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
October 7, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Teleconference Sites:
17420 Walnut Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
1961 Aliso Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
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. 2181

PRESENTATION ITEM

1. INVITATION FOR METROPOLITAN CHAIR CANDIDATE

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 September 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
October 7, 2026

TO: **Board of Directors**

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

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

SUBJECT: **INVITATION FOR METROPOLITAN BOARD CHAIR CANDIDATE**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors receive the presentation.

REPORT

Purpose

This item provides the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) Board of Directors (Board or Director) with a presentation by any candidates for the upcoming Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) Board Chair position. Staff invited San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Director Martin "Marty" Miller to discuss his candidacy.

Discussion

The Metropolitan Administrative Code establishes the terms of office for the Chair of the Metropolitan Board of Directors. Under the Metropolitan Administrative Code, the Chair may serve no more than two consecutive full two-year terms, and the Chair election occurs during the October Metropolitan Board meeting in even-numbered years. Because the current Board Chair reaches his term limit at the end of 2026, the Metropolitan Board will elect a new Chair on October 13.

At its September 22 meeting, the Metropolitan Executive Committee established procedures for electing the Chair, including creating a forum for candidates to share their views and providing notice of proposed nominations, also at the October 13 Metropolitan Board meeting.

The October 13 election procedures are as follows:

- Candidates for office are called upon in alphabetical order to provide statements at the Board meeting before the vote.
- Opportunity to ask Candidates questions.
- Nominations from the floor do not require a second. The nominated Director must accept/decline.
- If there are more than two candidates, candidates receiving the fewest number of votes are eliminated until one candidate receives 50% or more of the vote.

As of September 28, Director Miller, who represents SDCWA, was the only candidate nominated. To prepare for the upcoming Metropolitan Chair election, MWDOC staff has invited SDCWA Director Miller to share his perspectives on his candidacy.

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:
N/A

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

Colorado River Update

California continues to meet with the Department of the Interior, Arizona, and Nevada to discuss the status of the Lower Basin agreement. With Reclamation already beginning its 2027 water order process, pressure is mounting to finalize an agreement implementing the 2027–2028 Operating Guidelines, including the agreed-upon water-use reductions. California continues to raise concerns about Nevada's recent lawsuit and how it will impact the Lower Basin plan.

Reclamation's September 2026 Most Probable 24-Month Study projects a 6 million acre-foot release from Lake Powell in the 2027 operating year, indicating a significant shift in water storage from Lake Mead to Lake Powell. Powell is projected to rise to about 3,542 feet, while Mead could fall to 998 feet by August 2028. The strategy is intended to protect Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell infrastructure by reducing releases from Powell and drawing additional water from Flaming Gorge. The trade-off is increased pressure on Lake Mead and Hoover Dam, including reduced hydropower efficiency and potentially significant reductions in generating capacity as Mead approaches 1,035 feet.

Lower Mead elevations would also increase the likelihood of more severe Lower Basin shortage tiers in 2028 and beyond, making the upcoming Upper Basin snowpack a key factor in determining future reservoir conditions and water deliveries.

FY2027 Appropriations – Continuing Resolution Enacted

Congress averted an October 1st shutdown by enacting a continuing resolution that funds the federal government at largely FY2026 levels through December 11, 2026. The CR also temporarily blocks the Office of Management and Budget's proposed rule that would subject federal grant awards to review by political appointees.

Full-year FY2027 Energy and Water and Interior-Environment bills remain unfinished; the House has completed committee action on all twelve bills but passed only three on the floor, none of which fund Reclamation. Final decisions on Reclamation's Water and Related Resources account, WaterSMART, Title XVI water recycling, and the WIIN Act storage account are now expected in a lame-duck omnibus or a further CR in December. Given the scale of the Colorado River shortage, we anticipate pressure from Lower Basin delegations for emergency drought funding as part of any year-end package.

Water Resources Development Act of 2026 Passes the House

On September 16, the House passed the Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (H.R. 9497) by a vote of 415–9. The bill authorizes approximately $7 billion in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects along with dozens of new feasibility studies. The Senate version (S. 4949), reported unanimously by the Environment and Public Works Committee in July, awaits floor consideration. The chambers will need to reconcile the two versions, most likely in the lame-duck session; given the biennial WRDA cycle's track record, enactment by year-end is a reasonable expectation.

Sites Reservoir

On September 3, the State Water Resources Control Board released a revised draft water right decision and draft permit for the proposed 1.5 million acre-foot Sites Reservoir, following the March 2026 drafts issued by the Board's Administrative Hearings Office. The revised drafts would authorize diversions of up to 986,000 acre-feet per year from the Sacramento River, expand opportunities to divert during high flows, align permit conditions with the compliance pathways in the final draft Bay-Delta Plan (including the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes voluntary agreement program), and allow project proponents to demonstrate availability of water from local creeks. In mid-September the Board also issued the project's Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification.

Final written comments are due October 5, and the Board is scheduled to consider adoption at its November 4 meeting. The revisions are generally favorable to project participants, relative to the March drafts, which had drawn concern from the Sites Project Authority over diversion limitations. Adoption in November would clear the most significant remaining state regulatory hurdle for the project.

Supplemental WOTUS Proposal

On September 9, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers issued a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking on the definition of "waters of the United States." After reviewing approximately 220,000 comments on the November 2025 proposed rule, the agencies are seeking comment on additional options for defining "relatively permanent" waters and wetlands with a "continuous surface connection"—the two key tests established by the Supreme Court in Sackett v. EPA. Among the options under consideration is limiting jurisdiction to perennial waters and eliminating the "wet season" concept from the original proposal. Comments are due October 9.

Bureau of Reclamation Personnel

On September 25th, Reclamation announced that Anja Raudabaugh has been appointed as Deputy Commissioner for Policy. Ms. Raudabaugh comes from Western United Dairies and has also worked for the Madera County Farm Bureau and former Congressman Doug Ose (R-CA).

West Coast Advisors
Strategic Public Affairs

September 30, 2026

To: Municipal Water District of Orange County

From: Michael Boccadoro
Beth Olhasso

RE: September Report

California is closing out the 2025–26 water year with generally solid water supplies, although reservoirs have been drawn down through the summer with the water year ending on September 30. Statewide reservoir storage is about 102 percent of the historical average for this time of year. Key reservoirs remain in relatively strong condition: Shasta is about 56 percent full and 96 percent of its historical average, Oroville is about 54 percent full and 92 percent of average, and San Luis is about 66 percent full and 168 percent of average. Overall, the state enters the final days of the water year with substantial carryover storage, but conditions going into the new water year will depend heavily on the coming winter's precipitation and snowpack.

The State Water Resources Control Board is moving toward an October 28–29 decision on the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan update, but the proposal faces opposition from the federal government and Westlands Water District. Metropolitan Water District submitted comments on new water-supply projects, base flows and interior Delta flow objectives, while 13 MWD member agencies expressed support for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes approach.

Sites Reservoir moved closer to construction in September with the State Water Resources Control Board's revised draft water-right decision and final water-quality certification. The proposed 1.5-million-acre-foot reservoir could divert up to 986,000 acre-feet annually, with the final water-right permit scheduled for a November 4 vote.

California's response to the spread of golden mussels is shifting toward active treatment of infested facilities. Semitropic Water Storage District declared an emergency and authorized copper treatment after detecting the invasive species, while state agencies expand monitoring and treatment efforts that could have significant implications for interconnected water systems.

California is preparing for a potentially very wet winter as a strong El Niño develops in the Pacific. Governor Newsom proclaimed a statewide emergency to accelerate preparations for flooding and other storm impacts, while water managers face the challenge of balancing flood protection with capturing winter supplies.

The California Water Commission highlighted groundwater recharge as an increasingly important component of the state's water-supply strategy. Presentations showed how Central Valley, Central Coast and Southern California agencies are using recharge basins, agricultural land, recycled water and advanced water purification to store water underground for future use.

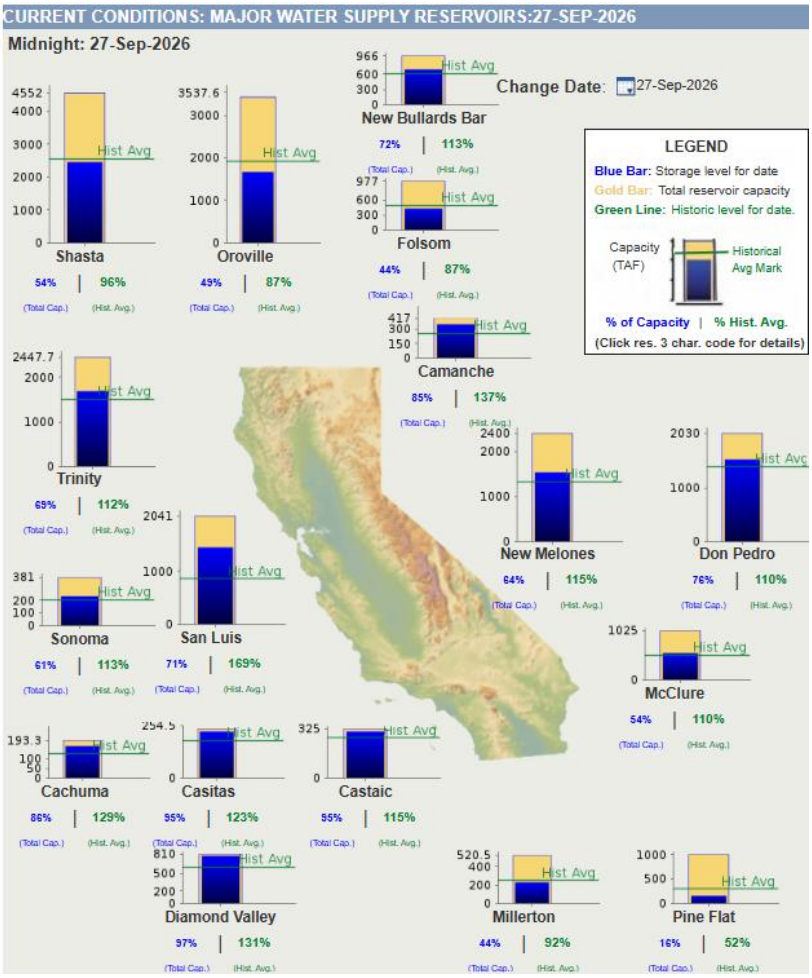
New laws signed by Governor Newsom will increase scrutiny of the water and energy demands of data centers. AB 2469 and AB 2619 require proposed facilities to address water supply and scarcity and, in some circumstances, pay for new or expanded water infrastructure needed to serve them.

