

MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
Jointly with the
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
September 21, 2020, 8:30 a.m.

Due to the spread of COVID-19 and as authorized by the Governor's Executive Order, MWDOC will be holding all upcoming Board and Committee meetings by Zoom Webinar and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as follows:

Computer Audio: You can join the Zoom meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/8828665300>

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Webinar ID:	882 866 5300#

Committee:

Director Yoo Schneider, Chair
Director McVicker
Director Dick

Staff: R. Hunter, K. Seckel, H. Baez,
D. Micalizzi, T. Dubuque, T. Baca

Ex Officio Member: Director Tamaribuchi

MWDOC Committee meetings are noticed and held as joint meetings of the Committee and the entire Board of Directors and all members of the Board of Directors may attend and participate in the discussion. Each Committee has designated Committee members, and other members of the Board are designated alternate committee members. If less than a quorum of the full Board is in attendance, the Board meeting will be adjourned for lack of a quorum and the meeting will proceed as a meeting of the Committee with those Committee members and alternate members in attendance acting as the Committee.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public comments on agenda items and items under the jurisdiction of the Committee should be made at this time.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED - Determine there is a need to take immediate action on item(s) and that the need for action came to the attention of the District subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. (Requires a unanimous vote of the Committee)

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING --

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than seventy-two (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 Web site, accessible at <http://www.mwdoc.com>.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES
 - a. Federal Legislative Report (Barker)
 - b. State Legislative Report (BBK)
 - c. County Legislative Report (Lewis)

- d. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)
 - e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix
 - f. Metropolitan Legislative Matrix
- 2. DISTRICT WEBSITE ENHANCEMENTS - SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION (SEO)
 - 3. MWDOC LEGISLATIVE POLICY PRINCIPLES ANNUAL UPDATE

INFORMATION ITEMS (THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY – BACKGROUND INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE PACKET. DISCUSSION IS NOT NECESSARY UNLESS REQUESTED BY A DIRECTOR.)

- 4. SCHOOL PROGRAMS UPDATE
- 5. OC WATER SUMMIT UPDATE
- 6. VIRTUAL WATER POLICY FORUM - SEPTEMBER 23, 2020
- 7. PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES REPORT

OTHER ITEMS

- 8. REVIEW ISSUES RELATED TO LEGISLATION, OUTREACH, PUBLIC INFORMATION ISSUES, AND MET

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: At the discretion of the Committee, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated, and may be subject to action by the Committee. On those items designated for Board action, the Committee reviews the items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors; final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Agendas for Committee and Board meetings may be obtained from the District Secretary.

Members of the public are advised that the Board consideration process includes consideration of each agenda item by one or more Committees indicated on the Board Action Sheet. Attendance at Committee meetings and the Board meeting considering an item consequently is advised.

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 telephoning Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary, at (714) 963-3058, or writing to Municipal Water District of Orange County at P.O. Box 20895, Fountain Valley, CA 92728. 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.

Barker Leavitt

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1050 THOMAS JEFFERSON STREET, NW
FIFTH FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20007
(202) 293-4064
www.barkerleavitt.com

James C. Barker
Ryan Leavitt

*Municipal Water District of Orange County, California
Washington Update
September 15, 2020*

As Congress approaches a fiscal cliff on September 30th a deal in principle for a short-term stopgap spending bill through the November Election has been reached; Bipartisan Deal on an Additional COVID-19 Relief Package Appears Out of Reach for Now

As the end of Congress' fiscal year approaches at the end of September, as we have long expected, Congress has officially run out of time to finalize the appropriations process for FY21 in regular order. Congressional Leaders and the White House have reportedly agreed to an extension of current federal funding levels through the Election; however, the term of the continuing resolution is still being negotiated—it may be into December or sometime in early 2021 after the next Congress is seated.

Despite many weeks of hard-fought negotiations, the White House and the Congress have been unable to reach an agreement on an additional round of Coronavirus Relief legislation. Since the House passed the more than \$3 trillion HEROES Act in late May, and the Senate Republicans introduced the nearly \$1 trillion HEALS Act, both chambers have been unable to bridge the massive divide between the two COVID proposals. In addition to disagreement about the top-line numbers for a potential relief package, Democrats and Republicans have disagreement about the scope of an aid package—including relief for states and local governments (including for Special Districts), further relief for small businesses and direct payments to Americans, aid to especially hard hit sectors like the airline industry and public transit systems, and federal aid for the US Postal Service, enhanced federal unemployment insurance benefits, aid for schools and for COVID testing, among many other issues. As the final stretch of the election season nears, it is becoming more and more likely that the political difficulties of a reaching a bipartisan agreement are becoming too much for Congressional negotiators to overcome.

As this report is being written, Speaker Pelosi has said that she is trying to not go into the October Congressional recess until a deal is reached on another COVID-19 relief package. This has been prompted by a group of House Democrats that are very frustrated with the lack of progress and who were even considering “going around” Speaker Pelosi. They have been trying to create a “mini-package” with some relief for state and local governments that they believe House and Senate Republicans could support. We are tracking this issue very closely with House and Senate staffers.

Special Districts Legislation:

As we have previously reported, Congressman John Garamendi (CA-3), with 35 House cosponsors, and Senator Sinema (D-Ariz), with bipartisan cosponsors (including California’s Senators Harris and Feinstein), introduced the “Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act.” This legislation would make special districts eligible for payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund if more than \$150 billion is appropriated to the fund. The legislation would require that states receiving these funds would have to distribute at least 5% of the funds to special districts within the state. That bill also directs the Federal Reserve to include special districts as eligible issuers in the Municipal Liquidity Facility program. This legislation also defines a special district in statute as “a political subdivision, formed pursuant to general law or special act of a state, for the purpose of performing one or more governmental or proprietary functions.”

After the MWDOC Board voted to support this legislation, a letter of support was sent to the House and Senate Sponsors and the Orange County cosponsors expressing MWDOC’s support. We have shared this letter and visited with Congressional offices about this issue.

Federal Action on Massive Wildfires Devastating California and much of the West

With more than 2 million acres already burned in California this year, and a dozen national forests in Oregon and California experiencing wildfires, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing this week on Senator Daines (R-MT) and Senator Feinstein’s bill the “Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act” (S. 4431) to ease some regulatory hurdles for forest management projects, such as not requiring a renewed environmental review when new information emerges about potential effects on endangered species — a legislative fix to a court-imposed requirement. The bill would also allow the Forest Service to declare emergencies in certain areas affected by wildfire, allowing for restoration with less-extensive environmental review. Senator Feinstein is pushing Senate Leadership to consider the bill on the floor.

On the Administrative side, recently the U.S. Forest Service and California reached an agreement for a collaborative effort to each treat 500,000 wooded acres per year in the state to reduce current and future wildfire risk.

President Donald Trump visited California on Monday, September 14th and reaffirmed his belief that the state's deadly wildfires were a result of poor forest management — despite being face-to-face with state officials who directly connected the flames to established science that says climate change is a primary factor.

Wade Crowfoot, the head of the California's Natural Resources Agency, challenged the President on his climate change views with the comment: "I think we want to work with you to really recognize the changing climate and what it means for our forests and actually work together with that science," Crowfoot also argued that it would be misguided to "sort of put our heads in the sand and think it's all about vegetation management."

President Trump pointedly rejected the “climate science” that shows global temperatures will continue rising because of increasing greenhouse gases from using fossil fuels. While forest management plays a role, scientists say the drier, hotter conditions and shifting precipitation patterns brought by climate change are a primary factor for recent wildfires.

After the briefing Crowfoot posted a graph on Twitter demonstrating California's average temperature from June to September, with a trendline showing that average temperatures have been steadily increasing over the last four decades.

This issue promises to be a major issue for Members of Congress in Western States and the next Administration in the coming year.

PFAS Update:

Although any serious Congressional action on PFAS will likely be shelved for the next Congress, in late August, the EPA, after public outcry from environmental advocates and the local community impacted, cancelled a government study in New Jersey of whether municipal trash incinerators can destroy PFAS chemicals (which normally take millions of years to natural breakdown) that can be commonly found in common household products like clothing, nonstick pans, popcorn bags, and dental floss.

The EPA blamed activists for halting the study. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection faulted the Trump administration for failing to address fears that burning the chemicals posed a risk to residents of Rahway, the city to the southwest of Newark where the incinerator is located.

Scientists had hoped the study would shed light on whether PFAS chemicals break down in municipal waste incinerators, which burn many items that can include PFAS. The EPA is hoping to find an alternative site to conduct this study in the future.

Colorado River Management Issues:

In late August, the Bureau of Reclamation released a 24-month analysis that forecasts river conditions. The analysis determined whether states would have to make water-use cutbacks in 2021 based on the basin's drought provisions and how steep those curtailments would have to be.

Reclamation's findings were mixed: Some cutbacks will be required, but the basin avoided a "shortage determination," which would have triggered major changes.

