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
August 5, 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. 2178

PRESENTATION ITEM

1. OVERVIEW OF METROPOLITAN-OWNED DELTA ISLANDS (PRESENTATION BY METROPOLITAN STAFF)

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.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. 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

5. METROPOLITAN BOARD AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Summary regarding July 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
August 5, 2026

TO: **Board of Directors**

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

Staff Contact: Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs
Jared Dawson, Water Resources Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: **OVERVIEW OF METROPOLITAN-OWNED DELTA ISLANDS (PRESENTATION BY METROPOLITAN STAFF)**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors receive the presentation.

REPORT

Purpose

Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) invited staff from The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Bay-Delta group to present an overview of Metropolitan-owned delta islands, their strategic importance, and their continuing role in supporting Metropolitan's ability to provide reliable supplies for Southern California.

Summary

In 2016, the Metropolitan Board approved the purchase of all, or part, five islands in the Delta. The land purchases and Metropolitan's involvement in the Delta are meant to enhance implementation of the Metropolitan Board's Bay-Delta policies, which include:

- Improving water supply reliability
- Advancing ecosystem restoration
- Reducing subsidence
- Managing the effects of climate change

Since acquiring land in the Delta, Metropolitan has undertaken numerous improvement projects, leveraged grant funding to support these initiatives, and developed partnerships with non-governmental organizations, universities, and both state and federal agencies to advance this work.

More recently, in April 2026, the Metropolitan Board of Directors approved the Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2026-27 and 2027-28 and, as part of the approved budget, directed staff to conduct a market study on the sale of two islands and bring the study back to the Board for review.

Following the budget directive, in May 2026, the Chairman of the Metropolitan Board approved a new Ad Hoc Committee on Delta Islands and appointed Director Alvarez as Chair, and Directors Gold, Miller, Pressman, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley as members. The intent of the Ad Hoc Committee was to complete a market study on the potential sale of two of the Metropolitan-owned islands in addition to recommending a robust strategy that could include new policy principles for Metropolitan's involvement in the Delta that would guide future actions concerning Delta-related issues.

Background

The Delta is a vital and historically significant region in California. It has been a critical source of water for agriculture, industry, and residential use for over a century. Metropolitan is dependent on the reliability of the Delta's levees and islands to ensure that its State Water Project (SWP) supply from Northern California is conveyed, without outages, to its Southern California service area.

Metropolitan became a significant landowner in the Delta beginning in 2016 when it completed the purchase of approximately 20,400 acres of land for about $175 million. As seen in Image 1 below, the acquisition included Webb Tract, Bacon Island, Bouldin Island, most of Holland Tract, and a portion of Chipps Island. The purchase of the islands was intended to protect long-term water supply reliability, provide opportunities for scientific research and habitat restoration, and allow Metropolitan to participate more directly in the stewardship of the Delta.

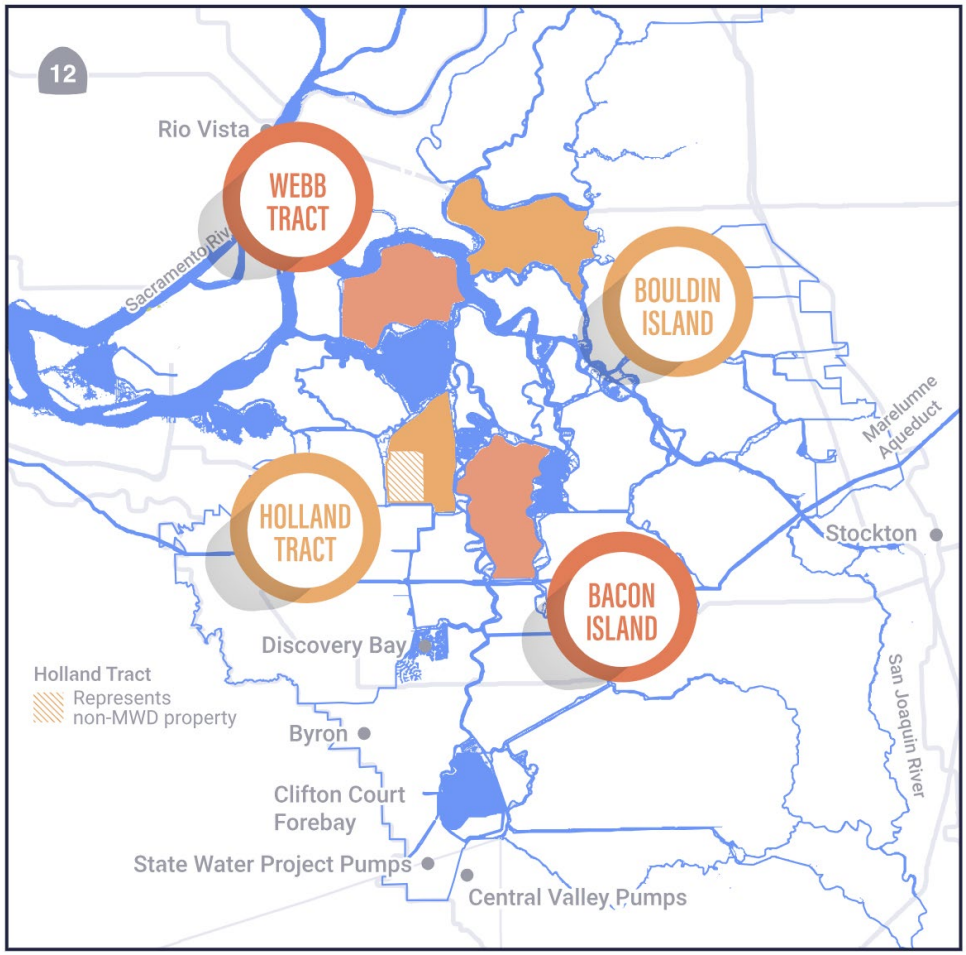
In 2021, Metropolitan sold its portion of land on Chipps Island to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for approximately $1 million, condensing Metropolitan's ownership to all, or partial ownership of, Holland Tract, Webb Tract, Bacon Island, and Bouldin Island.

In 2022, the Metropolitan Board adopted a "Bay-Delta Policy Objectives and Framework", Attachment 1, which includes nine policy principles intended to advance the Bay-Delta policy objectives. One of the nine objectives is to "Advance responsible stewardship of Metropolitan's Delta islands". Specific examples of projects and activities that might qualify include:

- Pilot projects and scientific investigations to evaluate strategies for carbon sequestration

- Floating organic marshes that can support sensitive fish species
- Sustainable agriculture that halts or reverses subsidence
- Habitat restoration for native aquatic species
- Native fish species preservation

Image 1: Metropolitan-Owned Delta Islands



* Metropolitan-generated map of Metropolitan-owned land in the Delta

Discussion

In 2024, Metropolitan produced a Delta Islands Strategic, Fiscal, and Risk Analysis at the Metropolitan Board's request. This analysis identified a number of key findings, including:

Fiscal and risk analysis findings:

- Land appraisal is below the 2016 purchase price
- Current revenues do not cover expenses; however, forecasted revenues exceed annual expenses by 2030

- Real-time levee monitoring allows for early warning from weeks to months in advance
- Mitigation actions will continue to reduce risks with island ownership and complement efforts to address Delta challenges
- Based on current appraisal, selling the islands now would require significant use of existing reserves to pay off the loan

Strategic analysis findings:

- Conditions have evolved since the purchase, but still consistent with board policies
- The Delta is important to southern California's water supply
- Island levees are vital to water supply and quality, to protect Delta communities, and to ensure ecosystem stability and climate resiliency
- Island ownership provides enhanced opportunities to advance Delta solutions

Next Steps

Building on the previously mentioned Delta-related documents and in response to the budget directive to evaluate the potential sale of two Metropolitan-owned islands in the Delta, Metropolitan staff will bring an informational item in August to review the currently adopted Bay-Delta policies. This item will provide Metropolitan Directors with the opportunity to provide input on how those policies can be applied to Metropolitan actions in the Delta today.

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: Bay-Delta Policy Objectives and Framework Link 1: https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12643424&GUID=4564B343-8513-4C05-882A-51476E50B969

Bay-Delta Policy Objectives and Framework adopted by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board of Directors October 2022

Overview

The board-adopted Bay-Delta Policy Objectives and Framework describes each of the three revised Bay-Delta Policy Objectives and Bay-Delta Framework with relevant examples listed under each of the nine policy principles. The examples found within this document are not exhaustive and do not constitute a formal board action on a given project. The Bay-Delta Policy Objectives define Metropolitan's overarching goals to protect reliable, high-quality water supplies in an environmentally sensitive manner, consistent with Metropolitan's Mission Statement. The Bay-Delta Framework includes nine policy principles intended to advance the Bay-Delta policy objectives.

The Bay-Delta Policy Objectives and Framework collectively will guide Metropolitan staff and will inform future Board actions.

Bay-Delta Policy Objectives

- **Promote a Sustainable Bay-Delta Within Metropolitan's One Water Approach**
- **Support Statewide and Regional Actions that Further the Coequal Goals Established in the Delta Reform Act**
- **Address the Risks Associated with Climate Change**

Bay-Delta Policy Framework

Science and Watershed Management	Water Supply Reliability and Resilience	Partnerships and Cost-Effective Investments
Protect and restore aquatic species and habitats based on best available science	Protect water supply reliability and quality while reducing reliance consistent with the Delta Reform Act	Maintain and pursue cost-effective financial investments
Partner in watershed-wide approaches to develop comprehensive solutions	Invest in actions that provide seismic and climate resiliency	Foster broad and inclusive engagement of Delta interests and beneficiaries
Advance responsible stewardship of Metropolitan's Delta islands	Seek flexible operations, water management actions, and infrastructure solutions	Promote innovative and multi-benefit initiatives

Bay-Delta Policy Objectives

Objective 1: Promote a Sustainable Bay-Delta Within Metropolitan's One Water Approach

Supplies from the Bay-Delta watershed are integral to implementing Metropolitan's One Water Approach, an integrated planning and implementation approach to managing finite water resources for long-term resilience and reliability, meeting both community and ecosystem needs. Bay-Delta supplies are foundational to the One Water approach as they meet demands in Metropolitan's service area and acts as source water for local supply projects such as water recycling and groundwater basin replenishment.

Objective 2: Support Statewide and Regional Actions that Further the Coequal Goals Established in the Delta Reform Act[1]

Metropolitan supports the coequal goals established in the Delta Reform Act of (1) providing a more reliable water supply for California and (2) protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. Ongoing statewide and regional investments in ecosystem restoration, flood control, water supplies. multi-benefit projects in the Bay-Delta, and upstream watersheds are essential to building and maintaining resilient water supplies from the Bay-Delta. Effective implementation of state policies related to reduced reliance, water use efficiency, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and initiatives such as the governor's Water Resilience Portfolio will be essential. Likewise, additional funding and permitting efficiencies can help expedite regional and local supply development, and projects that supply ecologically beneficial flows in the Bay-Delta or Bay-Delta watershed.

Objective 3: Address the Risks Associated with Climate Change

Climate change is impacting California's water resources: sea levels are rising, snowpack is decreasing, and water temperatures are increasing. Droughts are expected to become more frequent and more severe, and storm intensities are expected to increase. These climate change trends are anticipated to continue, posing a prolonged threat to the Bay-Delta and Metropolitan's water supplies. An integrated federal, state, regional, and local approach to developing and managing water supply programs and projects is critical to managing for the future with climate change impacts that are occurring. As climate conditions and science continue to evolve, Metropolitan supports the use and development of additional analyses, tools, and actions, including actions to reduce emissions consistent with Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan.

[1] As described in Public Resources Code § 29702

Bay-Delta Policy Framework

Policy Area 1: Science and Watershed Management

1A Protect and restore aquatic species and habitats based on best available science

Sustainable and resilient water supplies rely, in part, on the health of the Delta ecosystem. As populations of native aquatic wildlife continue to trend downward, rigorous and peer reviewed science protects the environment and Metropolitan's water supply by supporting informed decision-making.

> *Examples include[2]: Metropolitan staff authored papers on topics including Delta Smelt Habitat, Salmon Growth, and Delta Stressors, the Lower Yolo Tidal Marsh Restoration Project, and participation in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program and inter-agency consultations on coordinated long term operations of the State Water and Central Valley Projects.*

1B Partner in watershed-wide approaches to develop comprehensive solutions

With much of the state's water supply originating in the mountains, the health and management of the upper watersheds are critically important to California's water quality and water supply.

