a $1,072,500 contract to Heed Engineering for storm drainage improvements along Holland Road at Diamond Valley Lake. **(Agenda Item 7-8)**

OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

Adopted a resolution in support of the application for Proposition 4 funding under the State Water Resources Control Board Water Recycling Funding Program for the direct potable reuse testing facility improvements at the Napolitano Innovation Center; and authorized the General Manager to accept the grant if awarded; and appropriate any funds awarded. **(Agenda Item 8-1)**

a. Adopted CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the certified 2024 F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Program Environmental Impact Report; b. Awarded a $26,679,800 contract to PCN3 Inc. for seismic upgrades to the Weymouth Administration and Control Building; c. Authorized an agreement with Arcadis U.S. Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed $1.3 million for technical support during construction; and d. Authorized an agreement with Fugro USA Land Inc. in an amount not to exceed $750,000 for geotechnical engineering support during construction. **(Agenda Item 8-2)**

Adopted resolution to continue Metropolitan's Water Standby Charge for fiscal year 2026/27. **(Agenda Item 8-3)**

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

June 9, 2026

2:00 PM

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 Meeting Schedule
08:30 a.m. FAAME 09:30 a.m. LEGAL 11:30 a.m. ETHICS 01:30 p.m. BREAK 02:00 p.m. BOD

To livestream the meetings on the internet: click here.

Members of the public may present their comments to the Board and Committees on matters within their jurisdiction in real-time during the public comment section of the meeting by teleconference and in-person. To attend remotely or to provide public comment dial 1-877-853-5257 and enter meeting ID: 891 1613 4145 or to join through the internet click here.

Written public comments sent to BoardPublicComment@mwdh2o.com and received by 3:00 p.m. the business day before the meeting is scheduled are sent to the Board and will be posted under the Submitted Items and Responses tab available here: https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx. Written comments not received on time will not be included in the record for that meeting. Comments within the subject matter jurisdiction will be sent after the meeting for the record of the next meeting.

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
Teleconference Locations:
3008 W. 82nd Place • Inglewood, CA 90305
Fullerton City Hall • 303 W. Commonwealth Avenue, Chambers • Fullerton, CA 92832

Boardroom

* Translated Agendas **21-5952**

Attachments: 06092026 BOD Agenda - Armenian
06092026 BOD Agenda - Chinese Mandarin
06092026 BOD Agenda - Spanish

Agendas are translated by a digital translation service. Metropolitan does not guarantee accuracy of any translation.

1. Call to Order

a. Invocation: Director Karl Seckel, Municipal Water District of Orange County

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

A. Report on Director's Metropolitan Expenses **21-5625**

B. Chair's Monthly Activity Report **21-5964**

C. General Manager's summary of activities **21-5626**

D. General Counsel's summary of activities **21-5627**

E. General Auditor's summary of activities **21-5628**

F. Ethics Officer's summary of activities **21-5629**

G. Presentation of 5-year Service Pin to Director Brenda Dennstedt, Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County **21-5919**

**** CONSENT CALENDAR ****

6. BOARD CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors of April 14, 2026 and May 12, 2026, and the Special Board Meeting of May 11, 2026 **21-5630**

B. Approve Committee Assignments **21-5631**

7. BOARD LETTERS CONSENT

7-1 Award a $698,352.64 contract to Tintometer Inc. to furnish 128 turbidity meters for the Robert A. Skinner and Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plants; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-5883**

Attachments: 06092026 EOT 7-1 B-L

7-2 Award a $4,542,000 construction contract to J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for upgrades to the Hollywood Tunnel North Portal Pressure Control Structure; amend Metropolitan's Project Labor Agreement to include the subject project; and authorize the General Manager to acquire a temporary construction easement for an amount not to exceed $60,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-5884**

Attachments: 06092026 EOT 7-2 B-L

7-3 Authorize a five-year agreement with ZGlobal Inc., for a not-to-exceed amount of $609,000 for power scheduling services associated with the output from up to fourteen of Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-5885**

7-4 Approve the resolution adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-5886**

Attachments: 06092026 EOT 7-4 B-L

7-5 Approve up to $2.65 million to purchase insurance coverage for Metropolitan's Property and Casualty Insurance Program for fiscal year 2026/27; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (FAAME) **21-5890**

7-6 Approve Metropolitan's Statement of Investment Policy for fiscal year 2026/27, delegate authority to the Treasurer to invest Metropolitan's funds for fiscal year 2026/27; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (FAAME) **21-5891**

Attachments: 06092026 FAAME 7-6 B-L

7-7 Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 6451 regarding the Audit Department Charter; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (Audit) **21-5914**

Attachments: 06092026 AUDIT 7-7 B-L

7-8 Approve the General Auditor's Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2026/27; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (Audit) **21-5915**

Attachments: 06092026 AUDIT 7-8 B-L

7-9 Award a $789,356 contract to Ortiz & Son Inc. to rehabilitate the toe of the slope supporting Basin No. 8 at the Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-5916**

Attachments: 06092026 EOT 7-9 B-L

7-10 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) **21-5943**

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

8. BOARD LETTERS ACTION

8-1 Amend the Administrative Code to incorporate board policy on climate action and adaptation; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (OWA) **21-5930**

8-2 Authorize an increase under contract with Van Ness Feldman, LLP in the amount of $500,000 for a total amount not to exceed $1,000,000 and with Milbank, LLP in the amount of $1,000,000 for a total amount not to exceed $1,250,000 for legal advice on Colorado River matters; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with legal counsel - anticipated litigation; unknown number of potential cases; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)] (LC) **21-5931**

9. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-1 Capital Investment Plan Quarterly Report for period ending March 2026 (EOT) **21-5887**

Attachments: 06092026 EOT 9-1 B-L

9-2 SB 707 Implementation: Public Outreach Efforts (LEG) **21-5897**

9-3 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities **21-5910**

9-4 Equal Employment Opportunities activities **21-5911**

Attachments: 06092026 BOD 9-4 Report

10. OTHER MATTERS - ACTION

10-1 Discuss department head performance [Public employee performance evaluation—Ethics Officer, General Auditor, General Counsel, and General Manager; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957] **21-5912**

10-2 Discuss and consider cost of living or cost of wage salary increases for the Ethics Officer, General Auditor, General Counsel, and General Manager **21-5913**

11. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

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

Writings relating to open session agenda items distributed to Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting are available for public inspection at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building and on Metropolitan's Web site https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx.

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.