The seven states that rely on the Colorado River for water have avoided major cutbacks, at least for now, according to the federal analysis. *But experts warned that there are troubling trends in the basin, including persistent warmth that is having a major effect on snowpack.*

"After a promising start to the snow season last winter, spring and summer turned very dry," Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman said in a statement. "Thankfully, our reservoirs continue to do what they were built to do and are providing reliable water by holding it over from wetter years."

Garamendi Introduced bipartisan "WIFIA Improvement Act"

The Garamendi bill (H.R. 8217) would amend WIFIA to make public water projects eligible for low-interest, longer-term federal loans through the EPA WIFIA Program. Specifically, the bill allows for longer-term financing for certain projects to 55-year loan terms instead of the current 35-year loan terms, thereby lowering the capital costs for such projects. The bill also clarifies that federally owned, but locally maintain water infrastructure, are also eligible for WIFIA loans for capital improvement projects. This legislation is supported by ACWA.

On another WIFIA related issue, House Appropriators advised the EPA that they were very frustrated with how the Trump Administration was administering portions of the WIFIA program. As a result, the House Interior-EPA Appropriations bill cancelled all previous years

unspent WIFIA funding and reappropriated the funds to FY21 with new guidelines. Importantly, the House Interior-EPA bill did not include any new WIFIA funds. That said, Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA) was able to pass an amendment to the bill that would protect water districts with WIFIA loan applications already in the pipeline. We have visited with House and Senate staffers on this and we have been told that these WIFIA funding issues are slated to be resolved in upcoming spending bills.

JCB/RWL 9/15/20



To: Municipal Water District of Orange County
 From: Syrus Devers, Best Best & Krieger
 Date: September 15, 2020
 Re: Monthly Report

End of Session Report

The pandemic continued to interrupt the legislative process until the end. A Republican Senator and a staffer tested positive for COVID-19 following the floor session on August 24th and an in-person Republican caucus the following day. Contact tracing revealed that nine other Republican Senators were exposed, which led Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins to require all ten Senators to participate remotely. That left Senator Jim Neilsen as the sole Republican on the floor the last night of session. The final session was acrimonious. Some of the excluded Republicans were visibly frustrated and felt the quarantine was politically motivated.

The final few minutes of floor session presented a new possible source of litigation over what the end-of-session midnight deadline means. The Constitution states that a bill may not be "...passed by either house on or after September 1..." (Art. IV, Sec. 10) but it does not define what it means to pass a bill. The vote on a controversial public safety bill by Senator Nancy Skinner began before midnight, but the role was not closed and the vote announced until well after the deadline. It appeared that there were 21 votes recorded before midnight. The question is then, when is a bill "passed"?

As mentioned last month, legislative leaders, the Governor, and the Controller went to press in early August with the idea of tax vouchers to raise one billion dollars to be used for a laundry list of economic stimulus measures. The idea was that individuals in higher tax brackets would be willing to pay next year's taxes this year for discounts in future tax years. That proposal was subsequently put into a Senate Budget Trailer Bill (SB 815) but the Assembly did not approve it. The plan for the economy now is to wait and see what the federal government does. Since it appears at the time this report is being prepared that states will not likely receive any new funds beyond unemployment benefits, future budget cuts appear virtually certain.

The late opposition campaign against AB 3030 (Karla) was successful despite a difficult time getting the opposition of water agencies heard. This was the bill that called for the "protection" of 30% of the "waters" of the state without defining either of those terms. The bill was opposed by sport fishing groups



and opposition testimony to the alleged impacts to fishing went on for hours. After getting out of policy committee with votes to spare, it was placed on the suspense file in Appropriations where it stayed.

Unfortunately SB 414 (Caballero) was also held in Senate Appropriations. This was the third attempt by ACWA and CMUA to pass legislation facilitating small system consolidation.

AB 1659 (Bloom) was amended less than two weeks before the end of session to allow for revenue bonds to be sold to raise funds for wildfire prevention. The revenue source would be the current fees on large electrical corporations imposed after the 2018 wildfires. The bill would have authorized \$3 billion, of which a small portion would have gone to water infrastructure improvements. (\$300 million.) The bill split the water industry between water agencies that stood to benefit from the bond and those agencies that opposed continuing to pay higher energy costs to utility companies. While it did generate interest, in the end the clock ran out on the effort and it died in the Senate without a final vote.

Finally, it is that time of the year when BB&K invites the directors to review the entire bill tracking list for 2020. The monthly Bill Matrix reports on the progress of priority bills and those that are on a watch list but are not analyzed. Please take a moment to scan the list of tracked bills and let staff know if there were bills that should have been given priority status but were not. Note that the “Dead Bill” category is for those bills that failed to meet the house of origin deadline the last week of May and were no longer tracked for the remainder of the session. Dead bills with a support or oppose position were on the priority list at some point, while all others were “watch” bills.

Administrative Report

This is a difficult time of year for state agencies and the Governor’s staff. The Governor has until September 30th (at midnight) to sign or veto a bill passed in the final two weeks of session. Keep in mind that California does not have a “pocket veto.” If a bill is not affirmatively returned to the house of origin before October 1st, it becomes law the following year with or without the Governor’s signature. (Yes, it happens.) State agencies have to put in “Budget Change Proposals” or “BCPs” to cover unforeseen budget needs through the end of the calendar year, and have to begin work on their 2021 budget to submit to the Department of Finance in October. Finance has to have a final budget ready for the Governor to review by early to mid December in order to meet the January 10th deadline to introduce the 2021-22 budget. It all starts now.

The County of Orange Report

September 15, 2020
by Lewis Consulting Group



Orange County LAFCO meet September 9th and the agenda was fairly short. However, the long anticipated MWDOC MSA was the major item of focus.

Staff recommended adoption of the MSA and MWDOC General Manager Rob Hunter thanked the staff for the fairness and cooperative nature that existed throughout the process.

The Yorba Linda Water District submitted a letter expressing its frustration about the geographic composition of MWDOC's Metropolitan appointees on the Board. The letter raises their concern about what they see as a current North / South imbalance.

Commissioner Jim Fisler used the opportunity to question staff regarding the need to bring LAFCO Commissioners into the process sooner, allowing the ability to help shape MSR comments. Commissioner Davert in addition to his comments in the Yorba Linda letter, also questioned GM Rob Hunter on the legality of MWDOC's sphere of influence going beyond County boundary lines. GM Hunter said that while it was legal, MWDOC had little or no interest in assuming the Central Basin, which was the impetus for Director Davert's question.

After a relatively short discussion, the MSR was approved with an unanimous vote.

The Orange County Sanitation District's MSR was also approved unanimously, but after additional comments from the Yorba Linda Water District expressing concerns about the fairness of existing Board composition.



Recent O.C. Board of Supervisors Meetings

The September 1st meeting of the Board of Supervisors only had three things on the agenda and only one of substance. The one of substance was explanation of the finalization of the 2020/2021 fiscal budget.

Overall, it is rather amazing the County has weathered the COVID-19 storm and economic shutdown as well as it has.

The County, due to COVID-19, changed up their normal budget process, opting to adopt a base budget on June 2nd which allowed them to pay more bills while they waited for a time to add certainty to the process. Both the September 1 budget explanation and the September 15 vote proved to be the right time.

The 2020/2021 final budget is \$7.5 billion which represents a 4.2% increase over the previous year. This was accomplished while only dipping mildly into its reserves, an estimated \$10-30 million from the Orange County Employers Retirement System and \$11 million from the Teeter penalty fund reserves. This is a far cry from the massive borrowing required during the Orange County Bankruptcy.

This budget contains no layoffs or furloughs and the number of County employees remains steady from the prior year.

The County does have a challenge, Proposition 172 dedicated sales tax revenues for law enforcement plummeted and was backfilled by county augmentations. Also, the County has been facing a structural challenge since 1978's passage of Proposition 13 which locked in a punitive and unequal distribution of property tax dollars. For example, Orange County only receives 5% of the property tax, while San Diego County receives 12%. Despite that, last week the rating agency FITCH reaffirmed its AAA rating for Orange County.

Out of the \$7.5 billion adopted budget:

43% is spent on community services

20% public protection

19% infrastructure and environmental resources

10% insurance, reserves and miscellaneous expenses

and lastly 7% for general government, capital improvements and debt services

By expenditure category - 30% of the budget goes to salaries and benefits and 29% to services and supplies.

September 15th meeting Features Airport Contracts Finalization

At last Tuesday's Board meeting, a four year tedious and tumultuous process was concluded as the Board voted unanimously to award a contract to ACI to become one of

two fixed-base operators at the airport. By a four to one vote, the Board then voted in favor of Clay Lacy becoming the second FBO provider. Supervisor Don Wagner voted no and had made it known he preferred the retention of incumbent Atlantic Aviation.