> *Examples include[2]: potential partnerships and opportunities in the upper watershed focused on the long-term potential for climate change adaptation (including adjustments for loss of snowpack), reduction in the impacts of variable precipitation patterns on runoff, and improvements in water quality and water temperature.*

1C Advance responsible stewardship of Metropolitan's Delta islands

The Delta Islands provide a unique opportunity for research, innovation, and collaboration with other stakeholders to develop sustainable strategies for Delta land use and environmental stewardship. Staff is engaged in specific processes and opportunities for responsible long-term stewardship of Metropolitan's Delta islands properties. Further advancements on Metropolitan's Delta Islands would comport with both the Bay-Delta Policy Framework and the Board's adopted Climate Action Plan. Examples related to Metropolitan Bay-Delta Islands do not imply or authorize a particular use of the islands and future actions related to the islands will be consistent with Board direction as informed by deliberation of the Real Property and Asset Management Committee.

> *Examples include[2]: levee enhancements that protect the freshwater pathways to the State Water Project south-Delta pumps, pilot projects and scientific investigations to evaluate strategies for carbon sequestration, floating organic marshes that can support sensitive fish species, sustainable agriculture that halts or reverses subsidence, experiments to improve measurement of water diversions and water use, compensatory mitigation, habitat restoration for native aquatic species, native fish species preservation, and reduction in stressors affecting state and federal listed fish species.*

[2] The examples found within this document are not an exhaustive list and do not reflect nor constitute a formal board action on a given project.

Policy Area 2: Water Supply Reliability and Resilience

2A Protect water supply reliability and quality while reducing reliance consistent with the Delta Reform Act[3]

Two of the core tenets of Metropolitan's mission statement are to provide reliable and high-quality water supplies to its service area. The Delta is a major pathway for the source of water for most of the state and the sustainability of Delta water supplies is a critical element of Southern California's water reliability. This reliability is protected through science-based regulatory frameworks, long term water supply planning, collaborative partnerships, pursuing water supply infrastructure solutions while reducing reliance on the Delta consistent with the Delta Reform Act.

Delta water quality should be protected for public health and managing salinity. Measures that reduce the salinity of Delta supplies will help meet regional salinity objectives of urban and agricultural agencies throughout California. This includes benefits to Metropolitan's service area to enhance management of Southern California groundwater basins and to develop additional recycled water.

> *Examples include[2]: Water supply and quality initiatives including new Delta conveyance, Voluntary Agreements to implement State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality regulations, Delta Regional Monitoring Program, CV-SALTS, and Delta Nutrient Research Plan*

2B Invest in actions that provide seismic and climate resiliency

Earthquakes in the Delta region, sea level rise and subsidence can result in levee failure and saltwater intrusion into the Delta from the San Francisco Bay and the ocean. Changing weather patterns will result in longer periods of drought and more intense storms and storm periods. Resiliency requires continued participation and investment in actions including flood emergency planning, levee improvements, water storage, and water supply management.

> *Examples include[2]: the DWR/USACE Delta Flood Emergency Integration Plan, the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio, and new storage and conveyance projects.*

2C Seek flexible operations, water management actions, and infrastructure solutions

Current operations of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project facilities are subject to prescriptive flow and other regulatory standards. Metropolitan staff is working with partners to advance technology and monitoring that could be used to develop more effective water project operations that are protective of aquatic wildlife, with the support of new technological capabilities and better real-time information systems.

> *Examples include[2]: Improved atmospheric river and runoff forecasting, forecast-informed reservoir operations, improved fish monitoring, including steelhead, artificial intelligence, modeling of aquatic wildlife behavior, improved rapid genetic testing of salvaged salmonids, and the use of true adaptive management and structured decision-making processes.*

[3] As described in California Water Code § 85021

Policy Area 3: Partnerships and Cost-Effective Investments

3A Maintain and pursue cost-effective financial investments

Completion and maintenance of large multi-benefit water supply projects require partnership and multiple funding sources to be cost-effective. Advancing partnerships and seeking multiple funding sources can offset or reduce expenditures associated with climate change adaptation for water supply and other public benefits, which are instrumental to future Metropolitan water supply reliability.

> *Examples include[2]: repair of California Aqueduct subsidence, new Delta conveyance, Sites Reservoir, Pure Water and other local and regional projects.*

3B Foster broad and inclusive engagement of Delta interests and beneficiaries

The Bay-Delta is a lifeline to multiple entities with diverse interests including tribes, public water agencies, local, state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, underserved communities, environmental justice groups and agricultural interests. Metropolitan embraces a proactive approach to seeking and sustaining engagement with all communities to foster new perspectives on Bay-Delta related issues and identify additional opportunities for collaboration.

> *Examples include[2]: Engaging in the development of a Community Benefits Program for the Delta Conveyance Project, participating in the multi-interest Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program, opportunities for projects on Metropolitan's Delta Islands, participating in State Water Project Contractors, serving on the Delta Protection Commission Advisory Committee, participating in the Plumas Watershed Forum, and Sites Reservoir Committee and subcommittee engagement.*

3C Promote innovative and multi-benefit initiatives

The Delta region is at the intersection of many social, political, environmental and climate related factors. As a result, Delta issues are significantly complex, with a significant degree of uncertainty given the range of physical and biological factors that are involved. Metropolitan recognizes that new technologies and approaches are needed to address current and future challenges in the Bay-Delta.

> *Examples include[2]: Collaborative and innovative solutions including the use of structured decision making, environmental DNA to detect aquatic species, the Reorienting to Salmon Recovery effort, the Bouldin Island Levee Setback Project, and the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project.*

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

Colorado River Post-2026 Negotiations

Department of the Interior Secretary Burgum convened a virtual meeting of the Basin States' governors on July 21. During the meeting, Burgum provided an overview of the current schedule and the status of negotiations.

The Bureau of Reclamation is expected to release the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Post-2026 Colorado River Operations this week, with a Record of Decision anticipated the same day or shortly thereafter. The FEIS provides the NEPA framework for a wide range of potential operating scenarios over the next decade, while specific reservoir operating rules will continue to be established through separate decision documents issued approximately every two years, beginning with the 2027–2028 Operating Guidelines.

Meanwhile, the Lower Basin states have largely finalized provisions governing shortage sharing and Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS). Under the agreement, the Lower Basin will implement 1.25 million acre-feet (MAF) of annual reductions—760,000 acre-feet in Arizona, 440,000 acre-feet in California, and 50,000 acre-feet in Nevada—along with 700,000 acre-feet of cumulative system conservation through 2028. The agreement also extends the creation and delivery of ICS by an additional two years.

Delta Conveyance Project

On July 8, 2026, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed its Record of Decision (ROD) for the Delta Conveyance Project, finalizing the agency's programmatic environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act. This milestone authorizes USACE to begin evaluating future permit applications for specific project components within its regulatory jurisdiction. The ROD was preceded by Biological Opinions from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service — both issued in early June 2026 — covering construction and construction-related maintenance activities under the Endangered Species Act. Governor Newsom's office characterized the issuance of the Biological Opinions as "critical federal clearance" for the project to advance toward construction.

With the USACE ROD now complete and the ESA Biological Opinions in hand, DWR has updated its permitting schedule and is charting a three-year pathway to obtain remaining key

state and federal permits, with additional permitting milestones anticipated throughout the remainder of 2026.

Appropriations

The FY2027 Energy and Water Development bill remains unfinished. The House Appropriations Committee cleared its version (34–25) but has yet to schedule floor action, which leadership is expected to take up after the August recess, while the Senate has not released an Energy and Water bill at all amid a top-line spending impasse. Both chambers are instead pursuing dueling continuing resolutions to avert an October 1 shutdown — the House has already passed a CR (H.R. 9770) extending funding through December 4, 2026 — making a stopgap the likeliest near-term path and pushing full-year decisions into the winter.

Water Resources Development Act of 2026

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is the biennial bill through which Congress authorizes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water infrastructure projects and studies — spanning navigation, flood risk management, and ecosystem restoration — typically enacted on a two-year cycle. The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure approved its version, H.R. 9497, by a 66–0 vote on July 14, and the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee followed one day later, unanimously reporting its own version, S. 4949, on July 15. The Senate measure is a bipartisan package authorizing more than $35 billion in water infrastructure funding over four years.

Because the EPW Committee's jurisdiction extends to EPA programs, S. 4949 carries financing provisions absent from the House bill. The bill reauthorizes the WIFIA program — which provides low-cost federal credit assistance for high-cost water infrastructure projects, generally those exceeding $20 million — and, like the SRF programs, WIFIA received a four-year reauthorization.

West Coast Advisors
Strategic Public Affairs

July 29, 2026

To: Municipal Water District of Orange County

From: Michael Boccadoro
Beth Olhasso

RE: July Report

California enters the peak summer water-use season with strong reservoir conditions following a wet year, providing water managers with increased flexibility heading into the hottest months of the year. Statewide reservoir storage was approximately 27.4 million acre-feet as of July 22, or about 105 percent of the historical average for this time of year. Major reservoirs remain well positioned, with Lake Shasta at 81 percent of capacity and 111 percent of historical average, Lake Oroville at 81 percent of capacity and 111 percent of historical average, with approximately 2.79 million acre-feet of storage, and San Luis Reservoir at about 1.15 million acre-feet, or 56 percent of capacity.

The Sites Reservoir Project, is facing renewed questions over how much water it will ultimately be able to capture from the Sacramento River. The $6 billion project received a draft water right approval earlier this year, but project officials warn that environmental restrictions intended to protect fish and downstream ecosystems could significantly reduce available supplies, potentially affecting the project's financial feasibility.

The Department of Water Resources has transitioned the State Water Project into summer operations, allowing increased water movement through the Delta while continuing protections for endangered fish species. Beginning July 1, seasonal regulatory changes allow for greater flexibility in Delta pumping as certain fish species move away from areas most affected by project operations. DWR is balancing water deliveries with environmental requirements by adjusting releases from Oroville.

Recent polling shows water remains a top concern for California voters, with strong support for improving reliability, upgrading infrastructure, and preparing for future droughts and climate impacts. Separate surveys by PPIC and ACWA found that Californians continue to view water as one of the state's most important environmental challenges, while also expressing concerns about affordability and the cost of environmental programs.

Researchers at UC Riverside have developed a new catalyst that could improve treatment of perchlorate, a persistent groundwater contaminant found in parts of California. The technology uses ruthenium nanoparticles to break down concentrated perchlorate captured during traditional treatment processes, converting it into harmless chloride and reducing the hazardous waste challenges associated with current methods.

The Bureau of Land Management has approved a key step for the Cadiz water project, allowing the company to convert an existing oil and gas pipeline into a water conveyance system capable of transporting groundwater from the Mojave Desert to potential Southern California users. The

project proposes moving up to 25,000 acre-feet of groundwater annually through approximately 162 miles of pipeline.