The Governor took final action of his career on all of the legislation passed by the legislature in August. Final action saw two of the three Golden mussels bills not making it to the finish line and both of the tribal rights bills being vetoed by the Governor. WateReuse CA and CASA's co-sponsored bill concerning the Clean Water SRF was signed by the Governor.

Municipal Water District of Orange County
Status Report – September 2026

Water Supply Conditions

California is ending the 2025–26 water year on September 30 with a mixed but generally manageable water-supply picture. Statewide reservoir storage is about 102 percent of the historical average, as of September 26; major reservoirs vary, with Shasta at 54 percent of capacity and 101 percent of average, Oroville at 49 percent of capacity and 90 percent of average, and San Luis at 71 percent of capacity and 170 percent of average. With the new water year beginning October 1, attention is turning to the winter precipitation outlook and whether California can rebuild storage through rain and snow over the coming months.



Bay-Delta Plan Faces Federal and Agricultural Opposition as State Moves Toward October Decision

The State Water Resources Control Board is moving toward an October decision on its proposed update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, but the plan is facing significant opposition from both the federal government and Westlands Water District, as well as strong concerns from other agencies. The Board released its final draft plan in August and accepted comments through September 18; the proposal would establish a voluntary Healthy Rivers and Landscapes pathway for participating water users while maintaining a regulatory pathway for others and would add Tribal Tradition and Culture as a protected beneficial use.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation argues that the plan could restrict federal water deliveries to Central Valley agriculture and said the federal government would withhold funding for certain habitat-restoration projects if the state does not make changes. Westlands separately announced that it would withdraw from the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program unless the state reverses course, arguing that the final draft substantially departs from the commitments made in the 2022 Voluntary Agreement framework.

The State Board continues to characterize Healthy Rivers and Landscapes as a collaborative approach intended to improve environmental conditions while maintaining water-supply reliability. The Board is scheduled to consider adoption of the final plan on October 28–29, making the next month particularly important for the future of Sacramento River and Delta water management.

MWD sent several comment letters on the Final Draft. The first, was just from MWD and addresses three main issues: the Definition of "New Water Supply Projects;" protection of base flows; and implementation of new interior delta flow narrative objectives.

The second letter was a letter was signed by 13 MWD member agencies. This letter more broadly supported the existing Healthy Rivers and Landscapes program.

For Southern California, the outcome could affect both the regulatory framework governing State Water Project supplies and the prospects for a negotiated alternative to more traditional flow-based regulation.

Sites Reservoir Moves Closer to Construction

The proposed Sites Reservoir took several important steps forward in September. On September 3, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released a revised draft water-right decision that would allow the 1.5-million-acre-foot off-stream reservoir to divert up to 986,000 acre-feet annually, subject to conditions designed to protect senior water rights, water quality and fisheries. The revised permit also incorporates compliance pathways from the final draft Bay-Delta Plan and the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes program.

The project received another important approval when the SWRCB issued its final water-quality certification on September 10. Later in the month, the Sites Project Authority moved into an investment phase, and Governor Newsom announced that the project is closer to construction.

The final water-right permit is scheduled for a SWRCB vote on November 4, with written comments on the revised permit due October 5.

Federal involvement is also continuing. The Bureau of Reclamation is negotiating an Excess Capacity Contract with the Sites Project Authority governing use of federal facilities to convey Sites water, with another public negotiation session scheduled for September 28.

Golden Mussel Response Shifts Toward Emergency Treatment

The golden mussel infestation continues to expand from an invasive-species concern into a major water infrastructure challenge. DWR says the species can clog pipelines, screens and filters and affect water delivery, hydropower and other infrastructure. Because golden mussels tolerate a broader range of temperature and salinity conditions than quagga and zebra mussels, more California water bodies and interconnected delivery systems are potentially vulnerable.

The response is becoming increasingly hands-on. In September, Semitropic Water Storage District in the San Joaquin Valley declared an emergency after detecting golden mussels in its conveyance facilities and authorized emergency contracting for copper treatment intended to eradicate or minimize the infestation. DWR is simultaneously pursuing a statewide strategy that includes expanded monitoring, eDNA testing, copper treatments, manual cleaning, ultraviolet systems and research into additional treatment options.

The implications for Southern California are significant as the State Water Project provides a major pathway for moving water from Northern California into the region. Continued spread could increase monitoring, treatment, maintenance and capital costs at facilities throughout the interconnected water system, while requiring agencies to develop more stringent protocols for reservoirs, boats and water conveyance.

California Prepares for a Potentially Very Wet Winter

California's water managers are preparing for a major shift in hydrologic conditions as a potentially very strong El Niño develops in the Pacific. On September 21, Governor Newsom proclaimed a statewide emergency to accelerate preparations for winter storms, flooding, landslides, debris flows and coastal flooding. The proclamation directs state agencies to stage flood-fighting supplies and equipment and prepare vulnerable infrastructure and communities.

The potential for a wet winter comes after a relatively dry end to the 2025-26 water year. The state's water managers therefore face a familiar California challenge: preparing to capture substantial winter runoff while maintaining enough reservoir space for flood protection and preserving supplies in case the anticipated precipitation does not materialize.

The state's response to El Niño also highlights the increasing importance of managing both flood and drought risks within the same water year.

Groundwater Recharge Gains Attention as Statewide Water Supply Strategy

The California Water Commission devoted a significant portion of its September meeting to groundwater recharge, bringing together state agencies and water managers from the Central Valley, Central Coast and Southern California to discuss how California can expand the use of

groundwater basins as strategic water storage. The discussion included presentations from the Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tulare Irrigation District, Madera County, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency and Orange County Water District. The Commission characterized groundwater recharge as an increasingly important tool for managing California's more variable hydrology—capturing water during wet periods for use during droughts and periods of reduced surface-water availability.

The presentations illustrated that recharge is taking very different forms around the state. In the San Joaquin Valley, districts are developing dedicated recharge basins and using agricultural land and other facilities to move excess rainfall underground, while groundwater managers are also looking at recharge as a way to meet Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requirements. On the Central Coast, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency has developed recharge and water-supply projects as part of a broader effort to address groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion. Southern California has taken a different approach, emphasizing highly treated recycled water, advanced water purification and aquifer storage. Orange County's experience demonstrates how groundwater basins can function as large-scale regional reservoirs that can be replenished during favorable conditions and drawn upon when imported supplies are constrained.

The scale of the opportunity was a major theme. DWR notes that California's groundwater basins collectively can store at least 850 million acre-feet, compared with roughly 50 million acre-feet of capacity in the state's major above-ground reservoirs. Groundwater also becomes increasingly important during dry periods, when it can provide as much as 60 percent of the state's water supply. Recharge therefore offers a way to turn California's episodic wet years into longer-term water-supply security, particularly as warmer temperatures reduce the reliability of the Sierra Nevada snowpack.

The discussion also highlighted challenges that could limit how quickly recharge expands. Projects need suitable geology, available water, conveyance infrastructure and places where water can be safely infiltrated. Water managers must also address permitting, water rights, groundwater accounting, water-quality concerns and the timing of environmental flows. The different regional presentations underscored that there is no single statewide recharge model; projects need to be designed around local aquifer conditions, available water supplies and groundwater-management goals.

The Commission's discussion comes as California increasingly looks at groundwater basins as part of the state's broader water-storage portfolio. Rather than relying solely on new surface reservoirs, agencies are pursuing a combination of groundwater recharge, recycled water, stormwater capture, agricultural recharge and conjunctive-use projects. For Southern California wholesalers, these investments could become increasingly important as agencies seek to make imported supplies more valuable by storing water underground when it is available and using that storage to provide flexibility when State Water Project deliveries are reduced.

New Data Center Laws Put Water Supply Under Greater Scrutiny
The Governor signed a package of laws addressing the growing water and energy demands of data centers. On September 21, Governor Newsom signed seven bills requiring greater disclosure of data center water and electricity use. Two measures by Assemblymember Diane Papan—AB 2469 and AB 2619—specifically address water supply and planning. AB 2469 requires proposed data centers to complete a water supply assessment and water scarcity plan and requires them to pay for new or expanded water infrastructure needed to serve their operations

The legislation is significant for water agencies because large data centers can create concentrated new demands for water in areas already facing supply constraints. The new requirements give local governments and water suppliers additional information about proposed projects' water needs and require consideration of drought planning and infrastructure impacts before projects proceed.

Legislative Update
The Governor signed his final bills as Governor ahead of the 9/30 deadline. Barring a special session, this marks the end of Governor Newsom's participation in the California Legislative process.

Legislators remain in their districts ahead of the November elections and electeds will briefly return to Sacramento in early December for a day or two to "organize" before returning officially in January.

Final action on bills brought some victories and frustrations:

<u>State Water Contractors Sponsored Legislation:</u>
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 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 final Proposition 4 allocations allocate $68 million for regional conveyance or repair of existing projects, with $30 million specifically for State Water Project Canals. Additionally, $100 million for levees, Delta levees, dam safety/climate resilience- $30M for SWP Delta Levees; $75M for Sac-San Joaquin Delta levees.

The Governor vetoed the bill, siting the Proposition 4 allocations and the fact at the bill set up a fund with no funding source.

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 did not move forward in 2026.

<u>CASA & WateReuse CA:</u>
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 passed through the process with no no votes. The bill was signed the Governor.

<u>Other significant legislation:</u>

- **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, but those talks stalled in recent weeks. Both bills were vetoed by the Governor. The Governor stated that he is concerned with the far-reaching impacts of AB 1881 on the basic operations of state government. On AB 2218, he stated he is concerned the bill would add new layers of process that would delay policies that will protect water supplies from climate change.
- 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 has moved through the Senate fairly easily, and was signed by the Governor.

    - **AB 1772 (Papan):** creates a standardized boat inspection program for all reservoir operators. The bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee

- **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 Governor vetoed the bill stating that while he appreciated the author's intent, he is concerned of unintended consequences by the bill's "on-size-fits-all" approach prohibiting the denial of local water deliveries.