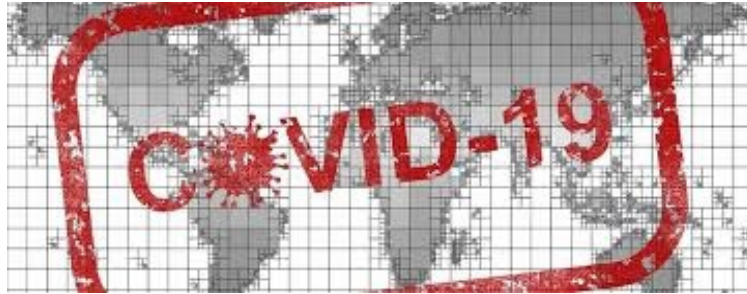
In addition to ACI and Clay Lacy, the other big winner in the airport fight were Newport Beach residents, who have long lobbied for limitation on the number of flights and operating hours. In addition to Atlantic Aviation, another loser appeared to be operator Jet Suite X. According to the owner, they were never notified by the County or airport staff that they were being removed from the general aviation portion of the airport; they literally read about it in a revised public agenda. Apparently ACI and Clay Lacy were notified in a late contract amendment they could not sub-lease to Jet Suite X. Several dozen people spoke to the item heaping praise on the relatively new business and the Board was presented with 6,000 e-mails from very satisfied customers, but it fell on deaf ears. Also an attorney from Atlantic Aviation announced that on Monday, September 14th, because the Board was not following procedures outlined in the RFP, that they were filing an official protest. County Counsel however, stated that Supervisors are enabled with certain powers enshrined in California code and they can ignore aspects of the RFP if they choose. Late in the day, there appeared to be some sympathy for perhaps letting Jet Suite X move to the commercial side of the airport.

Lastly, during the COVID-19 health report it was noted that Orange County continues to show great improvement in COVID-19 numbers and on September 22nd some public schools will begin to open.

Orange County COVID-19 Stats

ORANGE COUNTY COVID-19 STATS	AS OF 9/13/2020	AS OF 8/3/2020
CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	50,930	37,831
CUMULATIVE DEATHS TO DATE	1,093	651
DEATHS REPORTED TODAY	0	0
CUMULATIVE TESTS TO DATE	737,558	435,927
TESTS REPORTED TODAY	5,136	17,133
CASES CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	196 *	555 *
CASES CURRENTLY IN ICU	58	175
CUMULATIVE RECOVERED TO DATE	45,197 *	25,248 *

* = INCLUDES **ICU** CASES



Where Orange County Ranks

[as of 9/13/2020]

LOCATION	POPULATION	CONFIRMED CASES	DEATHS
CALIFORNIA	40,129,160	754,923	14,329
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	10,247,557	253,985	6,208
RIVERSIDE COUNTY	2,468,145	55,073	1,103
ORANGE COUNTY	3,228,519	50,930	1,093
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY	2,217,398	50,699	832
SAN DIEGO COUNTY	3,370,418	42,742	734



LATEST PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

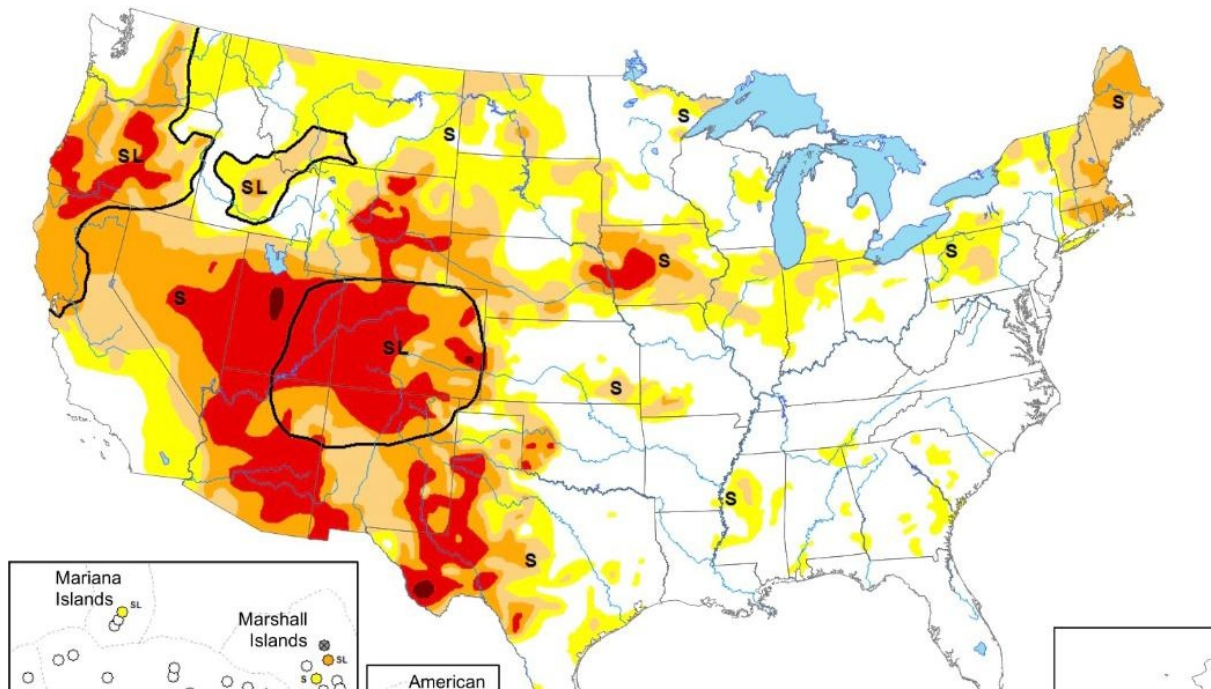
Former Vice-President Joe Biden continues to maintain a lead over President Trump in the national polling. But with 49 days until the November 3rd election, the race is starting to tighten.

DATE	POLL	RESULTS	SPREAD
SEPTEMBER 13	FOX	BIDEN 51, TRUMP 46	BIDEN +5
SEPTEMBER 11	THE HILL / HARRISX	BIDEN 47, TRUMP 39	BIDEN +8
SEPTEMBER 11	ECONOMIST / YOUNG	BIDEN 52, TRUMP 43	BIDEN +9
SEPTEMBER 11	CNBC / CHANGE RESEARCH	BIDEN 48, TRUMP 43	BIDEN +5
SEPTEMBER 11	RASMUSSEN REPORT	BIDEN 48, TRUMP 46	BIDEN +2

Drought Intensifies

Map released: September 10, 2020

Data valid: September 8, 2020



The Western drought is hitting the Four Corners area particularly hard and is taking its toll on the Colorado River flows and lake levels. Lake Powell is down 19 feet from one year ago and rivers feeding the lake are currently 68% of current level. Some computer models are predicting a favorable shift in the jet stream, which should help bring precipitation to Oregon and Washington and possible California. This would be fortutous especially since we have now slipped into a mild La Niña.

ENSO METER



Legal and Regulatory

September 21, 2020

1. **Rice Kills Bugs:** Killing antibiotic resistant bacteria in wastewater has been a continuing challenge for water world. Scientists at Rice University have discovered a way to kill these super bugs. These bugs often produce bad genes in the process of killing them in wastewater. This new process is a chemical one called “warp, trap and zap”. It traps the bad guys, encapsulates them and exposes them to light which finishes the job. The wrapping component is large enough that it can be filtered out and reused.
2. **UCI Studies Snow:** UCI engineers have completed a study of snowfall in the western United States from 1980 to 2018. The study has shown a 28% increase in the length of snow droughts in the last 20 years. This conclusion also follows the national impact that is being experienced around the world. About 1/6 of the world population (1 billion folks) depend on snowfall for their freshwater needs. This includes personal use and agriculture. Afghanistan is one of the hardest hit countries even though it has a good snow supply. It has no dams or infrastructure to capture the snowmelt.
3. **Climate Change Could Cause More Oroville:** Heavy snow fall, heavy rainfall and warm weather created the conditions that caused runoff the Oroville Dam could not handle. Scripps Institute is predicting more of these combinations in the future for the Sierra Nevada mountain range and similar topography around the US. They are suggesting more study on reservoirs like Oroville to determine if they can handle these weather conditions in the future.
4. **Water Use Estimates Bad?:** The Pacific Institute, a water think tank in Berkeley, has been studying water demand in California. A recent report warns water agencies that future projections of water needs may be too high. Our prolonged conservation regulations and the people’s adherence to them is significantly reducing future needs in the range of 20-30%. Also, our water use efficiency methods have been and continue to be very effective. Their concern in the spending of large amounts of money on infrastructure projects that may not be needed.
5. **Trump v Invasive Species:** The Administration has estimated the cost to fight invasive species in the United States to be \$120 billion. They are starting to put their money where the mouth of some of these species are. This fiscal year’s allocation is \$143 million. They are looking for partnerships, better coordination of effort and improving data collection to help the fight. From Asian carp in the Great Lakes, Burmese pythons in Florida everglades, quagga and zebra mussels in the Western US to brown tree snakes in Guam, the Administration is upping the ante to try to prevent the enormous damages these critters can cause.
6. **La Nina Back?:** Federal weather folks are now predicting a La Nina condition for the rest of the year. Their estimate is in the 60% range with a 55% chance that it could continue next year. This could mean more drought conditions for our region. La Nina generally brings colder ocean temperatures in the Pacific Ocean equatorial region. They also acknowledge these conditions are very unpredictable as we have become accustomed to seeing.