The Legislature returns for the final month of the two-year session on August 3. Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees will take up their respective Suspense Files on August 13 and then it will be two-weeks of floor session. Tribal rights bills are still moving, as is WateReuse CA and CASA's bill to modernize the Clean Water SRF program. Unfortunately, the SWC's AB 2218 (Calderon) concerning the SW water rights extension is not moving forward nor is AB 1436 (Avila Farias) on Advanced Clean Fleets

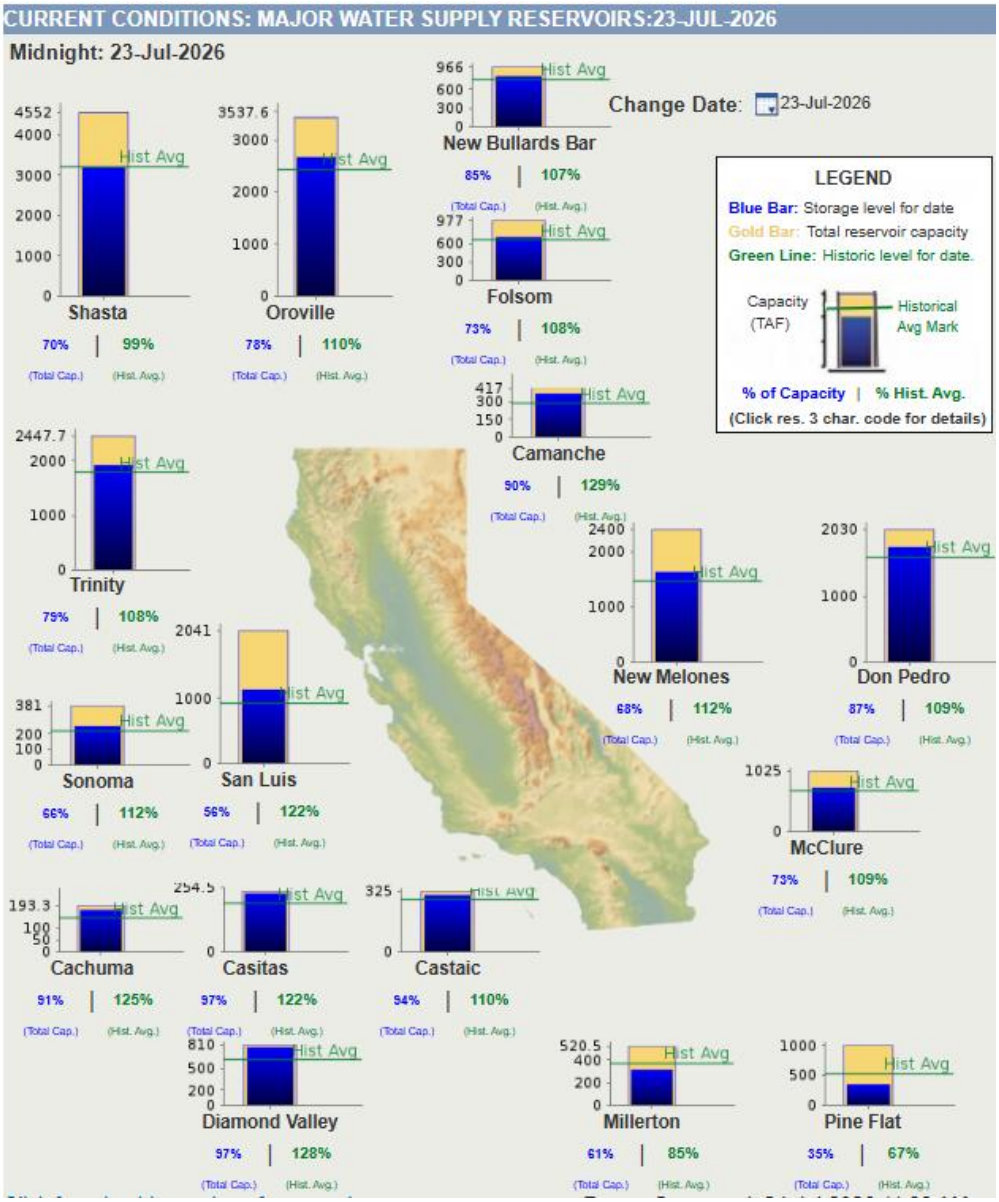
SB 872 (McNerney) is still moving, but is expected to be addressed in final budget negotiations that will allocate Proposition 4 funds.

Municipal Water District of Orange County
Status Report – July 2026

Water Supply Conditions

California enters the peak summer water-use season with above-average storage in several key reservoirs, providing a measure of water supply stability following a wet year. Statewide reservoir storage was estimated at approximately 27.4 million acre-feet as of July 22, or about 105 percent of the historical average for this time of year, reflecting continued variability among individual reservoirs and regions.

The state's largest reservoirs remain in relatively strong condition. Lake Shasta, at 81percent of capacity and about 111 percent of its historical average for this time of year. Lake Oroville, at 81 percent of capacity and 111 percent of historical average, with about 2.79 million acre-feet of storage reported in mid-July. San Luis Reservoir 1.15 million acre-feet, or 56 percent of total capacity.



Sites Reservoir Faces New Questions Over Water Availability

California's largest proposed reservoir project is facing a new challenge as state regulators consider how much water the project will ultimately be allowed to capture from the Sacramento River. The $6 billion Sites Reservoir project received a draft water right approval earlier this year, but project officials warn that restrictions designed to protect fish and downstream ecosystems could reduce the reservoir's water supply by as much as 50 percent, potentially affecting the project's financial feasibility.

Sites Reservoir is intended to store water during wet years and provide additional supplies during droughts, with supporters arguing the project is a critical component of California's long-term water resilience strategy. The off-stream reservoir would have a capacity of approximately 1.5

million acre-feet and is expected to serve urban and agricultural water users across the state. Environmental groups and some tribes, however, continue to raise concerns about impacts on Sacramento River flows, fisheries, and cultural resources. A final decision on the project's water right is expected later this year.

State Water Project Moves Into Summer Operations

The Department of Water Resources has shifted the State Water Project into its summer operating mode, allowing increased water movement through the Delta while continuing efforts to protect endangered fish species. Beginning July 1, regulatory conditions change as many fish species move away from areas affected by State Water Project pumping, allowing exports to increase.

DWR is balancing water supply deliveries with environmental protections by adjusting releases from Lake Oroville, increasing Delta pumping, and operating salinity control gates in Suisun Marsh. The agency said improved real-time monitoring and adaptive management have helped increase flexibility, including allowing additional Delta outflow benefits while maintaining relatively low impacts to listed species.

Two Polls Show Water Remains a Major Environmental Concern

The latest Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) statewide survey shows Californians continue to rank water issues among the state's most important environmental challenges. While the survey focused broadly on environmental priorities, it found that concerns about climate impacts, natural resources, and state environmental policies remain high.

The poll found that Californians generally support continued state action on environmental issues, but public support is closely tied to concerns about affordability and practical impacts. A majority of residents support California maintaining its own environmental policies separate from federal requirements, while many remain concerned about the costs associated with achieving climate and environmental goals.

Additionally, a new statewide survey conducted by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and FM3 Research found that 77 percent of California voters are more likely to support a candidate for governor who prioritizes improving water reliability and affordability. Support was broad across political parties, including 83 percent of Democrats, 77 percent of independents, and 67 percent of Republicans.

The survey found strong voter support for additional water investments, with 93 percent of respondents saying safe and reliable water supplies are critical to California's future, 88 percent supporting modernization of water infrastructure to protect clean drinking water, and 87 percent supporting accelerated construction of water infrastructure to prepare for droughts, floods, and climate impacts. Nearly seven in ten voters also supported using state funds to improve water systems, prepare for extreme weather, and help keep water rates affordable.

UC Riverside Researchers Develop New Catalyst That Could Improve Drinking Water Treatment

Researchers at the University of California, Riverside have developed a new catalyst that could make drinking water treatment more efficient by helping destroy perchlorate, a persistent contaminant found in groundwater supplies across California and other parts of the country. The breakthrough could reduce hazardous waste generated by current treatment methods and improve the ability of water agencies to manage contaminated water supplies.

Perchlorate, a chemical used in rocket propellants, explosives, fireworks, and other industrial applications, can interfere with the thyroid gland's ability to absorb iodine and is considered a particular concern for infants, children, and pregnant women. California has regulated perchlorate in drinking water for nearly two decades, with a maximum contaminant level of 6 parts per billion, and federal regulators are moving toward establishing a national standard.

Currently, many water utilities use ion-exchange treatment systems that capture perchlorate on specialized resin beads. While effective at removing the contaminant from drinking water, the process creates a secondary challenge: the contaminated resin must be regenerated or disposed of as hazardous waste. UC Riverside researchers developed a catalyst made from ruthenium nanoparticles that can break down concentrated perchlorate after it has been captured, converting it into harmless chloride, the same naturally occurring ion found in table salt.

The researchers say the new catalyst is significant because it works rapidly at neutral pH and room temperature—the conditions commonly found in drinking water treatment facilities. Earlier versions of the technology worked only under more extreme chemical conditions. The new approach also remains effective in water containing nitrate, another common groundwater contaminant, potentially simplifying treatment processes.

The technology is not intended to replace existing treatment systems but rather complement them by addressing the concentrated waste streams created after contaminants are removed. Researchers believe the approach could be particularly useful for highly contaminated sites, including groundwater affected by defense facilities, industrial operations, and other sources of perchlorate pollution.

Federal Approval Advances Controversial Cadiz Water Pipeline Project

A decades-old proposal to pump groundwater from California's Mojave Desert and transport it to Southern California communities has cleared a major federal hurdle after the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the conversion of an existing oil and gas pipeline into a water conveyance system. The approval allows Cadiz Inc. to repurpose approximately 162 miles of an underground pipeline to move groundwater from the company's property in the eastern Mojave Desert toward potential water users in Southern California.

Cadiz plans to use the pipeline to transport up to 25,000 acre-feet of water annually, which the company says could provide a new drought-resilient supply source for communities facing long-term water shortages. The company argues the project could diversify regional water portfolios, reduce reliance on imported supplies, and provide a relatively low-cost source of new water. The

federal approval allows the project to move toward construction, although additional state and local approvals remain necessary before groundwater extraction can begin.
The project remains highly controversial. Environmental organizations, tribal leaders, and some elected officials argue that pumping from the Fenner Basin aquifer could harm desert springs, wildlife habitat, and culturally significant resources. Critics contend that the groundwater extraction itself—not just the pipeline conversion—requires more extensive review because of potential impacts on the fragile Mojave ecosystem

Cadiz has faced regulatory and legal challenges for more than two decades, with previous approvals and permits reversed or delayed. California law requires additional state review before the project can export groundwater, including scientific analysis and approval processes involving state agencies. The latest federal action renews debate over the role of new groundwater supplies in California's water future and highlights the ongoing tension between developing new sources of water and protecting sensitive desert ecosystems.

Legislative Update
The Legislature is in the middle of their month-long summer recess. They left Sacramento on July 3, but not before taking final action on legislation in second house policy committees. When they return on August 3 they will be in Sacramento for the final month of the session before adjourning the second year of the two-year session on August 31.

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. The bill will be heard on June 30 in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

Funding for at least one year of Delta levee and conveyance subsidence repair is being discussed in the final budget negotiations.

AB 2215 (Calderon): moves a portion of the DCP Trailer Bill from 2025 into a policy bill. AB 2215 would adjust the beneficial use timeline 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 57-1. ACWA recently took a support position on the bill. The bill was pulled from hearing the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on July 1 due to a lack of support from committee members and unfortunately will not move forward in 2026.

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. The bill passed the Senate Environmental Quality Committee 7-0 and is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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 Senate policy committees and are in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Both bills, especially AB 2218 have very high costs to the state, so there is a possibility they get held in Appropriations.

- 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. The bill passed out of the Senate policy committees and is in the Appropriations Committee.

    - **AB 1772 (Papan):** creates a standardized boat inspection program for all reservoir operators. The bill passed out of the Senate policy committees and is in the Appropriations Committee, but still faces some concerns from the state and stakeholders.

    - **AB 1894 (Rubio):** Addresses some agencies forbidding SWP water from entering a local system. The bill has been amended to address some concerns of other water users, including MWD. The bill was passed by the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee 7-0 and is in the Appropriations Committee.

- **Advanced Clean Fleets:** AB 1436 (Avila Farias) was a late "gut and amend" intended to address the lates 15-day changes from CARB on the State and Local Government rules in the ACF program. The bill proposed to prohibit CARB from regulating private fleets through requirements on public agency contracts. The bill was heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee but was one vote short of passing out of the committee. The Chair of the committee committed to bringing parties together to discuss the issue.

Legal and Regulatory

August 5, 2026

1. **Cloud Seeding 2.0:** A 26-year-old Berkeley student has formed a new company called Rainmaker. This company is using high-tech drones to prove that cloud seeding can work. Augustus Doricko started his work at Berkeley but moved to Texas during Covid that so he could continue the experimentation. He knows the biggest challenge is to validate the science through testing. He spent time in Pendleton, Oregon, at a 9-million-square-mile drone sanctuary where the FAA, Anduril, and Lockheed hang out. He developed his own drones that could withstand the intense cold conditions. His company, headquartered in El Segundo, has run tests in Texas and other venues. He also works with the State of Utah, which has invested in cloud seeding for many years. His estimate is that seeding can increase precipitation by as much as 15%. The basic process still uses silver iodide. The key to successful seeding is proper location of the process in the clouds. By use of satellites and radar, he believes that the evidence is conclusive. The cost is about $55 to 60 per acre-foot. Scaling is the next step.