- **Advanced Clean Fleets:** AB 1436 (Avila Farias) was a late "gut and amend" intended to address the late 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

October 7, 2026

1. **Cost to Clean Ocean:** The State Water Resources Control Board is currently considering how much you should pay to keep the Pacific Ocean clean. They will determine how much and what can be released into the ocean. The MS4 system is a permit which people and business have to get to release anything that eventually ends up in the ocean. This Board sets the rules for Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. While this permit currently is given to each county, this process will require the same for all three counties. The current plans are quite different. San Bernardino County has done a report that shows the cost to their county alone will be over $11 billion. They claim that will cut into public safety and educations programs in their county. Environmentalists claim that the small cost over 20 years is well worth it. These new discussions will definitely impact water agencies and sanitation districts and will indirectly affect every resident.

2. **Sacramento Subsidence:** UCLA and Cal tech have studied the amount of damage to the Sacramento Valley groundwater aquifer in past years. This aquifer has actually maintained itself quite well until the 2020-2022 droughts. During that time their Sacramento River allocation was reduced to between 0 and 18%. That forced famers to start using more ground water. That produced subsidence in a few areas similar to experience in the San Joaquin Valley. Historically, Sacramento Valley was able to recharge their aquifer at sufficient levels to avoid subsidence. But during those years, it was impossible to keep up. The study did recognize that our methods for measuring the subsidence were not available many years ago. But they believe their conclusions are probably sound.

3. **PFAS Ban?:** AB 1603 proposed banning certain pesticides used in farm use which contained PFAS. The legislature rejected the proposal. The ag industry weighed in quite heavily based on damage to their business. Governor Newsom has vetoed a similar bill last year based on affordability and cost to business. There is still no agreement on the definitions of which chemicals fit into this category. Half of the US vegetables and ¾ of fruits and nuts come from California.

4. **Extreme Wildfire Causes:** The conventional wisdom is that hot and dry conditions are the main cause of extreme fires. This statement is true but a major study done by the US National Science Foundation has indicated that it is not entirely correct. They identified other elements which contribute to the “perfect storm” which make certain fires extreme and cause more damage. Weather, usually wind, topography, dry vegetation and ignition are the big ones which when they combine, are the cause. Many fires have one or two of these additional factors, but very few have all four. The length of the wind event is also important. A one day event of wind will not be a problem, but a continued event, like Santa Ana

conditions, is much more destructive. We have also seen changes of wind direction can change the entire outcome. Terrain and dry vegetation can be anticipated, but wind and ignition causes, not so much.

5. **Water Treatment:** The traditional treatment for removing perchlorate from water is to use large tanks with ion-exchange resin beads. The beads connect to the perchlorate ions and the water comes out clean. The problem is reusing or disposing of the hazardous beads. UC Riverside researchers have developed a catalyst containing small ruthenium nanoparticles that break down the perchlorate. This saves the beads for reuse and makes them non hazardous. Perchlorate is an important item for military and industrial uses. It can be manmade and occurs naturally. It can be very harmful to human's thyroid gland. As a result there are very strict contamination levels set by the State and Federal government. The discovery is very important for the continued use and protection from perchlorate products. A practical benefit of this discovery is that it can be used in existing water treatment plants without significant modification.

6. **Hayfield Filters:** Ranchers and farmers in Colorado recently financed a study to determine if the farming and grazing methods were helping or hurting water quality in their area. The study was conducted by Colorado State University and some of the farmers admitted they were a little nervous in the event the study showed issues with their methods. One of the big issues was the use of mountain hayfields, large grass filter strips, being placed around their farming and grazing areas. Many of these existed already, but many more were planted. They discovered that these grassy areas reduced sediment and absorbed nutrients and contaminants that would ordinarily find their way into runoff and the water system. Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. Their current crop rotation, mainly corn and soybeans, and existing fertilizer mixes were handled well by the grass strip. They also studied grazing schedules and hay production was properly balanced.

7. **More PFAS:** The strongest bond in organic chemistry is the carbon-flourine bond. This bond is the basis of PFAS molecular structure. A fifth year PhD student, Susanna Maisto, at Yale University, aimed her doctorate at finding a cure for PFAS. After her lead professor told her to go the library to study, she did for 3 years. She developed a reaction of octanol (close to alcohol) with a PFAS molecule which causes it to double in size. In this condition, the molecule is not soluble but can be separated out naturally. This process is designed to be use onsite during the manufacturing process, before entering the water system. This is truly remarkable and being looked at for scaling up and commercial use.

8. **Nepal Flood:** After the Nepal devastation, people were asking if it could happen in California. The short answer is probably not but it could happen in other parts of the world. The Nepal flood has killed over 1000 people with another 4000 still missing. It is believed that rising temperatures, permafrost degrading and faster melting caused the slide. The glacier in question lost 2 million square feet of area and dropped 4000 feet into a narrow valley which fed the Lhende River. It was initially thought to be an earthquake as it registered 5.2 on the Richter scale. The rapid melt caused water to go through cracks in the glacier and form a layer of water underneath it. This allowed it to slide off the hillside. Dead ice was also a cause. Glaciers normally move during their lifespan. Dead ice is caused by lack of water in the ice, which stops its movement. This can cause the glacier to breakup prematurely and create an event like Nepal. There

are over 200,000 glaciers hanging on to mountains around the world. Similar, although not as bad, event have recently occurred in Swiss alps, Italy and India. There are still active glaciers in California. The largest is Palisade Glacier on the eastern Sierras. It is about one tenth the size of the Nepal glacier. While California used to be home to over 100 glaciers around 200 years ago, time and temperature has dramatically reduced that number. At some time in the future they may disappear completely. The risk California faces in the future is flooding from the rapid melting of snow falling in the Sierras. That is the fear from El Nino this winter.

9. **Delta Sediment:** Another report has come out stressing the need for sediment removal in the Delta. The Great Valley Farm Water Partnership is a group of farmers in the San Joaquin Valley. They suggest 7 actions needed to protect and save the Delta: increase southern storage, improve levees, install gates to control flow, improve export system, suppress non-native predators, control invasive weed, but first and foremost silt removal in the south Delta. Silt removal has many advantages: deeper channels reduce water temperature, hinder non-native and invasive activity, salmon would thrive, helps weakened levees survive, reduces flooding chances, reduces risk of salt water contamination, would increase export flow. Before 1970, dredging was a regular occurrence in the Delta and fish and folks got along fine.

10. **More Bark in Parks:** After the legislature passed AB 1572 which put limits on water used for non functional turf, cities and agencies have been taking various approaches. Many cities, including San Jose, will be replacing grass with bark or mulch. San Jose has over 50 parks impacted. They claim this will save water and money. They also stressed that this will not be happening in sports or picnic areas but only in side spots.

11. **EPA/WOTUS:** The EPA is seeking final comments regarding regulations controlling Waters of the United States. Since a 2023 US Supreme Court ruling reducing federal restrictions in these areas, the current administration has been working on regulations to balance property rights and federal water laws. They are trying to make the law more understandable and give more power to tribes and states regarding management of their lands. Final rules should be coming this November. This issue has been very contentious and will continue to be. Stay tuned.

WHITTINGHAM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISORS

TO: MWDOC Board of Directors

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: October 7, 2026

SUBJECT: October 2026 Local Legislative Report

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

- The County Board of Supervisors held a special meeting on September 24 to ratify the proclamation of a local emergency for this year's coastal flooding due to Hurricane Marie and El Niño season and to enable access to resources to address future preventative and repair work. County personnel are working to expedite permitting, connecting cities and residents with procurement vendors for storm response and preparation, and pursuing additional offshore dredging for sand replenishment at beaches countywide. Congressman Mike Levin joined other elected officials and representatives of Orange County Transportation Authority, OC Water District, and OC Public works last week to explore solutions to replenish beaches and provide stronger protection for coastal communities ahead of the upcoming storms.

- The County of Orange has paid out more than $128 million in public settlements since last October, bringing the settlement total to $386 million over the past five years. The Airport Fire, a 23,000-acre wildfire in 2024 that was started after a County Public Works crew accidentally sparked a fire while moving boulders, has resulted in $77 million in settlements this year alone, bringing the total amount of settlements related to the blaze to more than $160 million.

- Irvine Ranch Water District's Board of Directors interviewed four candidates to fill the vacant 1st District seat, which includes portions of Irvine, Lake Forest, Orange, and unincorporated Orange County. The Board ultimately voted to appoint Cindy Miller, a licensed civil engineer and Vice President at Hazen and Sawyer, to the position. Ms. Miller will serve as the Division 1 Director for the remainder of the term, which runs through November 2028.

- Lisa Kim, who has served as Garden Grove City Manager since March, 2023, announced her retirement effective in early November. Assistant City Manager Matt West has been tabbed to succeed her by the Garden Grove City Council; West previously served as City Manager in the City of Tustin. Ms. Kim previously served as

the City's Assistant City Manager, after lengthy service in the cities of Orange, West Covina, and Pomona.

- In addition to Garden Grove, the cities of Anaheim and Placentia are in the midst of considering potential candidates for their respective leadership positions. Since February, Assistant City Manager Greg Garcia has served as Interim City Manager in Anaheim, and longtime Costa Mesa City Manager Tom Hatch is serving as Interim City Administrator in Placentia.

- In San Juan Capistrano, City Manager Ben Siegel, who has served in that position since 2016, announced his plans to retire at the end of the year. The City Council has appointed Assistant City Manager Matisse Reischl to replace Mr. Siegel effective January 1, 2027.

- The Costa Mesa City Council unanimously approved a plan for the former Fairview Developmental Center with 2,300 new homes, 920 of which would be affordable. The Council approval concluded a four-year process that will help the city, which was one of five California cities sued by the State Attorney General for allegedly failing to comply with the Housing Element Law, to meet its state-mandated homebuilding goal of 11,760 new units by 2029. The final plan significantly lowered the amount of housing outlined in the draft land use document previously approved by the Planning Commission, which would have accommodated up to 4,000 units on the 80 acres of the shuttered Center. The Council cited concerns regarding traffic, public safety, and property values related to the impact of 4,000 new dwellings, and an estimated 10,000 new residents, on the surrounding Costa Mesa neighborhoods.

- The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board approved comprehensive new regulations that are intended to reduce pollution in water from storm drains and flood control channels in the Santa Ana River Basin, which covers large parts of Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties. When implemented, the water agency's new regulations, known as the Regional MS4 Permit, will require local government agencies to implement systems to keep trash and other contaminants from polluting the waterway. The Board's 3-1 vote to approve the permit came after hours of discussion and debate regarding the costs viability of compliance; San Bernardino County had commissioned an analysis that indicated the proposed stormwater requirements would cost the county and 16 of its cities $11 billion over the next 20 years. Amanda Carr, deputy director for Orange County Environmental Resources at OC Public Works, said that today's technology and best management practice-related projects would very likely not fully meet the strict bacteria numbers allowable under the new regulations. The regulations are scheduled to take effect in mid-March, 2027.