7. **New Water Baron in Town:** The Central Valley in California has produced many giant water players, J G Boswell, Stewart Resnick. Now, another name is being mentioned, John Vidovich. His company, Sandbridge Partners, LP, controls more than 100,000 acres in the Valley. He grows crops, processes some in his own plants and sits on many Valley water boards. His dad, Stephen Vidovich, was a real estate innovator who pushed to convert Santa Clara Valley farmland into Silicon Valley. In 2009, he was involved in selling water rights in Kings County to Mojave Water District in San Bernardino. He has also been involved in other transactions transferring water rights around the region. He has now teamed up with Resnick in other water transactions which would reduce water being used in the Valley. This is raising concerns with other agricultural interests in the area. Vidovich has been accused by some of “farming water, not dirt!”
8. **Weather Predictions Get Harder:** USC has been studying factors involved in predicting weather. Their study looked at droughts and weather patterns covering 1000 years. The main focus was to discover the cause of droughts in the Western US. The current and most accepted theory the La Nina/El Nino explanation which depends on ocean temperatures for measurement. But looking at drought conditions over time, that formula did not always line up with what happened. Their study showed that atmospheric conditions seemed to be a large factor. Those conditions could create droughts by themselves without help from the ocean. It also suggested that playing the atmosphere card can throw more unpredictability into the process. This is something that is seemingly more apparent as time goes by.
9. **Mines and Bad Water:** It is estimated that there are over 600,000 mines in the 13 Western states, of which about 250,000 have been identified. Of those identified, it is estimated that almost half of them pose a physical hazard to drinking water. Most of the problems thus far have occurred in Colorado and Utah, where serious drinking water contamination has occurred. The EPA is already doing a Superfund assessment in Utah to quantify the problem. The main contaminants are copper, cadmium and zinc. Many fear that this problem could get worse sooner than anticipated. Fortunately, California has not experienced it as much as other states. However, the EPA is spending over \$100 million in the Western states, including California for additional studies.
10. **Salton Sea v Covid:** We all know the toxic dust problem that exists at the Salton Sea and the various attempts to cure it. Now with the Covid issue, the price of poker has gone up. Approximately 650,000 people live in the impact area of the Sea. Many of those are experiencing the Covid issue, which is enhanced by the Sea dust. Furloughing and other solutions are being tried, but none are having the desired results.
11. **Tule Elk Need Water:** A battle is happening over the elk population at the Tomales Point Elk Reserve near Point Reyes. There have been a drought conditions here for some time and some environmentalists are taking matters into their own hands. They claim the Park Service is allowing elks to die because of lack of water. So, the activists, in violation of the law, are sneaking water into the park for the elk. Although some elk have died, the Service says it is within the normal range and nature is taking its course. Now the cattle ranchers have gotten involved. The activists want the ranchers gone and the ranchers want the elk gone. The elk lobbyist has not returned our calls for comment.
12. **Drug Free Water:** Removing pharmaceutical drugs from the water stream has been a continuing problem. Thanks to a student who is now a professor at Youngstown State University, Ohio, there is new hope. Doug Genna obtained a patent for a material which clings to drugs and makes it easier to remove from the system. It has the capability of being used at a treatment plant and in your house. Genna created the material YCM-101 (Youngstown Crystalline Material) before he realized its potential. This a concern for the US and the world as it is estimated that 25% of the worlds rivers and lakes are impacted by drugs.

End of Session Bill Marix

Item No. 1e

Prepared by Best Best & Krieger, September 15, 2020

A. Priority Support/Oppose

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
AB 2178	Levine D	Emergency services.	8/31/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(18). (Last location was S. G.O. on 6/23/2020)	Current law defines the terms “state of emergency” and “local emergency” to mean a duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by, among other things, fire, storm, or riot. This bill would additionally include a deenergization, defined as a planned public safety power shutoff, as specified, within those conditions constituting a state of emergency and a local emergency.	Support	A. Priority Support/Oppose
AB 2560	Quirk D	Water quality: notification levels and response levels: procedures.	9/11/2020-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.	The California Safe Drinking Water Act requires the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt drinking water standards for contaminants in drinking water based upon specified criteria and requires any person who owns a public water system to ensure that the system, among other things, complies with those drinking water standards. This bill would require the state board to comply with specified public notice and comment procedures when establishing or revising a notification level or response level, except as specified for a contaminant that the Division of Drinking Water of the state board finds presents the potential for imminent harm to public health and safety.	Watch	A. Priority Support/Oppose
AB 3030	Kalra D	Resource conservation: land and ocean conservation goals.	8/21/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(15). (Last location was S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/19/2020)	Would declare it to be the goals of the state by 2030 to protect at least 30% of the state’s land areas and waters; to help advance the protection of 30% of the nation’s oceans; and to support regional, national, and international efforts to protect at least 30% of the world’s land areas and waters and 30% of the world’s ocean.	Opposition	A. Priority Support/Oppose
AB 3256	Garcia, Eduardo D	Economic Recovery, Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.	8/31/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(18). (Last location was A. RLS. on 6/3/2020)	Would enact the Economic Recovery, Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$6,980,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for an economic recovery, wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.	Watch	A. Priority Support/Oppose
SB 45	Allen D	Wildfire	8/31/2020-Failed	Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe	Watch	A. Priority

		Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.	Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(18). (Last location was A. DESK on 1/29/2020)	Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,510,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.		Support/Oppose
SB 1099	Dodd D	Emergency backup generators: critical facilities: exemptions.	8/14/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(13). (Last location was A. NAT. RES. on 6/29/2020)	Current law imposes various limitations on emissions of air contaminants for the control of air pollution from vehicular and nonvehicular sources. Current law generally designates air pollution control and air quality management districts with the primary responsibility for the control of air pollution from all sources other than vehicular sources. Current law requires the State Air Resources Board to identify toxic air contaminants that are emitted into the ambient air of the state and to establish airborne toxic control measures to reduce emissions of toxic air contaminants from nonvehicular sources. This bill would require an air district without a specified rule on emergency backup generators, as defined, as of January 1, 2021, that adopts such a rule to include in the rule provisions that allow the operator of a critical facility, as defined, to use a permitted emergency backup generator in exceedance of the applicable runtime and testing and maintenance limits if specified conditions are met.	Support	A. Priority Support/Oppose
SB 1386	Moorlach R	Local government: assessments, fees, and charges: water: hydrants.	9/10/2020-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.	Current law, known as the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act, prescribes specific procedures and parameters for local jurisdictions to comply with these requirements and, among other things, authorizes an agency providing water, wastewater, sewer, or refuse collection services to adopt a schedule of fees or charges authorizing automatic adjustments that pass through increases in wholesale charges for water, sewage treatment, or wastewater treatment or adjustments for inflation under certain circumstances. Current law defines, among other terms, the term “water” for these purposes to mean any system of public improvements intended to provide for the production, storage, supply, treatment, or distribution of water from any source. This bill would specify that hydrants, as defined, are part of the system of public improvements included in the definition of “water” for purposes of the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act.	Support	A. Priority Support/Oppose

B. Watch

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
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AB 291	Chu D	Local Emergency Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation Fund.	8/18/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(13). (Last location was S. G.O. on 6/23/2020)	Would establish a Local Emergency Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation Fund to, upon appropriation by the Legislature, support staffing, planning, and other emergency mitigation priorities to help local governments meet emergency management, preparedness, readiness, and resilience goals. The bill would require the Office of Emergency Services to establish the Local Emergency Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation Fund Committee under the Standardized Emergency Management System Advisory Board.	Watch	B. Watch
AB 1659	Bloom D	Large electrical corporations: wildfire mitigation: securitization .	8/31/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(18). (Last location was S. THIRD READING on 8/30/2020)	Would enact the Wildfire Prevention and Community Resilience Act of 2020 and would require the Natural Resources Agency, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, to adopt an interim expenditure plan and an expenditure plan that are focused on reducing wildfire risk on the ground and in communities through activities such as defensible space implementation, home hardening, improved public safety, including expenditures to add trained emergency medical technicians to the workforce, and other authorized activities, as well as to prepare residents for wildfires through public education and outreach, as provided. The bill would establish the Wildfire Prevention and Community Resilience Fund and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, would require moneys in the fund be used for the implementation of those plans.	Watch	B. Watch
AB 2296	Quirk D	State Water Resources Control Board: local primacy delegation: funding stabilization program.	9/4/2020-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 2 p.m.	Would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to delegate partial responsibility for the California Safe Drinking Water Act's administration and enforcement by means of a local primacy delegation agreement. The bill would authorize the state board, for counties that have not been delegated primary responsibility as of January 1, 2021, to offer an opportunity for the county to apply for partial or primary responsibility if the state board determines that it needs assistance in performing administrative and enforcement activities, as specified. The bill would authorize the state board to approve the application for delegation if the state board determines that the local health officer is able to sufficiently perform the administrative and enforcement activities and would specify that a local primacy agency has all of the authority over designated public water systems as is granted to the state board by the act.		B. Watch
SB 378	Wiener D	Probation: eligibility: crimes relating to controlled	8/31/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(18). (Last location was A.	Current law prohibits granting probation or suspending a sentence for persons convicted of specified crimes relating to controlled substances, including possessing or agreeing to sell or transport opiates or	Watch	B. Watch