2. **More Rain in Cities?:** Data from satellites has consistently shown that cities are experiencing more rain events. This data is becoming more accurate as it uses both infrared and microwave readings. The study looked at the 15 largest cities which include different climates, topography, coastal and inland. While it showed more rain events, it did not show more rain. This was contrary to the former thinking that the cities were actually getting more water. Before the tests used only one form of testing, while this study combined the results which produces a more accurate picture.

3. **Genki Balls:** The University of Hawaii has developed a novel way to clean contaminated waterways. Their Genki Ball project uses volunteer helpers and students to distribute mud balls containing billions of microorganisms. The balls sink to the bottom and work their magic, breaking down sludge and cleaning the water. This technology has been used in over 100 countries since 2019. They encourage the communities to get involved as part of the education process and to actually fix a problem. This teaches kids about the environment and encourages them to pursue STEM courses in school.

4. **West Coast Hurricanes?:** We are currently in hurricane season for both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The Pacific season is generally longer and more active as it is a bigger space for activity. However, the West Coast (us) usually never gets any hurricanes. There are two reasons. The trade winds, which are usually strong, steer the storms away from us. Secondly, hurricanes like warmer water which the Atlantic has and the Pacific does not. Water temps in the 80 make for good hurricanes. The Gulf Stream keeps the Atlantic warmer. The Pacific currents start near Alaska and are therefore generally colder. When hurricanes hit cold water, they are reduced in force. The last big hurricane in the Pacific was in 1858 near San Diego. It had 75 mph winds. All of the hurricanes now have names and the Pacific has one….the San Diego Hurricane.

5. **Data Center Thermal Batteries**: The University of Illinois has been studying aquifer thermal energy storage (ATES) which are underground geothermal systems associated with aquifers. It turns out they can be used to cool data centers and also save on water consumption. Not all parts of the country will have this type of geography but where it is present, it can be an opportunity to save energy and water. The process takes cool water from the aquifer to absorb the heat generated from the center and return the warm water back to the aquifer. Also, the warm water can be used in the winter to heat the facility. The generally constant temperature of the aquifer is much easier to deal with than the large swings in temperature outside above ground. In Illinois, from 90* in summer to -10* in winter. The more temp variation on land along with the underground aquifer location, make this concept a viable option. A final consideration is that the salinity or contamination factors of the water are irrelevant. You can use any kind of water.

6. **Winter Grains:** It is estimated that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act will take 500,000 to 900,000 farm acres out of production. This equates to around 20% of the San Joaquin Valley's ag land that requires outside water. UC Davis folks offer that planting crops like wheat, barley, oats, rye, and triticale during the winter may be a solution. These crops use only slightly more water than fallowing the land. It also serves as shade for the soil, reduces soil evaporation and allows water to soak down to aquifers. Of course, the farmers have to decide which will make the most economic sense.

7. **Mountain Pond Study:** The health and condition of the many mountain ponds can determine the overall health of forests in the Sierra Nevadas. These small, shallow ponds are very sensitive. In wet years, the ponds were larger, colder, had low nutrient levels. In dry years, the ponds were smaller, warmer, had high nutrient levels and more aquatic life. The microscopic life provides food for those up the food chain. The study also showed that as a result of temperature changes, the pool water mixes daily, especially during the summer. This also impacts growth and activity in the pools. These small ecosystems have great impact on the big forests. The nutrient processing, carbon cycling and biodiversity changes from season to season. Students from UCI and UC Davis contributed to this work.

8. **Predicting Cliff Collapses:** UC San Diego Scripps Institute has developed a system to predict cliff collapses hours to days in advance of the event. Scientists have developed early warning systems for hurricanes, tsunamis and earthquakes. But cliff collapses have been a little more difficult. Backed by a $2.5 million grant from the State, UCSD has cracked the code. This proof of concept pilot study has been able to predict 5 collapses in San Diego County several hours to several days prior to the event. This has become a greater problem in Southern California around the coast, beaches, railroad line, roads and other infrastructure. At least 25 folks have died in the past few years from these collapses. The sensor technology using seismometers, wave pressure sensors and tiltmeters are the key. This same equipment is used in measuring movements for earthquakes. These sensors can read movement to 1/8th the width of a human hair. Lidar is also used, laser imaging technology and old fashioned rain gauges. Patterns emerge on each site including a rapid increase in tilting motion. These sensors have been installed in critical rail corridors in Del Mar. This equipment is earning its keep as two major collapses have been identified and authorities notified to save lives. While all of this work has been done in San Diego County, scalability is being studied to try and protect California's 530 miles of coast.

9. **High Severity Fires:** UCLA is looking at current fires compared to older fires. Climate change is creating a warmer and more arid condition. Also, high fuel density has increased over time as a result of inadequate forest management. These factors have made our recent fires burn 30 times more acreage than fires 40 years ago. Since we are not likely to change climate cycles anytime soon, action on good forest management is a must.

10. **PFAS Update:** The overall PFAS report card is much better than expected. Initially, the task of tracing 14,000 forever chemicals seemed impossible. Usually, the trace would follow each particular chemical individually. However, scientists quickly discovered that you did not need that specific a breakdown and you could follow combinations of these chemicals to determine hazard levels. As we know, the jury is still out on exact health hazards and degrees thereof. Also, testing showed that only about 17% of all wells tests showed any contamination. The overall problem is certainly not as scary as originally thought. The treatment options have been effective and more satisfactory than it seemed.

11. **Cadiz:** The Cadiz project is again moving forward. The Trump administration in the first term gave it the green light. The Biden Administration stopped it, and now the current administration has returned the green light. The project is still opposed by environmentalists, tribes and the State of California. Spokeswoman Susan Kennedy says the project is now a water treatment project and that Cadiz portion is critical. The viability of the project developer has always been an issue. The largest stockholder of Cadiz is Heerema International Services (Netherlands), which has yearly revenue exceeding $5 billion. Stay tuned.

WHITTINGHAM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISORS

TO: MWDOC Board of Directors

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: August 5, 2026

SUBJECT: August 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:

- Costa Mesa is one of five California cities that Attorney General Bonta is suing for allegedly failing to comply with the Housing Element Law. Along with the cities of Calexico, Half Moon Bay, Ridgecrest, and Turlock, Costa Mesa has not been able to obtain State certification of its Housing Element, nearly five years after the deadline to achieve this mandate. Enacted in 1969, California's Housing Element Law requires every city and county to adequately plan to meet the housing needs of all residents. Instead of forcing local governments to build houses directly, the state law requires governments to update zoning and land-use policies so the private market can build enough housing to meet demand. Elected officials in Costa Mesa believe the lawsuit to be unnecessary, noting that the City has been submitting documents to state officials to get an approved housing plan while actively rezoning and approving proposed housing developments.

- The City of Anaheim experienced a drop in water pressure last week that impacted a considerable portion of the city, including the Disneyland Resort and Angel Stadium. A spokesman attributed the issue to technical problems drawing water from four of the City's 14 groundwater wells. Approximately 75% of the city's water comes from groundwater wells, with the remainder imported from the Colorado River. Imported water was used to ensure flows continued, albeit at a much lower level, during the incidents.

- Cleanup at the GKN Aerospace facility in Garden Grove began June 29 after a three-week delay, with crews removing the neutralized methyl methacrylate from two storage tanks in sealed, temperature-controlled containers. The removal marks the first phase of a broader remediation effort overseen by a unified command made up of the Orange County Health Care Agency, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Orange County Fire Authority, and the company. Meanwhile, the federal investigation opened last month continues, and GKN now faces a growing number of lawsuits, among them a class action brought on behalf of residents displaced during the Memorial Day

weekend evacuations. With the company's $3 million United Way relief fund depleted within roughly two weeks, Supervisor Janet Nguyen directed $500,000 in County funds toward continued resident assistance and indicated she expects GKN to repay the County. The U.S. Small Business Administration has also opened a Business Recovery Center in Garden Grove to assist affected businesses. Officials in Garden Grove, Westminster, Stanton, and surrounding communities continue to call on GKN to convene a town hall meeting it committed to in June, where residents can hear directly from the company about the future of the facility and any further assistance.

- Communities across the nation are following the discussion and debate locally regarding health impacts related to the use of herbicides and potential cancer clusters stemming from such use. Roughly 400 people packed into Ladera Ranch Middle School recently to address the issue at a meeting of the Ladera Civic Council, in the wake of news reports that at least six young Ladera Ranch residents have been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.

- Orange County Public Works crews that were planning to trim large portions of San Juan and Trabuco Creeks near Doheny Beach were instructed to hold off on this work pending a meeting with State Fish and Wildlife representatives. In June, the County Board of Supervisors voted to halt the use of herbicides in the two creeks and to study how best to manage vegetation in and near endangered species habitat.

- Former Moulton Niguel Water District General Manager Joone Kim-Lopez's tenure as Executive Director and General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation and Environment began July 27. The MNWD Board is expected to officially name longtime Assistant General Manager Matt Collings to succeed Ms. Kim-Lopez at its August 13 meeting.

- The Irvine City Council has brought back former City Manager Sean Joyce to once again serve in that capacity. Current City Manager Sean Crumby announced in June his intention to resign effective August 14. Mr. Joyce previously served as City Manager for 13 years, during which he guided the city through the Great Recession.

- The City of Tustin is inviting interested parties to propose potential uses for the remaining South Hangar at the former Marine Corps Air Station, encouraging private companies, nonprofit organizations, or other government agencies interested in preserving, managing or redeveloping the massive structure to submit competitive offers. The 17-story-tall historic building, which is featured in the city's logo, was built in 1942 to house blimps that patrolled the coastline during World War II, scanning for Japanese submarines. The mostly wooden structure is about 1,000 feet long and 300 feet wide and sits on roughly 32 acres. City officials expect to start evaluating submitted proposals by early next year and return to the council with possible recommendations by the middle of 2027.

- New tipping fees at the County's three landfills took effect July 1, increasing from $43.76 to $67 per ton, with further scheduled increases to $74 per ton in 2027-28 and $81 per ton in 2028-29. The rates were negotiated over the past two years through the

Waste Infrastructure System Enterprise (WISE) Agreements and reflect, among other factors, the cost of complying with SB 1383.

- The CEQA process related to Orange County Waste & Recycling's plan to increase the daily maximum trash intake at Prima Deshecha Landfill is currently on hold. Residents of San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente's Talega community continue to express concerns regarding the plan, and multiple members of Orange County's state legislative delegation have signed on to a letter opposing the proposed increase.

- In more positive news for Waste & Recycling, Prima Deshecha Landfill has been officially certified as a California Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Site, the highest level of recognition within this program, which is reserved for worksites that demonstrate an exemplary commitment to safety and health, going well beyond regulatory compliance. Fewer than 1% of the country's worksites achieve this designation nationwide, and with this achievement, Prima Deshecha becomes the first municipal solid waste landfill in California and the second in the nation to earn VPP Star Certification.

- Orange County's Mosquito and Vector Control District has confirmed an outbreak of a mosquito-borne illness that can be deadly. Just last week, the district saw more than one hundred mosquito pools - mosquitoes collected in batches - test positive for West Nile Virus county-wide. According to Vector Control data, the number of West Nile positive mosquito pools at the end of 2025 came out to 186, leading the District to estimate that the county will potentially be dealing with 500 positive samples county-wide by the end of 2026.

- The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) convened a working group meeting in late June on Proposed Rule 1110.4, which targets emissions from emergency standby generators. Much of the discussion centered on replacing older diesel units, which account for roughly 30% of the NOx reductions the District is seeking through the rule. District staff are focusing first on facilities with large amounts (>2.5MW) of installed generator capacity, such as data centers, but the many aging generators that water and wastewater agencies rely on at lift stations and other critical facilities remain a longstanding concern. The proposed rule is expected to reach the AQMD Governing Board in the fourth quarter, and many MWDOC member agencies are closely following the its progress to ensure potential concerns of the District and similar agencies are clearly communicated to AQMD staff and Board members.

Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors continues to monitor the agendas of the 26 city and water district MWDOC members to identify items of relevance to MWDOC, as well as activities at the SCAQMD 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 7/29/26

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
Support						
AB 2215	***Calderon, D***	*Water rights: permits: State Water Project.*	*Pulled from committee consideration by author.*		*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*
AB 1436	***Avila-Farias, D***	*State Air Resources Board: air pollution regulations: private fleets: exception*	*Failed in Senate Env. Quality Committee*		*This bill would prohibit the State Air Resources Board from enforcing any regulation that directly or indirectly compels compliance by private fleets, as provided, until the state has obtained a required waiver or authorization under the federal Clean Air Act.*	*Support*
AB 2739	**Soria, D**	Water: affordability and system stabilization	Senate Appropriations Committee	Senate Appropriations Committee	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.	Support (Sponsored by IRWD and Rancho Water)
SB 872	**McNerney, D**	Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.	ASSM. Appropriations Committee	ASSM. Appropriations Committee	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
SB 952	**Laird, D**	State Water Project: renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources	Proposed Consent	Sen. Appropriations	The bill would authorize, on and after January 1, 2036, excess procurement, as defined, of eligible SWP renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources in one year to be applied to any subsequent year's obligation, as provided.	Support
SB 1048	**Becker, D**	State Seal of Climate Literacy	Assm. Appropriations	Assm. Appropriations	This bill would establish the State Seal of Climate Literacy for the purpose of giving high school pupils personal agency to help them and their communities understand and adapt to the effects of climate change.	Support

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
SB 1125	**Menjivar, D**	Water Rate Assistance Program	Assm. Appropriations	Assm. Appropriations	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.	Support
Watch						
AB 1603	**Schultz, D**	Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): Department of Pesticide Regulation.	Senate Appropriations Committee	Senate Appropriations Committee	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.	Senate Appropriations Committee	Senate Appropriations Committee	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)	
AB 1772	**Papan, D**	Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels.	Senate Appropriations Committee	Senate Appropriations Committee	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)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
AB 1821	**Pacheco, D**	California Public Records Act: agency response time.	Senate Appropriations Committee	Senate Appropriations Committee	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)	
AB 1881	**Ramos, D**	California Indian Freedom Act of 2026.	Senate Appropriations Committee	Senate Appropriations Committee	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)*	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
AB 1894	**Rubio, Blanca, D**	Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water.	Senate Floor	Senate Floor	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)	
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.	Senate Appropriations	Senate Appropriations	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.	Senate Appropriations	Senate Appropriations	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)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
AB 2218	**Kalra, D**	Water policy: California Native American tribes.	Senate Appropriations.	Senate Appropriations	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)	
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.	Senate Floor	Senate Floor	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.	Senate Appropriations.	Senate Appropriations	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
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.	Assembly Appr	Assembly Appr	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.	Assembly Appropriations	Assembly Appropriations	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.*	*Did not get hearing in Assm*	*DEAD*	*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)*	
SB 1153	**Caballero, D**	Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water systems: wildfire.	Assembly Appropriations	Assembly Appropriations	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)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Brief Summary	Position
SB 1187	Durazo, D	Open meetings: majority.	Assembly Second Reading	Assembly Second Readin	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)	

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
July 13, 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 6/11/2026. Senate Appropriations Committee	**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 Priorities 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 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 Priorities 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.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
July 13, 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 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 Priorities 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 1881 **J. Ramos** **(D – Highland)** **Sponsor:** Indigenous Justice	Amended 05/19/2026 Assembly Appropriations Committee	**California Indian Freedom Act of 2026** This bill requires all state governmental agencies to allow California Native American tribes to access sacred sites located on state lands for Native American activities, except where public safety or resource protection make access impossible. The bill would also require state governmental agencies to obtain prior, informed consent of a California Native American tribe before undertaking a project on state land that may pose a risk to tribal sacred sites. The bill would also prohibit state agencies from substantially burdening a tribe's spiritual practices on state lands unless the governmental agency demonstrates that application of the burden is both: (1) in furtherance of a compelling governmental	**Watch and Amend** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	While AB 1881 would expand protections for California tribes engaging in religious practices on state land, its broad language would likely result in indirect impacts to Metropolitan's priority projects and programs. The prior consent provisions of the bill provide California tribes with the discretion to withhold consent for actions that may risk altering sacred sites, which could impact critical water projects and programs. The private right of action created to enforce the bill's prohibition on substantially burdening a tribe's right to religious practice on state land could be utilized in any court or administrative hearing, likely leading to increased litigation and administrative proceedings.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
July 13, 2026

		interest; and (2) the least restrictive means of furthering that interest. The bill would hold government actions that infringe upon religious exercise to a strict scrutiny standard. California tribes, and their individual members, would also have standing in any court or administrative proceeding to enforce the prohibition.		Metropolitan staff have requested amendments to refine the scope of the bill to a more practical approach that includes clear definitions and timelines. Among other things, these amendments would define what qualifies as public infrastructure and public service under the bill's exemption language.
AB 1894 (Rubio) (D- City of Industry) **Sponsors:** Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	Amended 5/28/2026 Senate Floor	**Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water** This bill would prevent a public agency from prohibiting imported water deliveries for groundwater replenishment, as defined, due to invasive mussels if the importation complies with a specified invasive mussel control plan and unless there is substantial, documented evidence of a proven health and safety risk as a result of the invasive mussels.	**Pending Board Action**	AB 1894 seeks to respond to member agency challenges with a current LA County prohibition on receiving imported water due to concerns around the spread of invasive mussels. This proposal seeks to balance the importance of controlling the spread of invasive species while continuing to allow for deliveries of critically needed groundwater replenishment supplies.
AB 2218 **A. Kalra** **(D – San Jose)** **Sponsors:** Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Karuk Tribe.	Amended 04/16/2026 Senate Environmental Quality Committee	**Water policy: California Native American tribes.** This bill would establish a statewide policy addressing historic inequities in California Native American tribes' access to and control over water through financial assistance, consultation on water projects, plans, and policies, protection of tribal water uses, and incorporation of indigenous knowledge to restore and protect ecosystems. AB 2218 would require state agencies to implement this policy when revising, establishing, or adopting permits, regulations, policies, and grant criteria to address identified inequities, as well as identify and offer financial assistance to the tribes. It also requires the State Water Resources Control Board to consult with California Native American	**Watch and Amend** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	Under the existing CEQA process, Metropolitan engages in cooperative and productive consultations with California tribes to limit impacts of drinking water infrastructure projects and engage in mitigation when impacts do occur. AB 2218 would create an additional tribal consultation process for every state entity that issues a permit for a water-related project. This duplication risks confusion, delay, and increased costs for critical Metropolitan and State Water Project permits or projects. The bill is also silent on how it will fund the required financial assistance for California Native American tribes.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
July 13, 2026

		tribes when investigating water rights on tribal ancestral lands.		Metropolitan staff have requested amendments to attempt to bring further clarity to the wide-ranging obligations the bill would place on water permitting and policy. The proposed amendments would require state agencies to consider implementing the bill's policies instead of mandating they implement the bill. The amendments additionally clarify that the bill's financial assistance requirement would not be imposed on state and local agencies and would ensure the bill does not result in impacts to existing water rights or permits.
AB 2215 **L. Calderon** **(D – Whittier)** **Sponsor:** State Water Contractors	Amended 4/16/2026. Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee	**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 Priorities 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.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
July 13, 2026

AB 2739 **E. Soria** **(D – Merced)** **Sponsors**: Irvine Ranch Water District, Rancho California Water District	Amended 6/11/2026. Senate Environmental Quality Committee	**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 Priorities 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 rate payer 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.
SB 601 **B. Allen** **(D – Santa Monica)** **Sponsors:** California Coastkeeper Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife	Amended 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 statute and includes several provisions that expand regulatory requirements without the benefit of scientific analysis.	**Oppose** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	Currently, SB 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.
SB 872 **J. McNerney** **(D – Pleasanton)**	Amended 5/14/2026. Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee	**Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.** This bill would establish the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund in the State Treasury and require funds to be appropriated 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 funds to be	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	The proposed appropriations 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 substantial savings for Metropolitan ratepayers. Subsidence in the Central Valley has been caused by decades of over pumping of groundwater and was not caused by Metropolitan or the State

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
July 13, 2026

		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.		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 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.

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 935 **S. Choi** **(R – Irvine)**	Assembly Floor	**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 Priorities 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.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
July 13, 2026

SB 952 **J. Laird** **(D – Santa Cruz)** **Sponsor:** State Water Contractors	Amended 5/18/2026. Assembly Appropriations Committee	**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 Priorities 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.
Bill Number and Author	**Amended Date and Location**	**Title – Summary**	**Metropolitan Position**	**Effects on Metropolitan**
SB 1125 **C. Menjivar** **(D – San Fernando Valley)** **Sponsors:** Clean Water Action, Community Water Center, Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability.	Amended 06/09/2026 Assembly Appropriations Committee	**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 Priorities 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.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
July 13, 2026

SB 1326 A. Wahab (D – Hayward) **Sponsors:** Federated Indians Graton Rancheria, United Auburn Indian Community, Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians.	Amended 06/11/2026 Assembly Appropriations Committee	**California Environmental Quality Act: tribal cultural resources: mitigation measures** This bill would revise the existing AB 52 (Gatto, 2014) tribal consultation requirements under CEQA to expand the definition of a tribal cultural resource to include: anything listed in a local tribal register and provided to the lead agency, included or eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources or National Register of Historic Places, included in a local register of historical resources, or locations identified by the Native American Heritage Commission as a sacred place, including tribal cemeteries or burial areas. The bill would also require, when requested by a tribe, a lead agency to consider avoidance and preservation of a tribal cultural resource in place. If avoidance and preservation of the resource in place are not possible, the bill would require the lead agency to document the basis for that determination with substantial evidence and, when feasible, to adopt mitigation measures to avoid or minimize significant adverse impacts and incorporate culturally appropriate mitigation in consultation with the tribe.	**Watch and Amend** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	In its consultation with tribes, Metropolitan works to ensure tribal voices are heard in the CEQA consultation process. By adding resources identified in a local tribal register to the definition of tribal cultural resources in CEQA, without specifying standard criteria for identification or a definition of local tribal register, SB 1326 could greatly increase the number of resources subject to AB 52's heightened requirement to avoid and minimize significant adverse impacts to the resource, when feasible. Without defined eligibility criteria for a tribal culture resource in law, lead agencies and the public would not have the opportunity to understand the nature of the resource. Metropolitan staff have requested amendments to include eligibility requirements for designating cultural landscapes and sites and objects included in a local tribal register as tribal cultural resources under CEQA.

Item No. 4

INFORMATION ITEM
August 5, 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
Link 1: https://go.mwdoc.com/monthlywaterusageandwatersupply

Issue Brief A

SUBJECT: Metropolitan Finances

RECENT ACTIVITY

Total Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 water transactions (for water delivered in May 2025 through April 2026) were 1.24 million acre-feet (MAF), which was 100.6 thousand acre-feet (TAF) lower than the budget of 1.34 MAF.

Total FY 2025-26 water receipts were $1.4 billion, which was $104.8 million lower than the budget of $1.5 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	To be 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	78,856	56,904	(21,953)	-28%	91,212,001	66,031,067	(25,180,934)	-28%
March	May	84,484	79,212	(5,272)	-6%	98,206,004	89,923,032	(8,282,972)	-8%
April	Jun [3]	110,200	101,065	(9,135)	-8%	129,990,583	120,106,395	(9,884,188)	-8%
FY Total		**1,343,930**	**1,243,361**	**(100,569)**	**-7%**	**1,530,209,068**	**1,425,450,180**	**(104,758,888)**	**-7%**

[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 net of 2026 RCP delivery transactions; corresponding cash data is not yet available.