- GKN Aerospace announced a compensation program of up to $100 million for the 50,000-plus residents and local businesses across six cities who were forced to evacuate over the Memorial Day weekend when a failing chemical tank at the company's Garden Grove plant filled with potentially toxic and volatile methyl methacrylate. GKN has been working in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office and anticipates rolling out the compensation program in early October, along with announcements of community events, phone banks, and the location of a physical location for individuals to come in

and submit claims and obtain information. The program will allow businesses and residents to recoup costs associated with evacuations, including hotel stays, loss of wages, meals, and transportation.

- A number of Orange County cities are examining their zoning and emergency response procedures in response to the GKN event and a chemical leak from a building in La Habra in early September. The Irvine City Council unanimously approved new disclosure requirements for businesses in the city that utilize toxic substances, requiring notifications to residents within a quarter mile, and establishing new zoning restrictions for future businesses. City staff identified more than 1,100 Irvine businesses that work with chemicals but found that just seven rose to the level of needing a risk management plan, meaning they handle "acutely" dangerous chemicals in significant quantities.

- The Newport Beach City Council was ordered by an Orange County Superior Court judge to run a special election concurrent to the November 3 general election. Three resident-initiated ballot measures will appear on the special election ballot, which will be administered by the Newport Beach City Clerk rather than the Orange County Registrar of Voters. The general election ballot in Newport Beach will include the candidates seeking election to City Council, as well as The Responsible Housing Initiative, which if approved would implement a new housing plan that zones for fewer new homes, which could put the city at risk of a lawsuit from the State of California.

- The Board of Supervisors again deferred action on two new 66-year land leases the developer of two proposed hotels in Dana Point Harbor is seeking in order to secure financing. Approval of the leases has been held up by a lack of unanimity regarding protections for employees at the longtime Harbor hotel, the Marina Inn, as well as those at the two proposed hotels. The developer has stated that the repeated delays have eliminated any possibility of having the new hotels ready for the LA 2028 Olympics, which is holding the surfing competition at nearby Lower Trestles, south of San Clemente.

- The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has delayed consideration of proposed Rule 1110.4, which targets emissions from emergency standby generators, until late Q1 or early Q2 of 2027. Much of the discussion centers 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, but the many aging generators that water and wastewater agencies rely on at lift stations and other critical facilities remain a longstanding concern. A September 10 Working Group meeting was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict, and a new date for this meeting has not yet been announced.

- In early September, the Gibby Fire broke out off Ortega Highway in the Rancho Mission Viejo area, ultimately burning roughly 250 acres. Thanks to a helipod in San Juan Capistrano, OCFA helicopters were able to quickly respond to the blaze and prevent the loss of any homes or structures.

- Former Orange County Congresswoman and gubernatorial candidate Katie Porter was appointed to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors by Governor Gavin Newsom. The Board of Governors sets policy and provides guidance for the 73 districts and 116 colleges in the California community college system.

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 09/30/26

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Brief Summary	Position
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	VETOED BY GOVERNOR	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.	VETOED BY GOVERNOR	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.	Support
SB 952	**Laird, D**	State Water Project: renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR	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	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR	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
SB 1125	**Menjivar, D**	Water Rate Assistance Program	VETOED BY GOVERNOR	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
AB 1603	**Schultz, D**	Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): Department of Pesticide Regulation.	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR	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.	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Brief Summary	Position
AB 1752	***Lackey, R***	*Eminent domain: appraisals.*	*Held in 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.*	*Held in 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)*	
AB 1821	**Pacheco, D**	California Public Records Act: agency response time.	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR	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.	VETOED BY GOVERNOR	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)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Brief Summary	Position
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)*	*This bill would expand eligible activities under the local assistance grant program to include projects undertaken by a local governmental entity involving the acquisition or installation of mobile rigid dip tanks or similar mobile and permanent infrastructure that is capable of providing helicopter-accessible water supplies for firefighting response or suppression purposes in very high fire and high fire hazard severity zones, as provided. (Based on 02/12/2026 text)*	
AB 1894	**Rubio, Blanca, D**	Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water.	VETOED BY GOVERNOR	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)*	*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.	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR	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.	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR	The Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act authorizes a project proponent to submit a habitat restoration or enhancement project to the Director of Fish and Wildlife for approval. The act makes moneys in the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Account available to the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes of administering and implementing the act. Existing law repeals the act on January 1, 2027. This bill would extend the operation of the act until January 1, 2032, and would require the department to submit a report on the implementation of the act to the Legislature no later than December 31, 2029. (Based on 04/16/2026 text)	
AB 2218	**Kalra, D**	Water policy: California Native American tribes.	VETOED BY GOVERNOR	Would require the state government to support California Native Americans to maintain cultural and linguistic traditions, practice ecosystem stewardship, and engage in good faith government-to-government consultations with all California Native American tribes regarding policies that may affect tribal communities. (Based on 04/16/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Brief Summary	Position
AB 2381	***Johnson, R***	*Local Agency Public Construction Act: municipal water districts: sanitation districts: lowest responsible bidder.*	*04/23/2026 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was L. GOV. on 3/9/2026)*	*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.	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR	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)	
AB 2619	**Papan, D**	Water resources: data centers.	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR	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)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Brief Summary	Position
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)*	*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)*	
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)*	*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.	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR	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)*	*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	Brief Summary	Position
SB 1085	**Durazo, D**	Water supply planning: housing developments.	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR	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*	*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.	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR	This bill, beginning January 1, 2028, would require all urban retail water suppliers, as defined, serving a high or very high fire hazard severity zone to include incident-specific response procedures for wildfires as part of their disaster preparedness plans, including any applicable emergency response plan as required by federal law. The bill would require these plans to include, among other things, mitigation actions, including actions, procedures, and equipment, that can obviate or significantly lessen the impact of a wildfire on the water system and the supply of drinking water provided by the water supplier. Because violation of these requirements by certain urban retail water suppliers would constitute a misdemeanor, the bill would expand the scope of a crime, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program. (Based on 04/28/2026 text)	
SB 1187	**Durazo, D**	Open meetings: majority.	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR	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
September 14, 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	Chaptered Signed by the Governor, Chapter 89, Statutes of 2026	**Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.** This bill exempts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4) from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which establishes rulemaking procedures and standards for state agencies in California, to expedite funding allocations.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative 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 04/21/2025 Two-Year Bill Dead	**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
September 14, 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 04/10/2025 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.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
September 14, 2026

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1881 **J. Ramos** **(D – Highland)** **Sponsor:** Indigenous Justice	Amended 08/27/2026 Enrolled	**California Indian Freedom Act of 2026** This bill requires all state governmental agencies, with the exception of the State Water Resources Control Board, to allow California Native American tribes to access sacred sites located on state lands for the exercise of their religious beliefs or spiritual practices, except as necessary to protect public safety and security. 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 interest; and (2) the least restrictive means of furthering that interest. California tribes would also have standing in any court or administrative proceeding to enforce this prohibition.	**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. 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 state lands exemption language.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 1894 **B. Rubio** **(D - City of Industry)** **Sponsors:** Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	Passed in Senate 08/17/2026 Enrolled	**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.	**Support** Based on July 2026 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 2032 **R. Ransom** **(D – Stockton)** **Sponsor:** San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority	Amended 08/13/2026 Enrolled	**Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: golden mussels** This bill would exempt a public or private entity that operates a water supply system from certain California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) invasive mussel permitting requirements until CDFW approves or denies the agency's control plan. This bill also requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the State Water Resources Control Board to quickly and efficiently respond to the threat of golden mussels.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	AB 2032 is an urgency measure that will help California water agencies respond rapidly and effectively to the growing threat posed by invasive mussels. Invasive mussels can spread quickly through water conveyance systems, threatening critical water infrastructure, water supply reliability, water quality, and aquatic ecosystems. AB 2032 provides water agencies with the regulatory flexibility necessary to implement invasive mussel control plans without unnecessary permitting delays while maintaining coordination with state regulatory agencies.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2218 **A. Kalra** **(D – San Jose)** **Sponsors:** Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Karuk Tribe.	Amended 07/02/2026 Enrolled	**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 beneficial 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. The bill creates a mediation process managed by the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs should a dispute between a California Native American tribe and one of those state agencies arise over the implementation of this policy. It also requires the State Water Resources Control Board to consult with California Native American tribes when investigating water rights on tribal ancestral lands.	**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. 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.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2215 **L. Calderon** **(D – Whittier)** **Sponsor:** State Water Contractors	Amended 04/16/2026 Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee Dead	**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.
AB 2739 **E. Soria** **(D – Merced)** **Sponsors**: Irvine Ranch Water District, Rancho California Water District	Amended 08/21/2026 Enrolled	**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 Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program and a system stabilization fund that can be used when funding is identified. This bill would support ratepayer affordability for our member agency retailers and also includes a fund that supports local infrastructure projects, which could be used to support upgrades to Metropolitan's water supply system and reductions in energy costs.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 601 **B. Allen** **(D – Santa Monica)** **Sponsors:** California Coastkeeper Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife	Amended 07/10/2025 Dead	**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 statutory protections 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 08/13/2026 Enrolled	**Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.** This bill would establish the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund in the State Treasury and require funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be provided 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, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be provided to DWR for levee improvements that would improve the sustainability of local or state water supplies, and projects that improve instream, riparian, flood plain, and wetland habitat.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative Priorities and Principles.	Appropriations to the proposed fund would help offset the capital costs of subsidence repairs and could reduce State Water Project (SWP) charges to contractors. The total cost of SWP subsidence repairs is estimated at $3 billion. Subsidence in the Central Valley has been caused by decades of overpumping of groundwater and was not caused by Metropolitan or the State Water Contractors. However, in the absence of state and federal funding, the costs for these critical repairs will be shifted to our agencies. Appropriations for improvements to levees within the Delta and other actions to t improve instream, riparian, floodplain, and wetland habitat could benefit Metropolitan directly by providing additional funding streams for levee improvements along district properties and indirectly through improvements within the Delta region.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
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Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 935 **S. Choi** **(R – Irvine)**	Chaptered Signed by the Governor, Chapter 102, Statutes of 2026	**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.
SB 952 **J. Laird** **(D – Santa Cruz)** **Sponsor:** State Water Contractors	Amended 08/06/2026 Chaptered Signed by the Governor, Chapter 175, Statutes of 2026.	**State Water Project: renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources.** Existing law mandates that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) achieve a power portfolio that consists of 100% of renewable and zero-carbon energy by 2035. This bill would require DWR to also consider portfolio diversity, resource type, location, and hours of typical peak operation when procuring eligible resources to satisfy state agency obligations imposed on the State Water Project; and allow DWR to shift energy credits from one year to the next if DWR procures more energy than necessary in a given year.	**Support** Based on 2026 Legislative 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.
SB 1125 **C. Menjivar** **(D – San Fernando Valley)** **Sponsors:** Clean Water Action, Community Water Center, Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability.	Amended 08/19/2026 Enrolled	**Water Rate Assistance Program.** This bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Program and the Water Rate Assistance 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. The bill also allows the State Board to move forward with a partial implementation of the program if they determine that the Legislature appropriated enough money for a partial program.	**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 (Soria) 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
September 14, 2026

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
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 Dead	**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
October 7, 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

Water transactions for September 2026 (for water delivered in July 2026) totaled 104.4 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 26.0 TAF lower than the budget of 130.4 TAF. This translates to $127.3 million in receipts for September 2026, which were $30.5 million lower than the budget of $157.7 million.