		substances.	RLS. on 7/27/2020)	opium derivatives, possessing or transporting cannabis, planting or cultivating peyote, and various crimes relating to forging or altering prescriptions, among other crimes, if the person has previously been convicted of any one of specified felony offenses relating to controlled substances. Current law also prohibits granting probation or suspending a sentence for persons convicted of specified crimes relating to controlled substances, including possessing for sale or selling 14.25 grams or more of a substance containing heroin and possessing for sale 14.25 grams or more of any salt or solution of phencyclidine or its analogs, among other crimes. This bill would delete various crimes relating to controlled substances, including, but not limited to, the crimes described above, from those prohibitions against granting probation or a suspended sentence.		
SB 862	Dodd D	Planned power outage: public safety.	8/14/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(13). (Last location was A. U. & E. on 6/29/2020)	Current law defines the terms “state of emergency” and “local emergency” to mean a duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by, among other things, fire, storm, or riot. This bill would additionally include a deenergization event, as defined, within a sudden and severe energy shortage constituting a state of emergency and a local emergency.	Watch	B. Watch
SB 952	Nielsen R	Sales and use taxes: exemption: backup electrical generators: deenergization events.	8/31/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(18). (Last location was A. REV. & TAX on 6/29/2020)	Current state sales and use tax laws impose a tax on retailers measured by the gross receipts from the sale of tangible personal property sold at retail in this state or on the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of tangible personal property purchased from a retailer for storage, use, or other consumption in this state. This bill, on and after January 1, 2021, and before January 1, 2026, would provide an exemption from those taxes with respect to the sale of, or the storage, use, or consumption of, a backup electrical resource, generator as defined, if that backup electrical generator is purchased for use exclusively in powering a critical facility, as defined, by a city, county, city and county, special district, or other political subdivision during deenergization events, as defined, and the purchaser provides to the seller a written statement with regard to these facts.	Watch	B. Watch
SB 1011	Dahle R	Water quality: waste discharge requirements : management agency	8/31/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(18). (Last location was S. RLS. on 2/14/2020)	Would provide that implementation of a management agency agreement entered into between the State Water Resources Control Board and the United States Forest Service or the state board and the United States Bureau of Land Management constitutes compliance by the United States Forest Service or the United States Bureau	Watch	B. Watch

		agreements.		of Land Management, as applicable, with specified waste discharge requirements for nonpoint source discharges. The bill would prohibit a provision of such a management agency agreement from being construed in any way as limiting the authority of the state board or a regional board in carrying out its legal responsibilities for the management or regulation of water quality.		
SB 1044	Allen D	Firefighting equipment and foam: PFAS chemicals.	9/10/2020-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.	Would, commencing January 1, 2022, require any person, as defined, including a manufacturer, as defined, that sells firefighter personal protective equipment to any person to provide a written notice to the purchaser at the time of sale if the firefighter personal protective equipment contains intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The bill would require the seller and the purchaser to retain a copy of the written notice on file for at least 3 years and to furnish the notice and associated sales documentation the Attorney General, a city attorney, a county counsel, or a district attorney within 60 days upon request, as provided. The bill would authorize the Attorney General, a city attorney, a county counsel, or a district attorney to request from a manufacturer, and the bill would require the manufacturer to provide, a certificate of compliance that certifies that the manufacturer is in compliance with these provisions.	Watch	B. Watch

Dead Bill

Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
AB 1839	Bonta D	Economic, environmental, and social recovery: California COVID-19 Recovery Deal.	5/29/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was NAT. RES. on 4/24/2020)	Would enact the California COVID-19 Recovery Deal. The bill would make a series of legislative findings and declarations pertaining to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and various economic, environmental, and social conditions in the state. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature that the state adopt a policy framework with principles and goals committed to accomplish specified economic, environmental, and social objectives and priorities as part of the state's COVID-19 recovery spending. The bill would state that the Legislature establishes various spending rules for the COVID-19 recovery, including adopting spending measures that prohibit businesses, organizations, or agencies from accepting public funds for any long-term projects that prolong the emission of greenhouses gases or lead to the expansion of fossil fuel projects and ensuring that recovery spending includes specific measures for California populations and communities most negatively impacted by COVID-19.	Watch	Dead Bill
AB 1957	Gallagher	Paradise	6/5/2020-Failed	Current law authorizes, until January 1,	Watch	Dead Bill

	R	Irrigation District: water pipeline: design-build process.	Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. L. GOV. on 1/30/2020)	2025, local agencies, as defined, to use the design-build project delivery process, as specified, for specified public works. This bill would authorize the Paradise Irrigation District to utilize the design-build project delivery process to assign contracts for the construction of a water conveyance pipeline from the Town of Paradise to the City of Chico.		
AB 2093	Gloria D	Public records: writing transmitted by electronic mail: retention.	6/5/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was A. APPR. on 3/10/2020)	Would, unless a longer retention period is required by statute or regulation, or established by the Secretary of State pursuant to the State Records Management Act, require a public agency, for purposes of the California Public Records Act, to retain and preserve for at least 2 years every public record, as defined, that is transmitted by electronic mail.	Opposition	Dead Bill
AB 2095	Cooper D	Public water systems: reduction of water charges: customers impacted by COVID-19.	6/5/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. L. GOV. on 2/20/2020)	Would authorize a public water system to reduce the water charges imposed on a customer impacted by COVID-19 during the duration of the impact provided that the reduction does not increase the water charges imposed on another ratepayer.	Watch	Dead Bill
AB 2148	Quirk D	Climate change: adaptation: regional climate adaptation planning groups: regional climate adaptation plans.	5/29/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was NAT. RES. on 3/5/2020)	Current law establishes the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program, administered by the Office of Planning and Research, to coordinate regional and local efforts with state climate adaptation strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change, as specified. This bill would require the Strategic Growth Council, by July 1, 2021, to establish guidelines for the formation of regional climate adaptation planning groups. The bill would require the council, by July 1, 2022, to develop criteria for the development of regional climate adaptation plans.	Watch	Dead Bill
AB 2182	Rubio, Blanca D	Emergency backup generators: water and wastewater facilities: exemption.	6/5/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. U. & E. on 3/2/2020)	Would exempt the operation of an alternative power source, as defined, to provide power to a critical facility, as defined, from any local, regional, or state regulation regarding the operation of that source. The bill would authorize providers of essential public services, in lieu of compliance with applicable legal requirements, to comply with the maintenance and testing procedure set forth in the National Fire Protection Association Standard for Emergency and Standby Power System, NFPA 110, for alternative power sources designated by the providers for the support of critical facilities.	Support	Dead Bill
AB 2322	Friedman D	Small water suppliers and rural communities : drought and water	5/29/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was PRINT on	Current law makes legislative findings and declarations regarding drought planning for small water suppliers and rural communities, and requires the Department of Water Resources, in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board	Watch	Dead Bill

		shortage planning: repeal.	2/14/2020)	and other relevant state and local agencies and stakeholders, to use available data to identify, no later than January 1, 2020, small water suppliers and rural communities that may be at risk of drought and water shortage vulnerability and notify counties and groundwater sustainability agencies of those suppliers or communities. Current law requires the department, in consultation with the state board, to propose to the Governor and the Legislature, by January 1, 2020, recommendations and guidance relating to the development and implementation of countywide drought and water shortage contingency plans to address the planning needs of small water suppliers and rural communities, as provided. This bill would repeal these provisions.		
AB 2324	Friedman D	Accessory dwelling units: prohibition of rent or lease.	6/5/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. H. & C.D. on 4/24/2020)	The Planning and Zoning Law authorizes a local agency to provide, by ordinance, for the creation of accessory dwelling units in single-family and multifamily dwelling residential zones and requires a local agency that has not adopted an ordinance to ministerially approve an application for an accessory dwelling unit. Current law also authorizes a local agency to allow, by ordinance, for the sale or conveyance of an accessory dwelling unit separate from the primary residence to a qualified buyer, as defined, upon meeting specified conditions. This bill would prohibit a person, as defined, from renting or leasing more than 15 of the person's accessory dwelling units, as defined, in the state.	Watch	Dead Bill
SB 797	Wilk R	Water resources: permit to appropriate: application procedure.	5/29/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was N.R. & W. on 1/15/2020)	Current law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to issue and deliver a notice of an application as soon as practicable after the receipt of an application for a permit to appropriate water that conforms to the law. Current law allows interested persons to file a written protest with regard to an application to appropriate water and requires the protestant to set forth the objections to the application. Current law declares that no hearing is necessary to issue a permit in connection with an unprotested application, or if the undisputed facts support the issuance of the permit and there is no disputed issue of material fact, unless the board elects to hold a hearing. This bill, if the board has not rendered a final determination on an application for a permit to appropriate water within 30 years from the date the application was filed, would require the board to issue a new notice and provide an opportunity for protests before rendering a final determination, with specified exceptions.	Watch	Dead Bill
SB 931	Wieckowski D	Local government	5/29/2020-Failed Deadline	The Ralph M. Brown Act requires meetings of the legislative body of a local	Watch	Dead Bill