ISSUE BRIEF B

SUBJECT: Metropolitan's Supply Condition Update

RECENT ACTIVITY

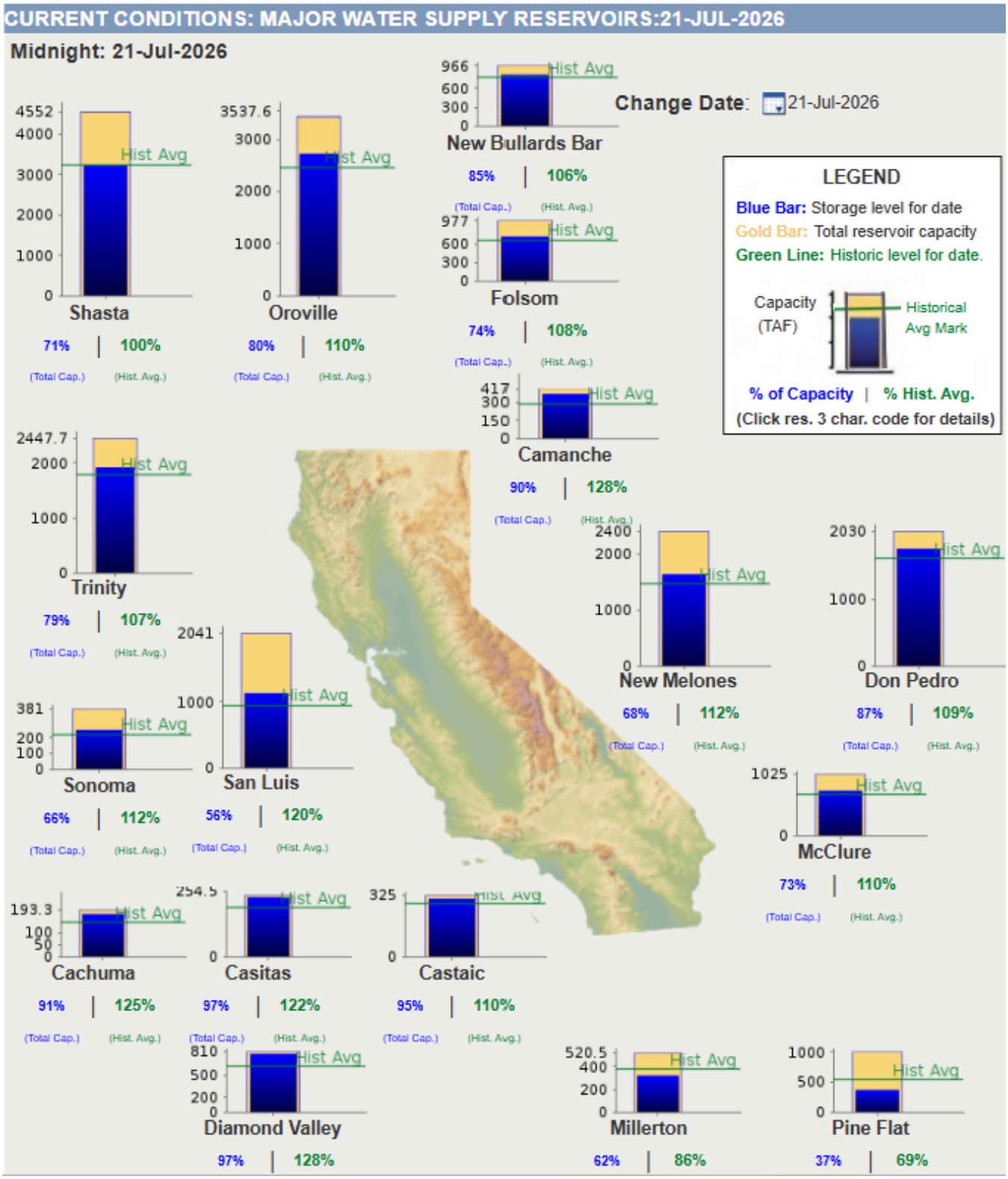
The 2025-26 Water Year (WY) officially started on October 1, 2025. Thus far, Northern California accumulated precipitation (8-Station Index) reported ***50.8 inches or 104% of normal as of July 22.*** The Northern Sierra Snow Water Equivalent peaked at ***11.9 inches on February 24***, which is ***49% 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%.***

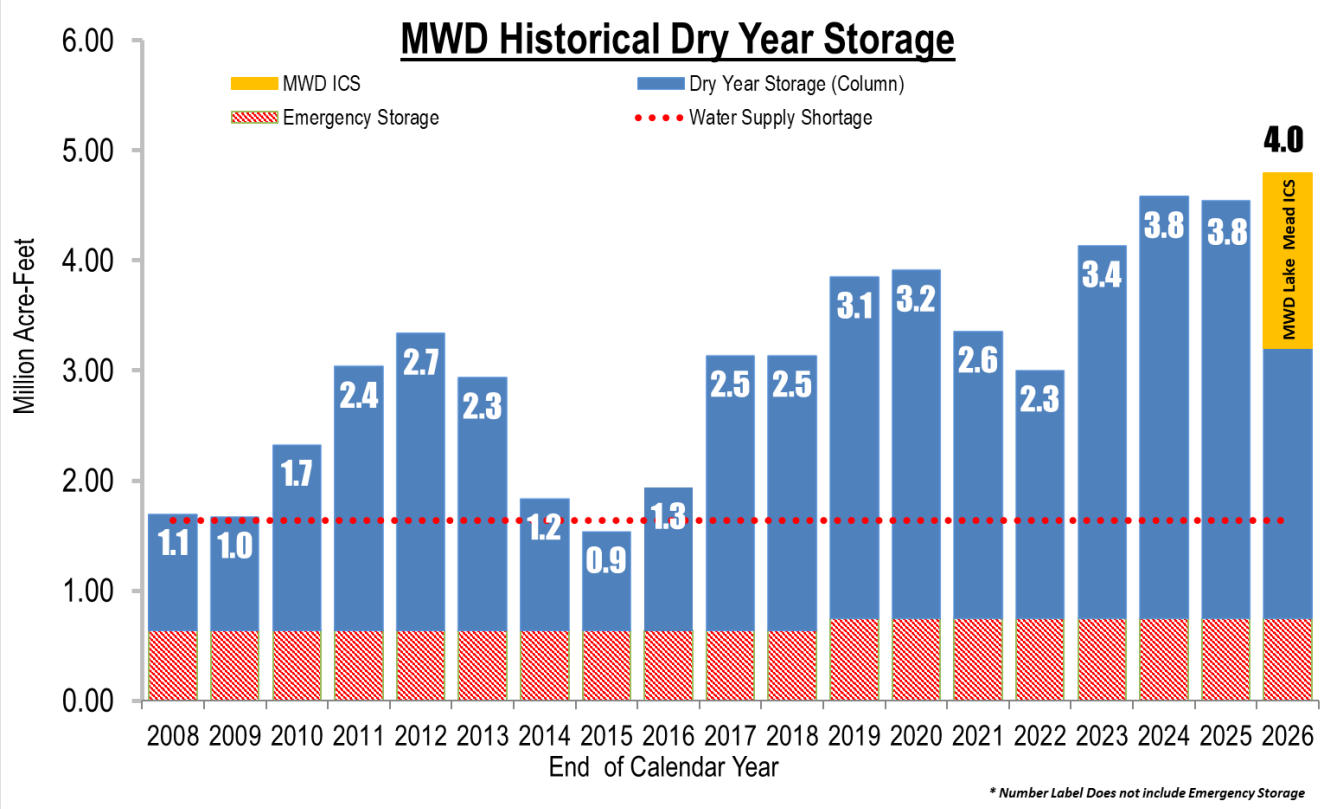
The Upper Colorado River Basin has accumulated precipitation of ***20.18 inches, or 82% of normal, as of July 23***. Snowpack is measured across four states in the Upper Colorado River Basin, encompassing the Colorado River system. The Upper Colorado River Basin Snow Water Equivalent peaked at ***9.37 inches as of March 9***, 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 July 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 July 21, Lake Oroville storage is at ***80% of total capacity and 110% of normal.*** Additionally, as of July 21, San Luis Reservoir is at ***56% of its total capacity and is 120% of normal.***

With CY 2026 estimated total demands and losses of 1.493 MAF and with a 45% State 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.***

DWR Reservoirs




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

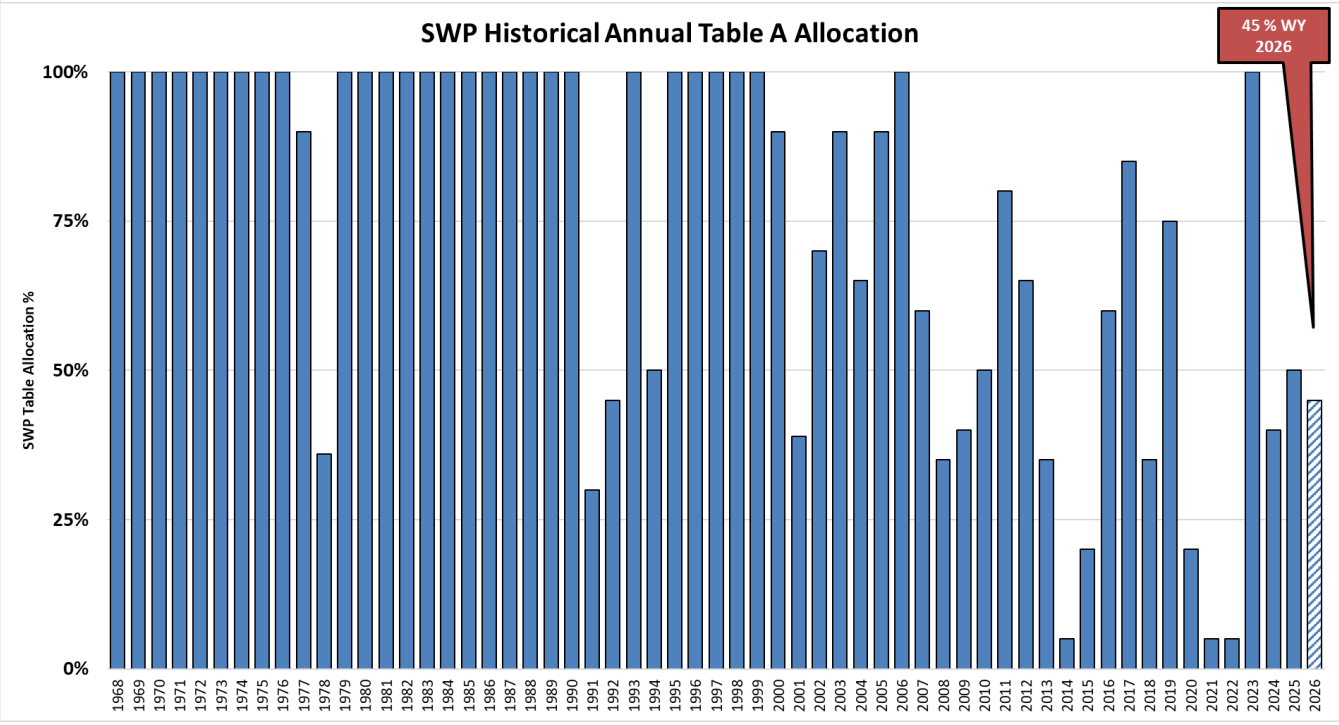

SWP Historical Annual Table A Allocation
45 % WY 2026
SWP Table Allocation %
100%
75%
50%
25%
0%
1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 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.