Year-to-date water transactions through September 2026 (for water delivered in May 2026 through July 2026) were 288.3 TAF, which was 30.4 TAF lower than the budget of 318.7 TAF.

Year-to-date water receipts through September 2026 were $349.4 million, which was $58.1 million lower than the budget of $407.5 million.

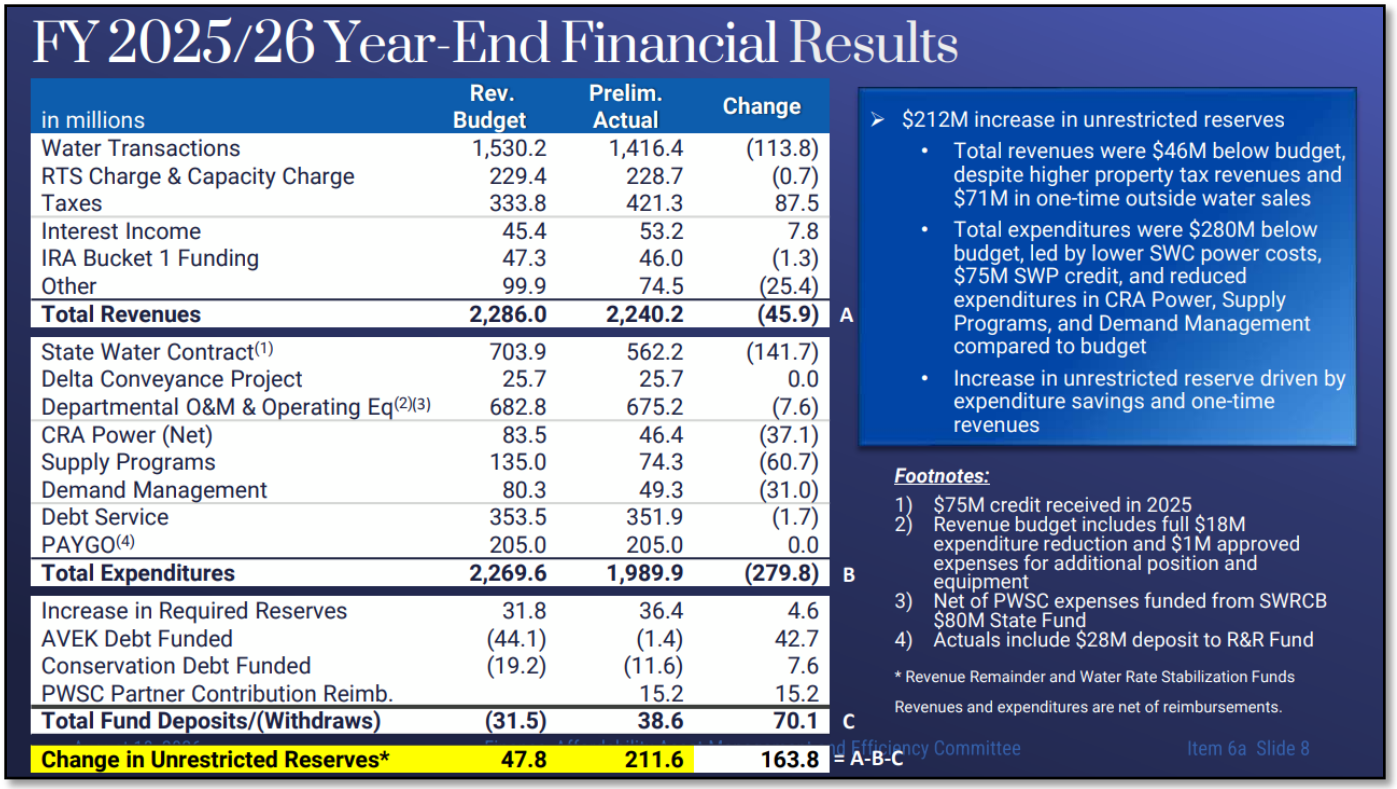
FY 2026/27 Cash Water Transactions and Revenues Budget vs Actual (Preliminary, subject to change)

Month		Acre-Feet (AF)[1]		Variance		Revenue ($)[2]		Variance	
Delivered/Billed In	To be Collected in	Budget	Actual	AF	%	Budget	Actual	$	%
May	July	88,007	84,117	(3,890)	-4%	106,807,407	103,829,443	(2,977,964)	-3%
June	August [3]	100,273	99,781	(493)	0%	142,982,093	118,312,931	(24,669,161)	-17%
July	September [3]	130,405	104,360	(26,045)	-20%	157,742,188	127,282,698	(30,459,490)	-19%
YTD Total		**318,685**	**288,258**	**(30,428)**	**-10%**	**407,531,688**	**349,425,072**	**(58,106,615)**	**-14%**
August	October	122,166	-	-	0%	149,863,472	-	-	0%
September	November	113,796	-	-	0%	137,073,826	-	-	0%
October	December	109,682	-	-	0%	130,180,190	-	-	0%
November	January	125,222	-	-	0%	144,965,566	-	-	0%
December	February	95,061	-	-	0%	110,082,797	-	-	0%
January	March	76,566	-	-	0%	87,818,744	-	-	0%
February	April	71,831	-	-	0%	81,557,218	-	-	0%
March	May	77,425	-	-	0%	88,368,140	-	-	0%
April	Jun	99,692	-	-	0%	114,539,881	-	-	0%
FY Total		**1,210,126**	**288,258**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**1,451,981,521**	**349,425,072**	**N/A**	**N/A**

[1] AF reflected does not include non-member agency transactions.
[2] Includes Water Sales, Exchanges, and Wheeling for member agencies and non-member agencies.
[3] Information is presented on an accrual basis net of 2026 RCP delivery transactions; corresponding cash data is not yet available.

End of Fiscal Year 2025-26 Summary

At Metropolitan's Finance, Affordability, Asset Management, and Efficiency Committee meeting in August, Metropolitan staff presented unaudited, cash-basis financial results for Fiscal Year 2025-26, covering July 2025 through June 2026. The report compares year-end results with the adopted budget and summarizes the main factors driving significant revenue and expenditure variances.



FY 2025/26 Year-End Financial Results

in millions	Rev. Budget	Prelim. Actual	Change	
Water Transactions	1,530.2	1,416.4	(113.8)	
RTS Charge & Capacity Charge	229.4	228.7	(0.7)	
Taxes	333.8	421.3	87.5	
Interest Income	45.4	53.2	7.8	
IRA Bucket 1 Funding	47.3	46.0	(1.3)	
Other	99.9	74.5	(25.4)	
Total Revenues	**2,286.0**	**2,240.2**	**(45.9)**	A
State Water Contract[1]	703.9	562.2	(141.7)	
Delta Conveyance Project	25.7	25.7	0.0	
Departmental O&M & Operating Eq[2][3]	682.8	675.2	(7.6)	
CRA Power (Net)	83.5	46.4	(37.1)	
Supply Programs	135.0	74.3	(60.7)	
Demand Management	80.3	49.3	(31.0)	
Debt Service	353.5	351.9	(1.7)	
PAYGO[4]	205.0	205.0	0.0	
Total Expenditures	**2,269.6**	**1,989.9**	**(279.8)**	B
Increase in Required Reserves	31.8	36.4	4.6	
AVEK Debt Funded	(44.1)	(1.4)	42.7	
Conservation Debt Funded	(19.2)	(11.6)	7.6	
PWSC Partner Contribution Reimb.		15.2	15.2	
Total Fund Deposits/(Withdraws)	**(31.5)**	**38.6**	**70.1**	C
Change in Unrestricted Reserves*	**47.8**	**211.6**	**163.8**	= A-B-C

- $212M increase in unrestricted reserves
  - Total revenues were $46M below budget, despite higher property tax revenues and $71M in one-time outside water sales
  - Total expenditures were $280M below budget, led by lower SWC power costs, $75M SWP credit, and reduced expenditures in CRA Power, Supply Programs, and Demand Management compared to budget
  - Increase in unrestricted reserve driven by expenditure savings and one-time revenues

Footnotes:

1) $75M credit received in 2025
2) Revenue budget includes full $18M expenditure reduction and $1M approved expenses for additional position and equipment
3) Net of PWSC expenses funded from SWRCB $80M State Fund
4) Actuals include $28M deposit to R&R Fund

* Revenue Remainder and Water Rate Stabilization Funds

Revenues and expenditures are net of reimbursements.