		meetings: agenda and documents.	pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was GOV. & F. on 2/12/2020)	agency to be open and public and also requires regular and special meetings of the legislative body to be held within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, with specified exceptions. Current law authorizes a person to request that a copy of an agenda, or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet, of any meeting of a legislative body be mailed to that person. This bill would require, if the local agency has an internet website, a legislative body or its designee to email a copy of, or website link to, the agenda or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet if the person requests that the items be delivered by email. The bill would require, where the local agency determines it is technologically infeasible to send a copy of all documents constituting the agenda packet or a website link containing the documents by electronic mail or by other electronic means, the legislative body or its designee to send by electronic mail a copy of the agenda or a website link to the agenda and mail a copy of all other documents constituting the agenda packet in accordance with the mailing requirements.		
SB 971	Hertzberg D	Small water supplier and countywide water shortage contingency planning.	5/29/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was N.R. & W. on 5/12/2020)	Would require a small water supplier, as defined, with 1,000 to 2,999 service connections, inclusive, to prepare and adopt a small water supplier water shortage contingency plan that consists of specified elements. The bill would require a small water supplier with 15 to 999 service connections, inclusive, to take specified actions related to water shortage planning and response. The bill would require small water suppliers to provide to the public, and to report, the plan and specified water shortage planning information, as prescribed.	Watch	Dead Bill
SB 996	Portantino D	State Water Resources Control Board: Constituents of Emerging Concern Program.	5/29/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was E.Q. on 3/5/2020)	Would require the State Water Resources Control Board to establish, maintain, and direct an ongoing, dedicated program called the Constituents of Emerging Concern Program to assess the state of information and recommend areas for further study on constituents of emerging concern in drinking water that may pose risks to public health. The bill would require the state board to establish the Stakeholder Advisory Group and, by an unspecified date, the Science Advisory Panel, both as prescribed, to assist in the gathering and development of information for the program, among other functions. The bill would require the program to provide opportunities for public participation, including conducting stakeholder meetings and workshops to solicit relevant information and feedback	Support	Dead Bill

				for development and implementation of the program.		
SB 1056	Portantino D	Drinking water: testing: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.	5/29/2020-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was E.Q. on 2/27/2020)	Would require the State Water Resources Control Board, on or before January 1, 2022, to certify a methodology or methodologies for testing drinking water, groundwater, and surface water for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, as provided, and to accredit qualified laboratories in California to analyze perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances pursuant to the adopted methodology or methodologies.	Watch	Dead Bill

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Topic	Bill Number Author	Amended Date; Location	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
Metropolitan-sponsored bills	AB 2246 Mayes (I) Sponsor: Metropolitan	Introduced 2/13/2020 Assembly Natural Resources Committee Bill rescinded	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975: exemption: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Amends the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) to grant Metropolitan an exemption for emergency excavations or grading on its land to repair, maintain, or replace pipelines, infrastructure, or related transmission systems used to distribute water in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties.	SPONSOR	Maintaining critical water infrastructure requires coordinated regulatory compliance. Metropolitan is proposing legislation to grant it special status under SMARA, so it can consistently administer and enforce SMARA compliance for responding to emergencies, repairing, maintaining or replacing any pipelines, infrastructure, or related transmission systems used to distribute water in Southern California.
Metropolitan-sponsored bills	SB 996 Portantino (D) Sponsors: Metropolitan and the California Municipal Utilities Association	Amended 4/1/2020 Senate Environmental Quality Committee Bill rescinded	State Water Resources Control Board: Constituents of Emerging Concern Program Seeks to create a statewide program to identify and evaluate Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) in drinking water sources.	CO-SPONSOR	Metropolitan and the California Municipal Utilities Association are co-sponsoring legislation in response to growing public concern about CECs in drinking water. The bill would establish a CEC Drinking Water Program at the State Water Resources Control Board. The program would set up a consistent and science-based approach for assessing the public health and drinking water consequences of CECs, with the intent to improve and expedite future regulatory determinations.
Climate Change/	AB 1071 Limón (D)	Amended 8/6/2020	Climate change: agriculture: Agricultural Climate Adaptation	SUPPORT	The bill was amended to mirror language from AB 409 (Limón), which

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Topic	Bill Number Author	Amended Date; Location	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
Renewable Energy	Sponsor: California Climate and Agricultural Network	Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File Bill died	Tools Program: grants Establishes a pilot program in the Central Valley, Central Coast and desert regions of the state where grant funding is available for developing planning tools for adapting to climate change within the agricultural sector.	Based upon Board Action on 7/9/2019	Metropolitan supported. The Board has formally adopted policies supporting research related to the effects of climate change on water supply and water quality. This measure provides funding and guidance to support resilient agricultural practices.
Climate Change/ Renewable Energy	AB 1720 Carrillo (D) Sponsor: State Building and Construction Trades Council of California	Amended 7/27/2020 Senate Energy Utilities and Communications Committee Bill died	Energy: long-duration energy storage: environmental review and procurement Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to order load-serving entities (LSEs) to procure long-duration energy storage to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets. If the CPUC does not issue an order, requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to procure long-duration energy storage on behalf of the LSEs. Requires San Diego County Water Authority enter into a project labor agreement for the San Vicente project.	OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED Based upon Board adopted 2020 State Legislative Priorities and Principles	The responsibility to procure long duration energy storage on the part of the LSEs should rest with the CPUC not DWR. The costs to set up such a program could be in the tens of millions of dollars and that would take resources away from DWR's primary mission and potentially affect the SWP. Metropolitan is seeking an amendment to remove DWR from serving this role.
Climate Change/ Renewable Energy	SB 1323 Skinner (D)	Introduced 2/21/2020	Carbon sequestration: state goals: natural and working lands: registry of projects	SUPPORT Based upon	The registry would identify carbon sequestration projects, such as forestry management, wetlands restoration,

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Topic	Bill Number Author	Amended Date; Location	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
Energy	Sponsor: Author	Senate Environmental Quality Committee Rescinded	Requires the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to maintain a California Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resiliency Project Registry beginning January 1, 2021.	Board adopted 2020 State Legislative Priorities and Principles	healthy soils, and meadows restoration that meet state criteria for funding. Metropolitan and its member agencies with agricultural land holdings and planned carbon sequestration projects could benefit by applying to add their projects to the registry making them eligible for state funding programs.
Delta/State Water Project	AB 1580 Levine (D) Sponsor: Author	Amended 7/1/2019 Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File Bill died	Major infrastructure construction projects: oversight committees Requires a state agency undertaking a publicly funded infrastructure project of \$1 billion or more to form an oversight committee and develop a risk management plan to minimize cost overruns.	OPPOSE Based upon Board- adopted 2019 State Legislative Priorities and Principles	To the extent the bill is aimed proposed Delta conveyance, it is duplicative of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA). At the direction of the Department of Water Resources, the DCA is tasked to provide oversight and risk management in order to protect the ratepayers who will pay for and benefit from the project .
Delta/State Water Project	SB 69 Wiener (D) Sponsors: California Coastkeeper Alliance and Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations	Amended 7/11/2019 Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File Bill died	Ocean Resiliency Act of 2019 Seeks to bolster the resilience of the state's marine and coastal environments to climate change and improve conditions for salmon and other commercially valuable species.	WATCH Based upon Board- adopted 2019 State Legislative Priorities and Principles	Would replace existing forestry, fishery and water quality regulatory processes with different approaches to improve conditions for fish upstream of the Delta and in the ocean along the California coast. The bill, as amended on June 25, 2019, removed objectionable language that would have created an offshore salmon hatchery that could interfere with native salmon populations, tested new fish tagging programs, and assigned those costs in part to the State Water