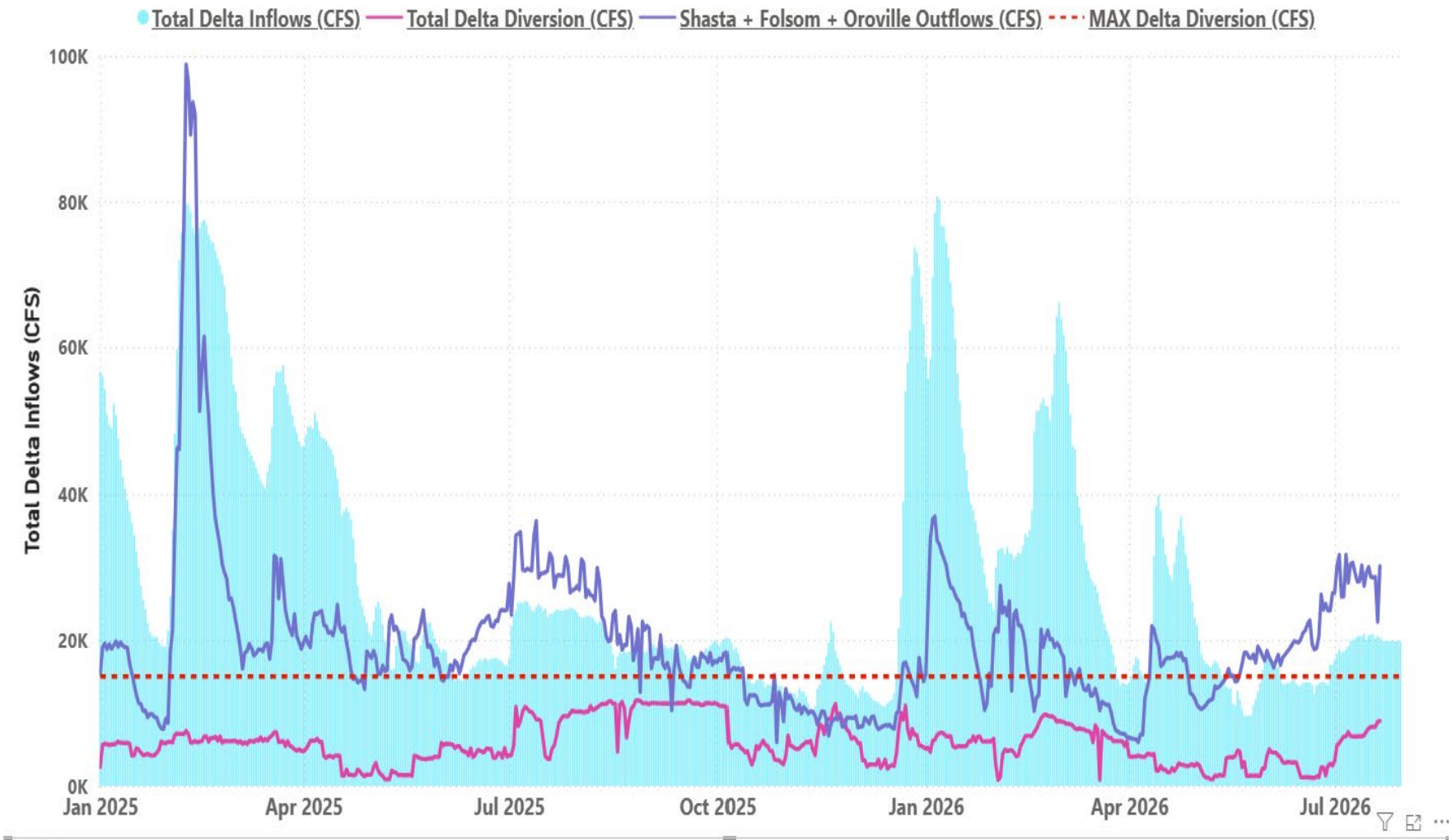
[5] The carryover beginning balance is subject to change based on actual December 2025 conditions.

[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.

Bay Delta Daily Historical Water Operations



DATE

1/1/2025 7/30/2026

ISSUE BRIEF C

SUBJECT: Metropolitan's Water Quality Update

RECENT ACTIVITY

Water System Operations

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries are projected to be 106,300 acre-feet (AF) for June with an average of 3,540 AF per day. Treated water deliveries are projected to be 60,700 AF, or 57 percent of total deliveries for the month. In May, member agency water deliveries were 108,200 AF and treated deliveries were 55,490 AF.

The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) diversions are projected to be 82,400 AF for June. SWP imports averaged 1,910 AF per day, totaling about 57,400 AF for the month. The target SWP blend is 35 percent at the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants and increased in early June from 0 percent to manage additional SWP supplies resulting from the recent SWP allocation increase.

The SWP target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants increased from zero percent to 35 percent, and the Lake Skinner SWP target blend remained at 35 percent in June 2026. Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from May 2025 through April 2026 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the CRA were 453 milligrams per liter (mg/L), 453 mg/L, and 477 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

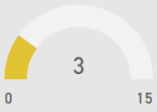
Weekly Operations Plan

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

07/16/2026 - 07/23/2026

Colorado River Aqueduct:
6-pump flow

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



Total Member Agency Demands

3,950 AF/Day

Change in Member Agency Demands*

▲ 260 AF/Day

Forecast
July
Deliveries to Member Agencies

111 TAF

East Branch SPW Imports

Rialto Pipeline	620 AF/day	▲
Santa Ana Valley Pipeline	230 AF/day	▲
Inland Feeder	560 AF/day	▶

West Branch SPW Imports

Castaic Lake	780 AF/day	▼
SCVWA (formerly CLWA)	100 AF/day	▶

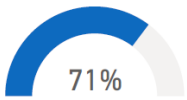
Water Quality

Plant Name	Targeted Blend (% SPW) As of 7/15/2026	TDS (mg/L) As of 7/15/2026	TTHMs (µg/L) As of 6/15/2026
Weymouth	35	489	28
Diemer	35	483	28
Skinner	35	504	42
Jensen	100	298	17
Mills	100	240	26

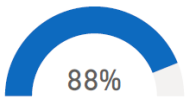
Terminal Reservoirs

as of 7/16/2026

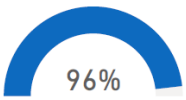
Lake Mathews
128,400 AF
▼ -2,610 AF*



Lake Skinner
38,700 AF
▲ 560 AF*



Diamond Valley Lake
781,200 AF
▼ -570 AF*



** = data from 7/9/2026*

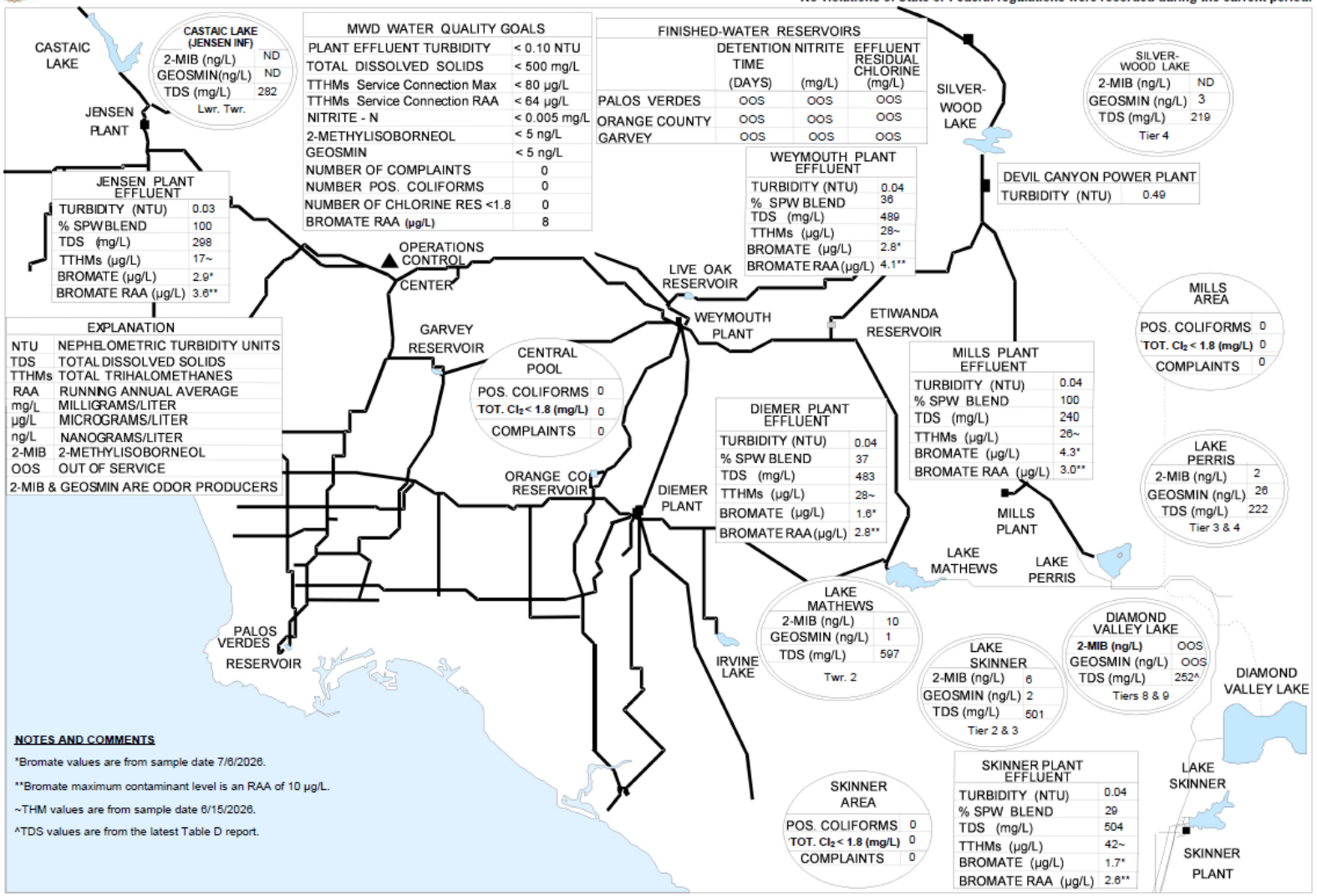
Weekly Water Quality System Status

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Generated On:7/15/2026 1:18:40 PM

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 7/6/2026.

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

~THM values are from sample date 6/15/2026.

^TDS values are 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

Senate Hearing on Colorado River

Metropolitan was invited to join a panel as part of a Colorado River Hearing before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing was initiated to provide Congress with an update on the status of the Colorado River negotiations and consider potential additional funding opportunities. Bill Hasencamp represented Metropolitan at the hearing, emphasizing his agency's desire for a seven-state consensus agreement that would minimize the risks posed by litigation among the Basin States. He highlighted California's example of permanently reducing its demands for Colorado River water by developing agricultural-urban partnerships that provide broad participation for reductions across the state. California's success could be an example throughout the Basin States of all agencies working together to provide needed reductions to develop a more sustainable Colorado River. Assistant Secretary Andrea Travenick also testified during the hearing, providing an update on the status of the post-2026 Guidelines. The Senators were clearly disappointed that we have not yet achieved a seven-state agreement, and time has almost run out for this year.

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

Both the Interior Department in its May 28 response and the Upper Division States in a June 1 letter responded to the Lower Division States' May 1 Proposal (May 1 Proposal) that outlined a framework for short-term operations of the Colorado River system for Calendar Years 2026 through 2028. The May 1 Proposal includes coordinated operational measures for Lake Powell, Lake Mead, and the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) three Colorado River Storage Project Upper Initial Units (UIUs) that are reservoirs upstream of Lake Powell. The May 1 Proposal includes Lower Basin reductions totaling 1.25 MAF annually in 2027 and 2028, allocated among Arizona (760 TAF), California (440 TAF), and Nevada (50 TAF). Under the May 1 Proposal, reductions may be satisfied through reduced water orders and/or the use of Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS), subject to certain limitations. The May 1 Proposal also contemplates consultation regarding additional protective actions if Lake Mead projections decline below an elevation of 1,010 feet. The May 1 Proposal would extend and modify the existing ICS framework through 2028, including new evaporation and system assessments on ICS balances, increased state storage limits, and additional flexibility for ICS withdrawals at lower Lake Mead elevations. The May 1 Proposal also establishes a new Lower Basin Offset Pool intended to provide flexibility to conserve water early to avoid future mandatory reductions beyond 1.25 MAF.

Interior Department's May 28 Response

The Interior Department's May 28 response was generally supportive of the proposed Lower Basin reductions of 1.25 MAF per year, expanded ICS account capacity by an additional 1.1 MAF and extending the withdrawal period for existing ICS through 2038. However, Interior proposes a different system for making Lake Powell releases than what was in the May 1 Proposal. Interior's May 28 response would scale Lake Powell's annual releases up or down based on reservoir elevations, releasing more water downstream when Powell is high and less when it is low. The entire Lake Powell release in the May 28 framework is built around protecting a minimum elevation of 3,510 feet, the level needed to keep Glen Canyon Dam operating safely. If Lake Powell is projected to drop below that line, Reclamation would reduce releases to a floor of 6.0 MAF and draw on the UIUs to maintain that level, while reserving the right to impose deeper cuts or larger Lower Basin shortages if conditions worsen. Metropolitan staff have joined the Lower Division States in discussions regarding the timing and triggers for infrastructure protection actions in an effort to ensure that the burden of protecting Glen Canyon Dam infrastructure does not fall disproportionately on the Lower Basin.

Regarding operations of Lake Mead, the Interior Department agreed to support the Lower Division States' revised ICS proposal that would cap cumulative deliveries at no more than 800 TAF across 2026 through 2028, but tightens ICS access as Lake Mead drops. Once Lake Mead falls into the elevations of 1,025–1,000 feet, ICS deliveries would be limited to urgent, critical water supply needs, would require consultation with the other Lower Division States and the Secretary before any request, and could be reduced or denied by the Interior Secretary if the delivery would push Mead below 1,000 feet that year. Below 1,000 feet, ICS would be inaccessible. Given the potential importance of ICS to meeting California's reductions, Metropolitan staff have been working with Reclamation to develop a clear and predictable process for ICS access below Lake Mead elevation 1,025 feet.