d Efficiency Committee Item 6a Slide 8

ISSUE BRIEF B

SUBJECT: Metropolitan's Supply Condition Update

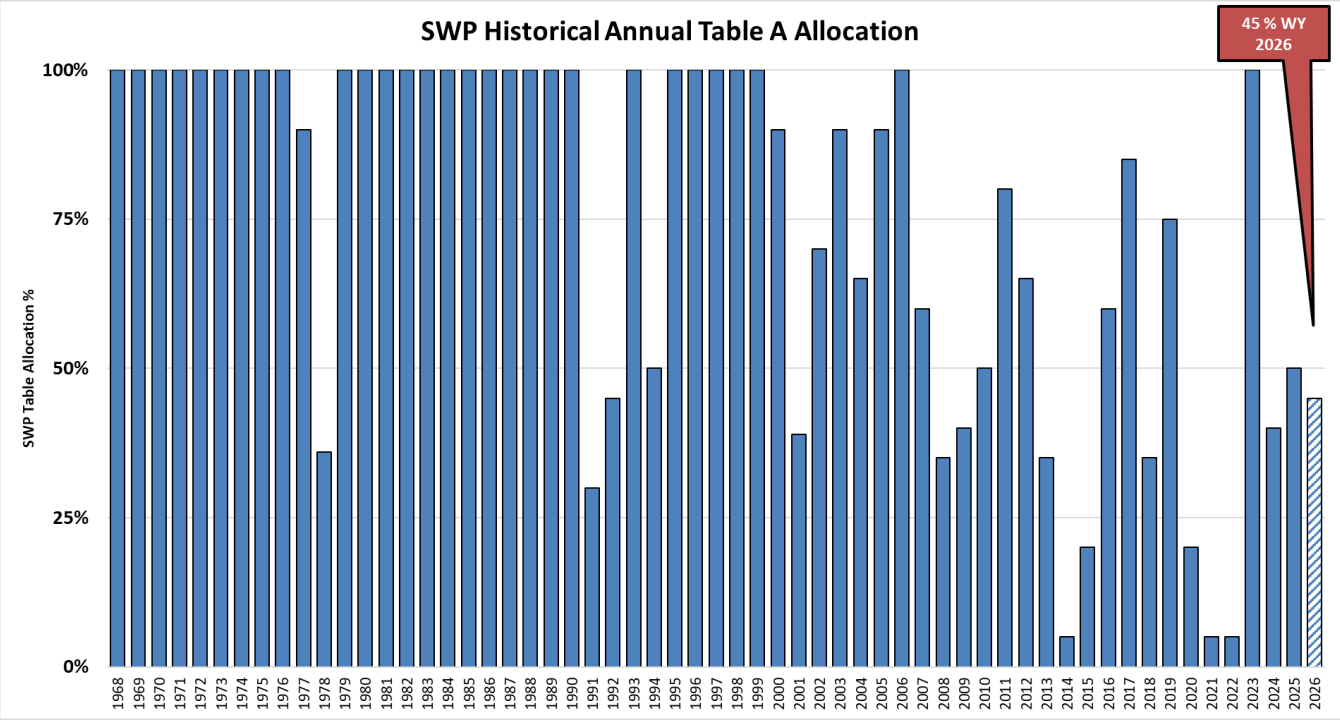
RECENT ACTIVITY

The 2025-26 Water Year (WY) officially started on October 1, 2025. Thus far, Northern California accumulated precipitation (8-Station Index) reported ***51.6 inches or 103% of normal as of September 29.*** 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 ***26.8 inches, or 91% of normal, as of September 29***. 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 the writing of this report, the 5-year Probabilistic Projections for Lake Mead have not been published for August 2026. 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 September 28, Lake Oroville storage is at ***48% of total capacity and 86% of normal.*** Additionally, as of September, San Luis Reservoir is at ***72% of its total capacity and is 169% of normal.***

With CY 2026 estimated total demands and losses of 1.493 million acre-feet (MAF) and a 45% SWP Table A Allocation, Metropolitan projects that supply will exceed demand 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***.*** Regional water demand is at a 40-year low. **However, *with the majority of Metropolitan's water supplies stored in Lake Mead, which still projects a five-year shortage, considerable uncertainty remains about future supply balances. As of August, the Department of the Interior released a 10-year management framework that includes 880,000 acre-feet (AF) of cutbacks to California over the next 2 years. On August 24, the State of Nevada became the first state to sue the Department of the Interior over the new Colorado River operating rules.***


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

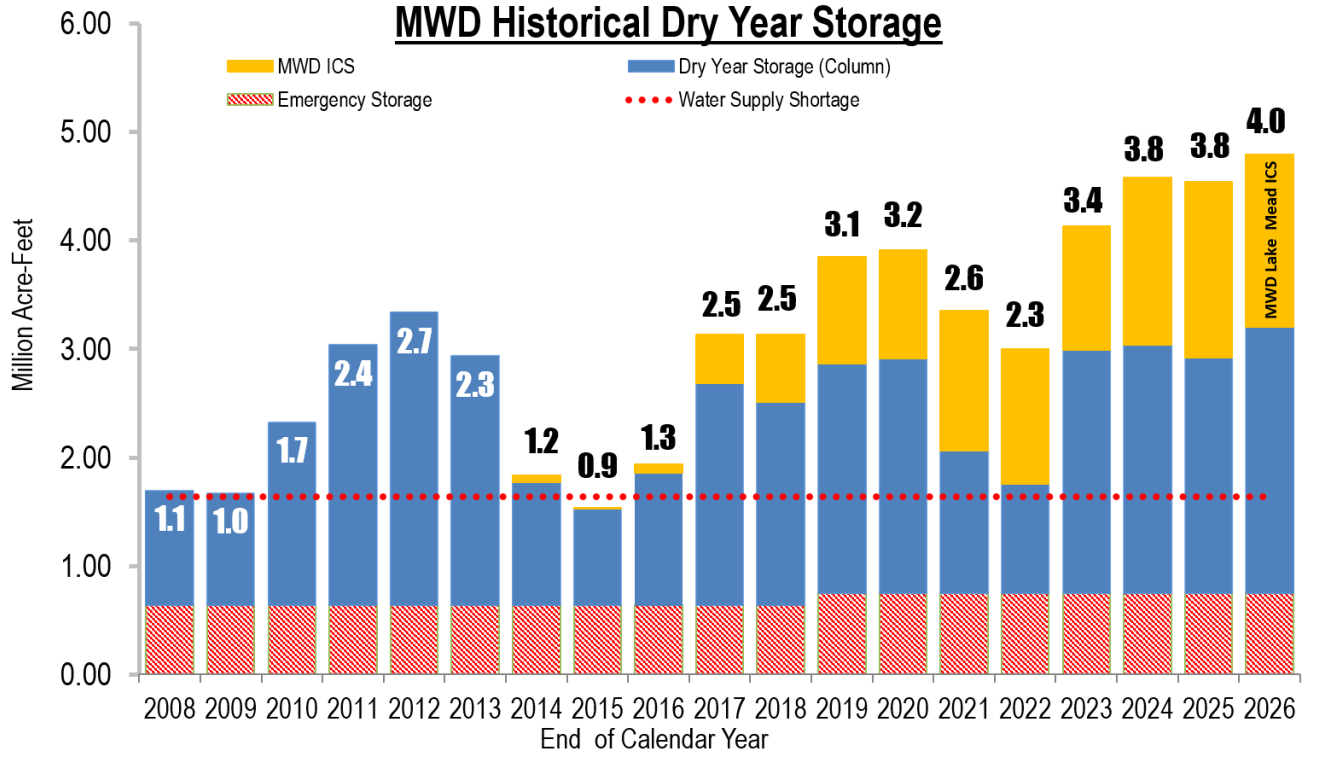

MWD Historical Dry Year Storage
MWD ICS
Dry Year Storage (Column)
Emergency Storage
Water Supply Shortage
Million Acre-Feet
6.00
5.00
4.00
3.00
2.00
1.00
0.00
1.1
1.0
1.7
2.4
2.7
2.3
1.2
0.9
1.3
2.5
2.5
3.1
3.2
2.6
2.3
3.4
3.8
3.8
4.0
MWD Lake Mead ICS
2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026
End of Calendar Year

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.

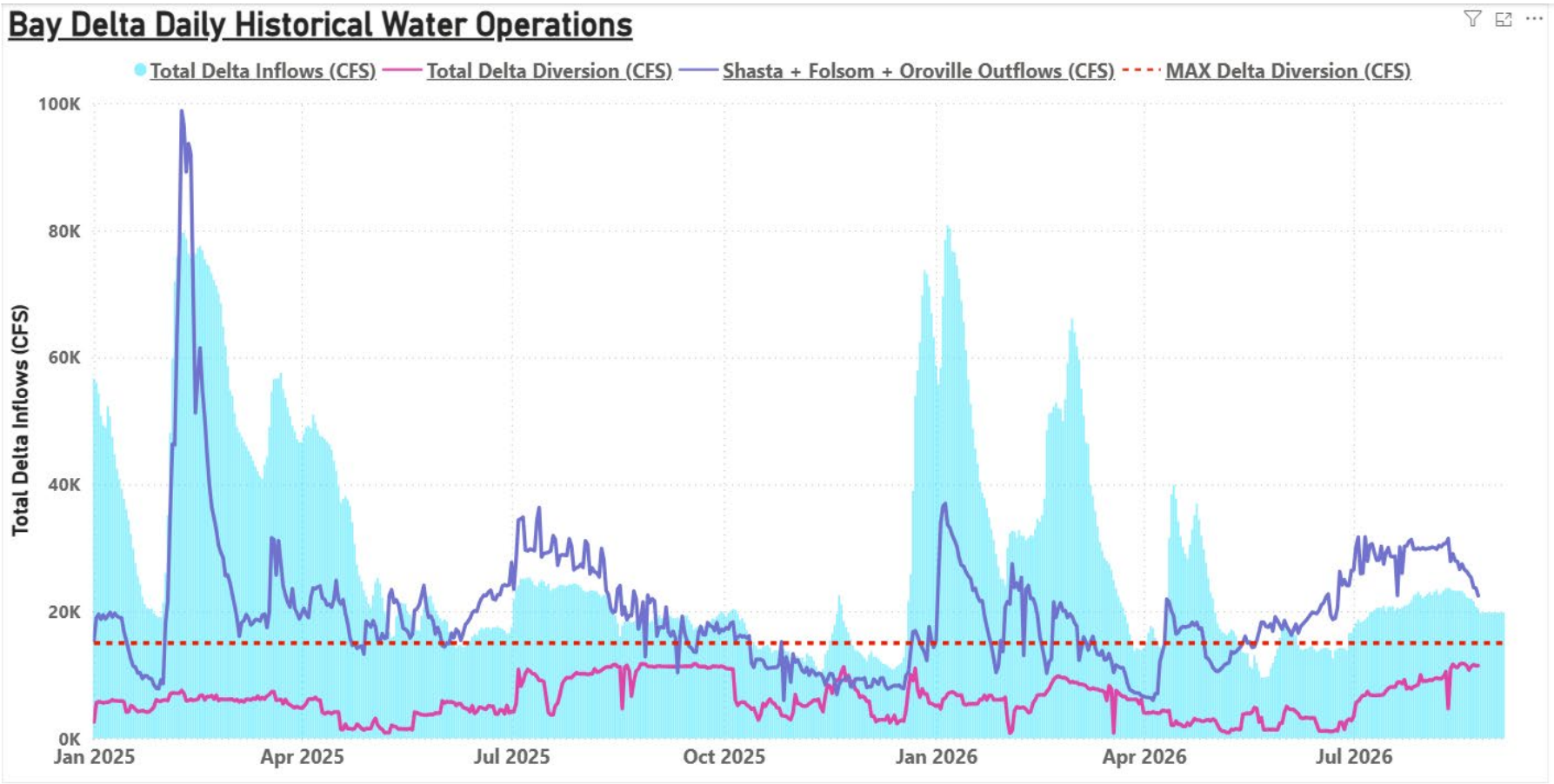
[4] Take capacity is based on planned maintenance activities and the current CRA supply estimate.