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Topic	Bill Number Author	Amended Date; Location	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
Delta/State Water Project	SB 204 Dodd (D) Sponsor: Delta Counties Caucus	Amended 5/17/2019 Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee Bill died	State Water Project: contracts Revised the notification requirements for pending State Water Project (SWP) contract negotiations and contract amendments. Explicitly requires the California Water Commission to review and report on the progress of the design, construction, and operation of any new Delta conveyance facility as a part of its annual review of the SWP.	WATCH Based upon Board-adopted 2019 State Legislative Priorities and Policies	Project. Metropolitan moved from opposed unless amended to a watch. The bill as amended on May 17, 2019 adheres to the author's stated purpose and deletes objectionable provisions related to the Delta Conveyance joint powers authorities. Bill provides for further transparency on any future amendments to State Water Project contracts as described in Water Code Section 147.6 (c) and construction of future Delta conveyance improvements.
Delta/State Water Project	SB 559 Hurtado (D) Sponsor: Friant Water Authority	Amended 8/25/2020 To Enrollment	Department of Water Resources: grant: Friant-Kern Canal Seeks to address problems of land subsidence on the federally-owned Friant Kern Canal	SUPPORT IF AMENDED Based upon Board-adopted 2019 State Legislative Priorities and Principles	Addresses land subsidence in the Central Valley but only focuses on impacts to the Friant-Kern Canal. Metropolitan is seeking amendments to include the need to address subsidence problems on the California Aqueduct to ensure a reliable water supply for Southern California.
Delta/State Water Project	SB 946 Pan (D) Sponsor:	Amended 6/3/2020 Senate Natural	Flood control: Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership Multi-benefit Program	SUPPORT Based upon Board-	A master plan for the Yolo Bypass-Cache Slough would advance multi-benefit restoration projects and encourage state and federal agencies to

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Topic	Bill Number Author	Amended Date; Location	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency	Resources and Water Committee Bill died	Codifies support for the Yolo Bypass Partnership and its efforts to advance coordinated master planning and accelerate restoration activities for the Yolo Bypass- Cache Slough region.	adopted 2020 State Legislative Priorities and Principles	coordinate regulatory compliance and funding for flood control and water systems.
Environmental Compliance	AB 3279 Friedman (D) Sponsor: Author	Amended 7/27/2020 Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File Bill died	California Environmental Quality Act: administrative and judicial procedures Revises California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) litigation procedures.	SUPPORT Based upon Board- adopted 2020 State Legislative Priorities and Principles	The bill as amended on July 27, 2020 removes objectionable language that would have required a public agency, to the extent feasible, to prepare the record of proceedings concurrently with the administrative process. Metropolitan undertakes hundreds of projects in a given year, and therefore, this requirement would have been overly burdensome. Metropolitan moved to support and looks favorably upon other measures in the bill to reduce the deadline for a court to commence hearings from one year to 270 days and provide that a lead agency may decide whether a plaintiff prepares the administrative record.
Governance and Operations Page 30 of 58	SB 625 Bradford (D) Sponsor: Author	Amended 6/8/2020 Senate Rules Bill died	Central Basin Municipal Water District: receivership Dissolves the board of directors of CBMWD and would provide that the November 3, 2020 election for directors of CBMWD shall not	WATCH, Engage as needed to protect Metropoli- tan's interest	CBMWD is a member agency of Metropolitan and entitled to its respective representation on the Metropolitan Board of Directors. SB 625 as currently written will not result in a direct impact to Metropolitan, and is intended to assist in establishing a

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Topic	Bill Number Author	Amended Date; Location	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
			occur. The bill would require the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) to act as the receiver for CBMWD	Based upon Board action on 6/10/2020	pathway to address CBMWD's governance challenges.
Governance and Operations	SB 952 Nielsen (R) Sponsor: Author	Amended 5/29/2020 Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee Bill died	Sales and use taxes: exemption: backup electrical resources: deenergization events Authorizes a sales and use tax exemption beginning January 1, 2021 for the purchase, lease, use or consumption of backup electrical resources during planned deenergization events	SUPPORT AND AMEND Based upon Board-adopted 2020 State Legislative Priorities and Principles	Reduces water agencies' and other essential public service providers' cost to purchase or upgrade emergency backup generators to continue service and operations during planned public safety power shutoffs.
Governance and Operations	SB 1099 Dodd (D) Co-Sponsors: California Municipal Utilities Association and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Amended 7/27/2020 Assembly Natural Resources Committee Bill died	Emergency backup generators: critical facilities: exemption Directs air districts to adopt or revise an existing rule to suspend operational run time limits on emergency backup generators during public safety power shutoffs, and when needed for routine maintenance and testing.	SUPPORT AND AMEND Based upon Board adopted 2020 State Legislative Priorities and Principles	Adds water agencies need to maintain operations during planned power shutoffs designed to mitigate wildfire risks. Metropolitan seeking amendments that explore alternative approaches to revising existing rules that would allow water agencies to operate emergency generators without being out of compliance with run times set by local air districts.
Water Bond Infrastructure Funding	AB 3256 E. Garcia (D) Sponsor:	Amended 6/4/2020 Assembly Rules	Economic Recovery, Wildlife Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020	SUPPORT AND AMEND	Would provide funding for economic recovery, wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection. Metropolitan is

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
September 2, 2020 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Topic	Bill Number Author	Amended Date; Location	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
	Author	Bill died	Places a \$9.71 billion economic recovery and climate resilience bond on the November 2020 ballot for voter approval.	Based upon Board action on 06/09/2020	seeking amendments to set aside funding for recycled water projects; state-owned conveyance infrastructure to reverse the impacts of subsidence; habitat restoration for native and protected fish; monitoring and treatment for drinking water contaminants; and emergency backup generators that minimize air quality impacts.
Water Bond Infrastructure Funding	Governor's Proposed Budget Trailer Bill Language	Introduced 1/31/2020 Rescinded	Governor's Proposed Safe Drinking Water, Wildlife Prevention and Natural Resources Protection Bond Act of 2020 Places a \$4.75 billion climate resilience bond for voter approval on the November 2020 ballot.	SUPPORT AND AMEND Based upon Board Action on 3/9/2020	Would provide funding for safe and clean drinking water, and resilience to flood and drought. Metropolitan is seeking amendments to set aside funding for recycled water projects; state-owned conveyance infrastructure to reverse the impacts of subsidence; habitat restoration projects for native and protected fish; monitoring and treatment for drinking water contaminants; and emergency backup generators that minimize air quality impacts.
Water Bond Infrastructure Funding Page 32 of 58	SB 45 Allen (D) Sponsor: Author	Amended 1/23/2020 Assembly Held at Desk Bill died	Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020 Places a \$5.51 billion wildfire and water bond on the November 2020 ballot for voter approval.	SUPPORT AND AMEND Based upon Board action on	Would provide funding to restore areas damaged by wildfires, mitigate future wildfires, create healthy forests and watersheds, protect water supplies and water quality, and protect and restore rivers, streams and lakes. Metropolitan is seeking amendments to ensure

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
September 2, 2020 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Topic	Bill Number Author	Amended Date; Location	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
				6/11/19	adequate funding for safe drinking water needs, restoration projects that would benefit Voluntary Agreements for managing the Bay-Delta and the tributaries, and for recycled water projects.
Water Quality/Safe Drinking Water	AB 2560 Quirk (D) Sponsor: California Municipal Utilities Association and Orange County Water District	Amended 8/24/2020 To Enrollment	Water quality: notification and response levels: procedures Requires the State Water Resources Control Board to post on its website and distribute through email information and supporting documentation when it plans to establish or revise notifications or response levels.	SUPPORT Based upon Board-adopted 2020 State Legislative Priorities and Principles	The bill would provide greater transparency and access to technical background information and science used to set new or updated notification and response levels. This would provide Metropolitan and the Member Agencies with clear and consistent information and the ability to take steps if necessary to identify back up water supplies.
Water Quality/Safe Drinking Water	AB 3220 Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials	Amended 7/21/2020 To Enrollment	Hazardous materials: underground storage tanks: pesticides Extends the operation of the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund loan and grant program from January 1, 2022 to January 1, 2026	SUPPORT Based upon Board-adopted 2020 State Legislative Priorities and Principles	The recent amendments incorporated AB 3039 (D-Quirk) on July state legislative matrix. Bill would continue financial assistance for small businesses to upgrade, replace or remove underground storage tanks to meet applicable local, state or federal standards. In Southern California, the program provided funding to remediate underground storage tanks leaking MTBE and other gasoline additives contaminating groundwater supplies.
Water Quality/Safe Drinking Water	SB 414 Caballero (D)	Amended 6/25/2019	Small System Water Authority Act of 2019	SUPPORT	Authorizes the SWRCB to form a small system water authority under existing

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix
September 2, 2020 – Second Year of Legislative Session