Upper Division States' June 1 Letter

On June 1, 2026, the Upper Division States, writing through the Upper Colorado River Commission, sent their input on the May 1 Proposal to Reclamation. The letter answers Reclamation's May 28 response to the May 1 Proposal for 2027–2028 operations, and in their letter the Upper Division States express their frustration with being sidelined. The Upper Division States point out that Reclamation, by its own account, met repeatedly with the Lower Division States to understand their proposal but never did the same for the Upper Basin, then gave the Upper Division States just two business days to react to a response that ignored their own operational framework and their earlier May 22 comments entirely. They warn that Reclamation's response, with its adjustments to the Lower Division States' proposal, may already be pre-decisional, and they pointedly refuse to endorse either that proposal or Reclamation's response, reserving the right to object to either if it surfaces in a Preferred Alternative.

On substance, the letter makes six points, and the sharpest are about authority. Above all, the Upper Division States insist that operation of the UIUs is outside of the scope of

the Post-2026 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and cannot be written into the Record of Decision and that those operations need to be governed by a negotiated successor to the Drought Response Operations Agreement between the Upper Division States and Reclamation, not by Reclamation acting on its own. They go further and argue that Reclamation's apparent reliance on unspecified emergency authorities overreaches what it is actually authorized to do and exposes it to legal challenge. The rest of the letter presses familiar concerns: the response still leans too heavily on six-month forecasts that have a track record of running too high on Lake Powell and too low on Lake Mead; it preserves a rigid, 2007-style tier structure that has not protected Lake Powell in dry years; it risks unsustainable Powell releases; it should commit to monthly Lake Mead release accounting with consultation; and the Upper Division States simply do not yet have enough detail to evaluate it fully. They close by demanding that Reclamation actually analyze and respond in writing to the Upper Basin's Lake Powell operating proposal, renewing their call for neutral mediation, and reserving the right to say more.

Next Steps

Discussions with the Interior Department and Reclamation are likely to continue over the next several weeks before the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Post-2026 Colorado River Reservoir Operations is published.

ISSUE BRIEF E

SUBJECT: Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

RECENT ACTIVITY

Delta Conveyance Project

On May 26, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) received the National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion for Delta Conveyance Project construction and construction-related maintenance activities. Together with the Biological Opinion previously issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this important milestone completes the federal Endangered Species Act process for Project construction activities.

The fifth amendment to the Delta Conveyance Project funding agreement is expected to be executed by July 1, 2026. The amendment would modify the payment plan, deferring a portion of near-term payments to later in 2027 and 2028, to better align payments with expenses for projected Delta Conveyance Project work. Under the amended agreement, Metropolitan's total amount of payments would be the same as was authorized by the Board in 2024, and all other terms of the agreement would remain in effect.

Sites Reservoir

At the May 22 Sites Reservoir Committee and Authority Board meeting, the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board authorized the Executive Director to execute an Operations Agreement with DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The agreement establishes a framework for coordinated operation of the Sites Project to ensure that diversions, releases, and conveyance activities do not adversely affect Central Valley Project or State Water Project operations, water rights, or regulatory compliance. The Reservoir Committee and the Authority Board also accepted the tentatively agreed terms in the Contract for Administration of Public Benefits (CAPB) with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and DWR, while withholding final determination on delivery quantities, including those for emergency response, until issuance of the final water right and contingent upon no substantial changes to the CAPB terms resulting from public comments.

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

Metropolitan received four construction proposals for the Webb Tract Restoration. Metropolitan staff is currently verifying references for the apparent low bidder. Metropolitan staff presented Use of the Governor's Cutting the Green Tape Initiative at the Association of California Water Agencies Spring Conference. On May 19, Legislative Services joined Metropolitan's Bay Delta Initiatives staff on Bouldin Island for a site visit. On June 10-11, representatives from the Central Arizona Project joined Metropolitan Bay-Delta staff for a tour of Lake Oroville and the Delta, including Bouldin Island.

Metropolitan staff provided support to DWR with the Change of Point of Diversion hearings before the State Water Resources Control Board.

Metropolitan staff published a paper titled “A Dendritic Strontium River Isoscape for Fisheries Applications in the Sacramento River Basin, California, USA.” The information from this paper is applicable to managing out migrating Chinook Salmon and can be used to prioritize management actions.

Summary Report for
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Board Meeting
July 14, 2026

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

Approved Commendatory Resolution for Director Jacquelyn McMillan representing Calleguas Municipal Water District. **(Agenda Item 6B)**

Approved Committee Assignments and appointed:

Director Pakala to the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee, Ethics Committee, and Audit Committee.

Director Erdman to the Audit Committee. **(Agenda Item 6C)**

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

Awarded a $7,159,500 contract to Shimmick Construction Company Inc. to replace the two radial gates along the San Diego Canal; and authorized an increase of $515,000 to an agreement with Lee & Ro Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total of $1,419,000 for technical support during construction. **(Agenda Item 7-1)**

Authorized an increase of $2,750,000 to an existing agreement with Pure Technologies U.S. Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of $9,750,000 for inspections and analysis of Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe. **(Agenda Item 7-2)**

Authorized the General Manager to execute a new license agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for up to twenty-five years to allow for the storage of boats, law enforcement vehicles, and related equipment for the continuation of enforcement of state conservation and environmental laws and fishery protection at Diamond Valley Lake, Lake Skinner, and surrounding lakes; the subject property is located in the County of Riverside, in the Winchester area, and is identified as the County of Riverside Assessor Parcel Number 465-190-078. **(Agenda Item 7-3)**

Authorized the General Manager to execute a one-year amendment to a funding agreement for support of the CRB, SAC, and Authority, and by a two-thirds vote, authorized payment of Metropolitan's share up to $1,022,720.00 for FY 2026/27. **(Agenda Item 7-4)**

OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

Awarded a $16,525,536 contract to Wood Bros Inc. to construct a wetland on Webb Tract; awarded a $1,988,400 agreement with MBK Engineers to provide construction management services; authorized an increase of $864,000 to an existing agreement with Environmental Science Associates for a new not-to-exceed amount of $1,844,000 for environmental monitoring; authorized an increase of $260,000 to an existing agreement with GEI Consultants Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total of $1,760,000 for technical support; authorized an increase of $145,000 to an existing agreement with HydroFocus Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total of $600,000 for scientific

monitoring; and authorized an increase of $100,000 to an existing agreement with J.A. Spezia Consulting for a new not-to-exceed total of $300,000 for public outreach and tribal coordination. **(Agenda Item 8-1)**

Adopted a resolution supporting the framework for the Association of California Water Agencies Vision for our Water Future and requested staff to bring back the ACWA Vision recommendations to review for consistency with Metropolitan's 2027 legislative priorities and principles. **(Agenda Item 8-2)**

Expressed support for AB 1894 (Rubio) Fish and Wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water. **(Agenda Item 8-3)**

Delay the item for 60 days pending public comment. **(Agenda Item 8-4)**

By a two-thirds vote, authorized payments of up to $4.16 million for participation in the State Water Contractors for FY 2026/27 and up to $4.25 million for FY 2027/28. **(Agenda Item 8-5)**

Authorized the General Manager to enter into (1) an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to add water to Lake Mead conserved under Metropolitan's existing Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Exhibits pursuant to Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program (LC Conservation Program), (2) agreements with Reclamation, the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation (Quechan Tribe), and Bard Water District (BWD) for system conservation projects under Reclamation's LC Conservation Program, and (3) related forbearance and implementing agreements. **(Agenda Item 8-6)**

Approved the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's salary schedules pursuant to CalPERS regulations. **(Agenda Item 8-7)**

Reviewed and approved the Department Head Operations Plan. **(Agenda Item 8-8)**

OTHER MATTERS – ACTION

Approved an increase for the Ethics Officer of 1.5% with an effective date of June 21, 2026, resulting in an updated annual base pay of $352,601.60;

Approved an increase for the General Auditor of 3.6% with an effective date of June 21, 2026, resulting in an updated annual base pay of $371,259.20;

Approved an increase for the General Counsel of 3% with an effective date of June 21, 2026, resulting in an updated annual base pay of $455,436.80; and

Approved an increase for the General Manager of 2% with an effective date of June 21, 2026, resulting in an updated annual base pay of $522,100.80. **(Agenda Item 10-3)**

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

August 18, 2026

2:00 PM

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 Meeting Schedule
08:30 a.m. OPE 09:30 a.m. FAAME 11:30 a.m. LC 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

* 08182026 Board of Directors Translated Agendas **21591**

Attachments: 08182026 BOD Agenda - Armenian
08182026 BOD Agenda - Chinese Mandarin
08182026 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 Randall Crane, Municipal Water District of Orange County

b. Pledge of Allegiance

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 **21-5765**

B. Chair's Monthly Activity Report **21-6050**

C. General Manager's summary of activities **21-5816**

D. General Counsel's summary of activities **21-5817**

E. General Auditor's summary of activities **21-5818**

F. Ethics Officer's summary of activities **21-5819**

G. Report on list of certified assessed valuations for fiscal year 2026/27 and tabulation of assessed valuations, percentage participation, and vote entitlement of member agencies as of August 18, 2026 (FAAME) **21-6065**

**** CONSENT CALENDAR ****

6. BOARD CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on July 14, 2026 and of the Board of Directors Workshop on Engineering, Technology and Operations Committee on July 28, 2026 **21-5820**

B. Approve Commendatory Resolution for Director Thai Phan representing the City of Santa Ana **21-6105**

C. Approve Committee Assignments **21-5821**

7. BOARD LETTERS CONSENT

7-1 Authorize an increase of $25,000 in change order authority to an existing procurement contract with B&K Valves and Equipment Inc. to furnish two valves for the Lake Skinner outlet tower; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-6051**

7-2 Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the 2024 Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the City of Fontana for the Fontana Fire Station No. 80 and Training Center Project, and authorize the General Manager to execute a new license agreement with the City of Fontana for a base term of 15 years, with three 10-year options and one five-year option to extend the license, for a maximum combined term of 50 years to support a new Fire Station and Training Facility with supplemental parking on Metropolitan fee-owned property in the City of Fontana, identified as San Bernardino County Assessor Parcel No. 0228-021-26 (FAAME) **21-6052**

7-3 Authorize increase of $TBD to a maximum amount payable of $TBD for existing General Counsel contract with Olson Remcho LLP; [CEQA] (LC) **21-6053**

7-4 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) **21-6054**

7-5 Award a $5,164,432 contract to Bigfoot Homes Inc. to furnish and install up to twenty-one manufactured houses at four Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-6104**

7-6 Authorize an agreement with Nokia of America Corporation in an amount not to exceed $6.831 million for equipment procurement and design support to upgrade the Western Region wide-area network; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-6056**

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

8. BOARD LETTERS ACTION

8-1 Authorize a $29,241,000 agreement with PCL Construction West Coast Inc. for Phase 1 progressive design-build services for the Lake Mathews Pressure Control Structure and Electrical System Upgrades Project; and an increase of $3.1 million to an existing agreement with Carollo Engineers Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of $4.4 million to serve as the owner's advisor through the Phase 1 design-build agreement; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-6057**

8-2 Adopt resolution establishing the Ad Valorem tax rate for fiscal year 2026/27; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (FAAME) **21-6058**

9. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-1 Information on proposed changes to the Coordinated Operating, Water Storage, Exchange and Delivery Agreement among Metropolitan, the Municipal Water District of Orange County, and Irvine Ranch Water District (OWA) **21-6060**

Attachments: 08182026 BOD 9-1 B-L

9-2 Information on the proposed amendments to the Administrative Code to incorporate Board direction on climate action and adaptation (OWA) **21-6062**

9-3 2025 Combined Annual Benefits Financial Report **21-6061**

Attachments: 08182026 BOD 9-3 B-L

9-4 Permissible Activities Related to Ballot Measures (LEG) **21-6063**

9-5 Overview of Proposition 45: An Initiative Statute Proposing to Amend Environmental Review (LEG) **21-6103**

9-6 Discussion on Metropolitan's Centennial Recognition (LEG) **21-6099**

9-7 Information on proposed sole-source agreement with Electric & Gas Industries Association to administer Metropolitan's regional consumer incentive programs (OWA) **21-6100**

10. OTHER MATTERS

NONE

11. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

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.