[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
Total Delta Inflows (CFS)
Total Delta Diversion (CFS)
Shasta + Folsom + Oroville Outflows (CFS)
MAX Delta Diversion (CFS)
100K
80K
60K
40K
20K
0K
Total Delta Inflows (CFS)
Jan 2025
Apr 2025
Jul 2025
Oct 2025
Jan 2026
Apr 2026
Jul 2026
DATE
1/1/2025
9/4/2026

ISSUE BRIEF C

SUBJECT: Metropolitan's Water Quality Update

RECENT ACTIVITY

Water System Operations

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were projected to be 136,700 acre-feet (AF) for August with an average of 4,410 AF per day. Treated water deliveries were projected to be 75,040 AF, or 55 percent of total deliveries for the month. In July 2026, member agency water deliveries were 121,500 AF and treated deliveries were 69,060 AF. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) diversions were projected to be 85,000 AF in August. SWP imports averaged 2,220 AF per day, totaling about 68,800 AF for the month. The target SWP blend is 5 percent at the Weymouth and Diemer plants for DWR's Copper Treatment Pilot test in the Rialto Pipeline. The copper treatment pilot test will last for six weeks. To help manage SWP supplies, the target SWP blend is 50 percent at the Skinner plant.

By starting 2026 with another record storage level of over 3.8 million AF, Metropolitan has sufficient imported supplies and storage to meet demands in 2026. Water continues to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management principles and operational objectives with an emphasis on positioning SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP-dependent area. On May 15, 2026, DWR increased the SWP allocation to 45 percent. Metropolitan is managing the use of Table A and carryover supplies to guard against potential drought conditions.

The SWP target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants decreased from 20 percent to approximately zero percent in August, to support system optimization and an invasive mussel control pilot treatment for the Rialto Pipeline. The SWP target blend entering Lake Skinner increased from 35 percent to 50 percent in August. Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from July 2025 through June 2026 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of SWP and CRA supplies were 461 mg/L, 461 mg/L, and 482 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

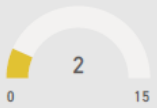
Weekly Operations Plan

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

09/24/2026 - 10/01/2026

Colorado River Aqueduct:
6-pump flow

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



Total Member Agency Demands
3,520 AF/Day

Change in Member Agency Demands*
▼ -60 AF/Day

Forecast
September
Deliveries to Member Agencies
112 TAF

East Branch SPW Imports

Rialto Pipeline	460 AF/day	▲
Santa Ana Valley Pipeline	150 AF/day	▶
Inland Feeder	1250 AF/day	▼

West Branch SPW Imports

Castaic Lake	850 AF/day	▶
SCVWA (formerly CLWA)	60 AF/day	▼

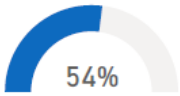
Water Quality

Plant Name	Targeted Blend (% SPW) As of 9/23/2026	TDS (mg/L) As of 9/23/2026	TTHMs (µg/L) As of 8/17/2026
Weymouth	5	597	34
Diemer	5	579	34
Skinner	50	426	22
Jensen	100	311	13
Mills	100	164	22

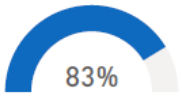
Terminal Reservoirs

as of 9/24/2026

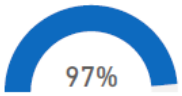
Lake Mathews
98,200 AF
▼ -2,390 AF*



Lake Skinner
36,300 AF
▲ 80 AF*



Diamond Valley Lake
786,100 AF
▲ 2,670 AF*



** = data from 9/17/2026*

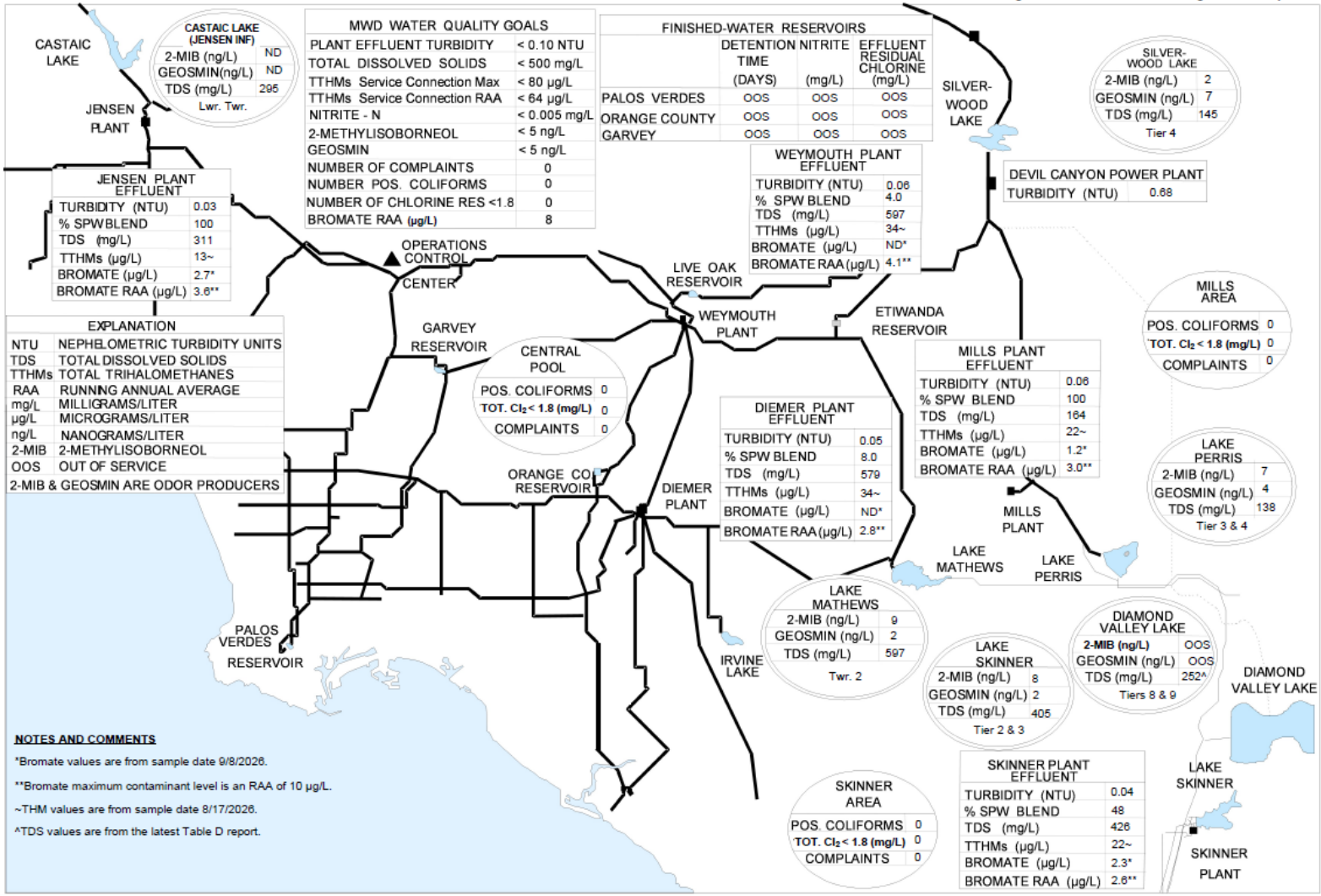
Weekly Water Quality System Status

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Generated On:9/23/2026 2:35:01 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 9/8/2026.

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

~THM values are from sample date 8/17/2026.

^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

U.S. Department of the Interior Finalizes Plans for 2027-2028 Colorado River Operations

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior) issued the post-2026 Record of Decision and the 2027–2028 Operating Guidelines on August 21. This is a major milestone, but it does not complete the work needed to implement operations beginning in 2027.

The Record of Decision establishes a ten-year decision framework through 2036. It sets broad principles and operational sideboards, including ranges for Lake Powell releases, Lower Basin reductions, and storage of conserved water, but does not establish a single operating regime for the full ten-year period. Instead, Interior generally will issue operating guidelines in two-year increments, with implementation through the annual operating plan.

The first set of guidelines establishes operations for 2027 and 2028. It provides for annual Lake Powell releases that respond to reservoir elevations and infrastructure risk. For Lake Mead, the guidelines determine a shortage condition and reduce Lower Basin consumptive use by 1.25 million acre-feet (AF) per year. Under the contemplated Lower Basin agreement, Arizona would be reduced by 760,000 AF, California by 440,000 AF, and Nevada by 50,000 AF, leaving 3.96 million AF available for use in California. The guidelines also contemplate an additional 700,000 AF of voluntary Lower Basin system conservation over 2026 through 2028. (2027–2028 Operating Guidelines).

Those provisions depend on the completion of a Lower Basin implementation agreement. Metropolitan staff will be directly involved in negotiating that agreement, as well as the separate arrangements needed to implement California's reduction. The agreement must address not only allocation of the reductions, but also accounting, forbearance, Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) administration, and protection of the parties' rights under the Law of the River.

For Metropolitan, the 2027-2028 Operating Guidelines continue the ICS program and allow California contractors to deliver up to 400,000 AF of ICS annually. When Lake Mead is between elevations 1,025 and 1,000 feet, however, delivery requests are subject to consultation and may be reduced or denied if the delivery would cause the reservoir to fall below 1,000 feet. No ICS may be delivered in a year when the January 1 elevation is below 1,000 feet. This improves access to stored water under low-reservoir conditions, but it does not provide Metropolitan with unconditional access.

If the Lower Basin parties do not complete an implementation agreement, the specific allocation of the 1.25 million acre-foot reduction will not take effect. Interior instead will consult with the Lower Basin states and contractors and determine the apportionment under what it considers to be the applicable Law of the River. The federal documents therefore provide a path for operating the system, but they leave several consequential legal and implementation issues to the agreements now being negotiated.

ISSUE BRIEF E

SUBJECT: Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

RECENT ACTIVITY

Delta Conveyance Project

On July 24, 2026, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) submitted a revised certification of consistency with the Delta Plan. The revised certification addresses the two issues the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) remanded to DWR this spring after hearing ten appeals of the original certification. The revised certification is currently in a 30-day appeal period which ends August 24, 2026. The Council then has 60 days to hold an appeal hearing, after which the Council must issue a written determination within 60 days. Based on this, the appeal process is expected to be completed in December 2026.

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

The Notice to Proceed for the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project was issued to Wood Brothers on August 11, 2026. An agricultural lease between Metropolitan and Martini Companies, LLC for Webb Tract was fully executed on July 24, 2026.

Metropolitan staff met with the Wildlife Conservation Board to discuss submitting an approximately $9,000,000 grant application to bridge the funding gap for the approved Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project, and to fund design and construction of recirculation pumps. These recirculation pumps will reduce overall water diversion on the island by applying tailwater from the rice fields on the wetlands.

The submission deadline for leasing farmland on Bouldin Island was August 7. There were six qualified respondents. Interviews will be conducted with the highest-ranked candidates. Lease negotiations with the highest-ranked candidate are expected to commence the first week of September 2026.

Metropolitan staff have executed the access agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the access and operation of the Bouldin Island Demonstration Project. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), USFWS, and Metropolitan, agreeing to support Delta smelt supplementation activities through advancing captive rearing strategies.

Metropolitan staff, in coordination with USFWS and USBR, presented the developments of the Bouldin Island Demonstration Project (Project) to the Culture and Propagation Work Group (CPWG). The Project is the demonstration facility for the aquaculture of Delta smelt on Bouldin Island. The CPWG is the state and federal coordination body that oversees the implementation of the aquaculture and propagation into the wild of the Delta

smelt. The Project has begun assembly. Operations are currently planned for December 2026.

Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan)

On August 19, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released the revised final draft of the Bay-Delta Plan for a 30-day public review period with comments due September 18, 2026. The SWRCB will consider adopting the updated Bay-Delta Plan at a public hearing on October 28-29, 2026. This Bay-Delta Plan is intended to include the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes program, where participating water users can meet the Bay-Delta Plan objectives through a combination of flow, habitat actions, science, and adaptive management rather than a requirement to release a portion of unimpaired flows.

Summary Report for
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Board Meeting
September 15, 2026

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

Approved Committee Assignments:

Appointed Director Barrera to the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee, the One Water and Adaptation Committee, and the Ethics Committee. **(Agenda Item 6B)**

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

Awarded a $782,917 procurement contract to Ross Valve Manufacturing Company for an 18-inch conical plug valve for Service Connection B-01. **(Agenda Item 7-1)**

Authorized the General Manager to amend the Project Labor Agreement to add one new project and approved the amended Project Labor Agreement's use as a bid condition for the newly added project. **(Agenda Item 7-2)**

Reviewed and considered the Lead Agency's approved Negative Declaration and take related CEQA actions; and adopted a resolution for the 118th Fringe Area Annexation concurrently to Eastern Municipal Water District and Metropolitan **(Agenda Item 7-3)**

Authorized an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Thompson Coburn LLP for legal advice on state and federal energy regulatory and contractual matters by $400,000 to a maximum amount payable of $1,000,000. **(Agenda Item 7-4)**

Authorized the general manager to enter into a funding agreement with the California Department of Water Resources for an invasive mussel mitigation pilot treatment in the Rialto Pipeline. **(Agenda Item 7-5)**

Authorize proposed changes to the Coordinated Operating, Water Storage, Exchange and Delivery Agreement with the Municipal Water District of Orange County and Irvine Ranch Water District. **(Agenda Item 7-6)**

OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

Awarded a $42,710,530.01 construction contract to Mountain Cascade Inc. to rehabilitate the circulating water and sump discharge piping systems at the Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. **(Agenda Item 8-1)**

a. Authorized an increase of $172,849,771 to an existing design-build agreement with J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of $276,209,771 to authorize Phase 2B of the Sepulveda Pump Stations project;
b. Authorized an increase of $1.59 million to an existing agreement with Carollo Engineers Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of $4.89 million to serve as the owner's advisor; and
c. Authorized an increase of $857,000 to an existing agreement with Parametrix Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of $1.402 million for cost estimating and scheduling services. **(Agenda Item 8-2)**

Amended the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code concerning review of matters for the naming of facilities, and amended the criteria, policies, and procedures for the naming of facilities. **(Agenda Item 8-3)**

Moved to defer action until January 2027. **(Agenda Item 8-4)**

Declined to take a position on Proposition 45. **(Agenda Item 8-5)**

Approve a limited waiver of the Brown Act closed session privilege regarding the closed session meeting of the Organization, Personnel, and Effectiveness Committee on October 14, 2025 for the limited purpose of disclosing pertinent ethics investigation information and materials (1) in a board letter and its attachments for the Executive Committee's consideration of action pursuant to Administrative Code Sections 7416(d) and 7432(b)(1); (2) during the September 2026 Executive Committee meeting to discuss and consider taking action on the item pursuant to Administrative Code section 7432(b)(1); and (3) in connection with a mandatory referral to the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) pursuant to Administrative Code Sections 7416(d) and 7433 and as also may be requested by the FPPC in addressing the matter, with the understanding that Metropolitan directors and staff may disclose information from the closed session to the FPPC and the FPPC may use and disclose information and materials publicly in accordance with its procedures. **(Agenda Item 8-6)**

Approved option 1, as amended, and directed in closed session. **(Agenda Item 8-8)**

Authorized an increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services in *Adel Hagekhalil v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California et al.,* with Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in the amount of $350,000 for a total amount not to exceed $600,000. **(Agenda Item 8-9)**

Approved the Reopener Agreement and a one-year extension with AFSCME. **(Agenda Item 8-10)**

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

October 13, 2026

2:30 PM

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 Meeting Schedule
08:30 a.m. FAAME 10:30 a.m. LEGAL 12:00 p.m. BREAK 12:30 p.m. OPE 02:30 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
Cal Water Office • 341 N. Delaware Street • San Mateo, CA 94401

Boardroom

* 10132026 Board of Directors Translated Agendas **21623**

Attachments: 10132026 BOD Agenda - Armenian
10132026 BOD Agenda - Chinese Mandarin
10132026 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: TBD

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 **21-6237**

B. Chair's Monthly Activity Report **21-6238**

C. General Manager's summary of activities **21-6239**

D. General Counsel's summary of activities **21-6240**

E. General Auditor's summary of activities **21-6228**

F. Ethics Officer's summary of activities **21-6229**

G. Report from Executive Committee on nominations for Board Chair **21-6308**

H. 2026 One Water Awards Recipients Recognition **21-6227**

**** CONSENT CALENDAR ****

6. BOARD CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors held on July 14, 2026, August 18, 2026, and September 15, 2026, and of the Special Joint Meeting of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors held on August 25, 2026 **21-6241**

B. Approve Committee Assignments **21-6242**

C. Nomination and Election for Board Chair for two-year term effective January 1, 2027 **21-6231**

7. BOARD LETTERS CONSENT

7-1 Award a $374,450 contract to The Quality Plus Group to replace the fuel dispensing system at the Hinds Pumping Plant; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-6235**

Attachments: 10132026 EOT 7-1 B-L

7-2 Authorize an increase of $1.4 million to an agreement with IDS Group Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of $1.8 million for final design to rehabilitate the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-6236**

Attachments: 10132026 EOT 7-2 B-L

7-3 Authorize an amendment to agreement number 231033 with Occu-Med, LTD to provide medical screenings and exams to increase the maximum annual amount from $249,000 to $450,000 per calendar year, not to exceed the five-year limit in the original contract; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (OPE) **21-6298**

7-4 Authorize an increase of $100,000, to an amount not to exceed $700,000, for a contract for legal services with Hanson Bridgett LLP to provide legal advice on deferred compensation plans, other employee benefits, taxes, and CalPERS matters; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (LC) **21-6256**

Attachments: 10132026 LC 7-4 B-L

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

8. BOARD LETTERS ACTION

8-1 Authorize agreements with HDR Inc., Tetra Tech, Geosyntec Consultants Inc. and Arcadis U.S. Inc., in amounts not to exceed $3 million each, in support of board-authorized Capital Investment Plan projects; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-6233**

Attachments: 10132026 EOT 8-1 B-L

8-2 Award a $14,475,037 contract to Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. to replace the canal concrete liner at 25 locations along the Colorado River Aqueduct; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) **21-6234**

8-3 Adopt Ordinance No. 153 determining that the interests of Metropolitan require the use of revenue bonds in the aggregate principal amount of $500 million to finance a portion of capital expenditures, and waive the full reading of Ordinance No. 153 (two-thirds vote of the Board); the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (FAAME) **21-6250**

8-4 Adopt the Twenty-Seventh Supplemental Resolution to the Master Bond Resolution authorizing the issuance of up to $600 million of Water Revenue and Refunding Bonds, 2026 Series A; providing the terms and conditions for the sale and issuance of the Bonds; and approve expenditures to fund the costs of issuance of the Bonds; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (FAAME) **21-6251**

8-5 Adopt the Fifth Supplemental Resolution to the Master Subordinate Resolution authorizing the issuance of up to $300 million of Subordinate Water Revenue Bonds, 2026 Series B; providing the terms and conditions for the sale and issuance of the Bonds; and approve expenditures to fund the costs of issuance of the Bonds; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (FAAME) **21-6252**

8-6 Approve and authorize the distribution of Appendix A for use in the issuance and remarketing of Metropolitan's Bonds; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (FAAME) **21-6249**

8-7 Authorize a two-year agreement with Electric & Gas Industries Association to administer Metropolitan's regional consumer conservation incentive programs for a not to exceed amount of $4,200,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (OWA) **21-6266**

8-8 PLACEHOLDER (LC) **21-6301**

9. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-1 Information on Metropolitan's application to the State of California's Instream Flow Water Purchase Program (OWA) **21-6268**

Attachments: 10132026 OWA 9-1 B-L

9-2 Information on extending agreements with (1) Bard Water District and farmers within Bard Unit, and with (2) the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land fallowing related to the Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program and the Quechan Seasonal Fallowing Program, respectively, for years 2027 to 2028 (OWA) **21-6269**

9-3 Information on proposed amendment of exchange agreement with Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District (OWA) **21-6267**

Attachments: 10132026 OWA 9-3 B-L

10. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

12. 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.