Topic	Bill Number Author	Amended Date; Location	Title – Summary	MWD Position	Effects on Metropolitan
Drinking Water	Sponsor: Eastern Municipal Water District and California Municipal Utilities Association	Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File Bill died	Authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to merge small, non-compliant public water systems into a regional public water authority that will directly benefit from increased economies of scale and access to public funding.	Based upon past support for AB 2050 (Caballero) from 2017/18	consolidation powers and issue notices to public water systems that are noncompliant with drinking water standards who may wish to join the new entity. The SWRCB would take steps to provide notice to domestic well owners as well as state small systems.
Water Quality/Safe Drinking Water	SB 1044 Allen (D) Sponsor: California Professional Firefighters and Natural Resources Defense Council	Amended 8/24/2020 To Enrollment	Firefighting equipment and foam: PFAS chemicals Requires any seller of firefighting personal protective equipment to provide written notice to the purchaser if the equipment contains PFAS. Also, prohibits the discharge of state class B firefighting foam that contains PFAS.	SUPPORT Based upon Board approved 2020 State Legislative Priorities and Principles	Metropolitan and member agencies would benefit from this bill because banning PFAS-laden firefighting foam would protect drinking water sources. Firefighting foams, especially those used for training purposes (e.g., at airports and military bases), have been identified as sources of PFAS contamination in groundwater supplies



DISCUSSION ITEM

September 21, 2020

TO: Public Affairs & Legislation Committee
(Directors Yoo Schneider, McVicker, Dick)

FROM: Robert Hunter, General Manager

Staff Contact: Tiffany Baca

SUBJECT: District Website Enhancements – Search Engine Optimization (SEO)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Public Affairs & Legislation Committee: Receive and file the report.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Committee recommends (To be determined at Committee Meeting)

SUMMARY

Search Engine Optimization (SEO) is not a simple process. It is complex, ever-changing, and requires frequent monitoring and evaluation to make a difference. An effective SEO strategy and plan requires learning about the people behind the searches, as well as how search engines themselves respond to existing website content and data. The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWD OC or District) Public Affairs team (PA) will continue to work with SEO experts to refine and implement an action plan to significantly improve the District website's SEO.

DETAILED REPORT

What is SEO?

SEO is the practice of increasing both the quality and quantity of website traffic, as well as exposure to the organization through non-paid – or “organic” – search engine results. A well-executed SEO strategy and plan includes two primary factors: 1. the people who are

Budgeted (Y/N): 45	Budgeted amount: \$9,000	Core X	Choice __
Action item amount:	Line item: 7440		
Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):			

being driven to the website, and 2. what search engines look for to deliver results to searchers.

Why is SEO Important?

While paid advertising, social media, and other outreach efforts can generate traffic to a website, the majority of online traffic is usually driven by search engines like Google or Bing. With a well-executed strategic SEO plan, the District should consistently rank in the top handful of website searches related to its initiatives, reaching more Orange County residents and businesses than ever before. In fact, improved SEO will provide 20x more website traffic opportunity than paid advertising.

Research and Plan

LA Design Studio – the designer and web host of the District’s award-winning website – is also a well-respected provider for SEO planning, strategy, and execution. Through in-depth discussions, MWDOC PA has developed a first-draft action plan to significantly improve the District’s SEO.

Considering the typical hierarchy of SEO, the draft action plan includes the following:

1. Establish goals – e.g., increase organic traffic, diversify traffic-generating pages, etc.
 - a) Determine Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – e.g., more pages visited, more visitor time spent on pages, etc.
2. Enhance crawling and indexing triggers – the first part of having a search engine recognize a webpage and then show it in search results.
3. Ensure that the content contained within the website answers searcher’s queries.
4. Identify and surgically insert keywords, meta titles, meta tags, meta descriptions, and open graph data to attract searchers and search engines, as well as improve page sharing capabilities across social media platforms.
5. Create a great user experience including a fast load speed and compelling website design.
6. Develop a plan to produce share-worthy content that earns clicks, links, referrals, and amplification.
7. Ensure consistency between social accounts, Google, and MWDOC’s website.

In Closing

SEO is a vital digital marketing tool that when done correctly and with intention, will make an organization’s website – the single most important communications tool for businesses – more visible and valuable to visitors. MWDOC PA has completed a broad search for vendors who have the expertise and capability to assist in the roll out of the SEO action plan introduced above, requesting quotes from three individual vendors that specialize in this field. Given the thorough understanding of the District’s website design and content management system, familiarity with the District’s brand, price point for all items included, and working relationship with the vendor, MWDOC PA has chosen to continue work with LA Design Studio to complete SEO optimization of the District’s award-winning website.



DISCUSSION ITEM

September 21, 2020

TO: Public Affairs and Legislation Committee
(Directors Yoo Schneider, Dick, and McVicker)

FROM: Robert Hunter, General Manager

Staff Contact: Heather Baez

SUBJECT: MWDOC LEGISLATIVE POLICY PRINCIPLES ANNUAL UPDATE

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the committee discuss the policy principles and provide feedback to staff on any suggested or requested updates.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Committee recommends (To be determined at Committee Meeting)

REPORT

MWDOC maintains a set of legislative policy principles that serve as guidelines for staff and our legislative advocates on issues that are of importance to the District. The policy principles here are a culmination of current policies and initial changes recommended by staff from all departments within the agency.

In addition, staff has begun soliciting input from the member agencies through the general managers and their legislative staff. MWDOC staff will coordinate feedback from the Board and any input received from the member agencies, as well as any additional input from MWDOC Department Managers, and bring the proposed Policy Principles to the Board for review at the October PAL committee meeting.

Budgeted (Y/N): n/a	Budgeted amount: n/a	Core X	Choice __
Action item amount: None		Line item:	
Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):			

The focus of this month's discussion is for staff to receive input from the committee and update the policy principles to advance the Board's objective of establishing legislative and regulatory policy principles to help guide for both our federal and state legislative programs.

Attached: **Legislative Policy Principles**

~~Strikethrough~~ = Removed
Italics = Addition
(Parentheses) = Source of change

Municipal Water District of Orange County **Legislative and Regulatory Policy Principles**

OVERALL POLICY

Legislation and regulations addressing water resource management issues should be guided by local and regional water resource officials with knowledge and experience in addressing opportunities, threats and needs for success within the water industry.

IMPORTED WATER SUPPLY

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation, regulations and administrative actions that:

- 1) Balances California's competing water needs and results to provide a reliable supply of high- quality water for Orange County.
- 2) Facilitates the implementation of a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Improvement program similar to the Delta Conveyance Project that addresses the co-equal goals of reliable water supply and ecosystem restoration, and related policies that provide long term, comprehensive solutions for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta that:
 - a) Provide reliable water supplies to meet California's short- and long- term needs;
 - b) Improve the ability to transport water through the Delta either for, or supplemental to, State Water Project deliveries;
 - c) Improve the quality of water delivered through the Delta;
 - d) Enhance the Bay-Delta's ecological health in a balanced manner;
 - e) Employ sound scientific research and evaluation to advance the co-equal goals of improved water supply and ecosystem sustainability.
 - f) Expedite the Delta Conveyance Project and EcoRestore initiative;
 - g) Encourages regular infrastructure maintenance and upkeep of the levees to counter the effects of subsidence.
- 3) Funds a comprehensive Bay-Delta solution in a manner that equitably apportions costs to all beneficiaries.

- 4) Authorizes, appropriates, and expeditiously distributes the federal share of funding to improve the Delta Conveyance project and EcoRestore initiative.
- 5) Authorizes, appropriates, and expeditiously implements the ongoing state share of funding to improve the Delta Conveyance project or similarly effective measures, and the EcoRestore initiative.
- 6) Provides funding for Colorado River water quality and supply management efforts.
- 7) Promotes continued federal funding and coordination between states for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program under the Federal Department of Agriculture and Interior.
- 8) Protects and preserves Metropolitan's interest in binational water conservation programs.
- 9) Expeditiously implement programs and funding previously approved by voters and the Legislature.
- 10) Supports the completion of the Central Valley Project (CVP) which may include the construction of conveyance facilities in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta and the raising of Shasta Dam.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Would make urban water supplies less reliable, or would substantially increase the cost of imported water without also improving the reliability and/or quality of such water.
- 2) Imposes water user fees to fund non-water supply improvements in the Delta region or user fees that are not proportional to the benefits received from a Delta region water supply improvement.
- 3) Delays or impedes implementation of the Delta Conveyance project and EcoRestore initiative.
- 4) Takes away local control and decision-making processes from local water suppliers.

LOCAL WATER RESOURCES

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation and regulation that:

- 1) Supports the development of, provides funding for, and authorizes and/or facilitates the expanded use of, cost effective, water recycling, potable reuse, conservation, water use efficiency, groundwater recovery and recharge, storage, brackish and ocean water desalination and surface water development projects where water supply is improved and the beneficiaries of the project pay for the portions of the project not funded by state or federal funds.
- 2) Recognizes that recycled water for both potable and non-potable reuse is a valuable resource that should be promoted and encouraged, while considering total cost elements,

and regulated and permitted in a manner which promotes greater reuse throughout the county and state.

3) Reduces and/or streamlines regulatory burdens on augmented or alternative water supply projects, and provides protections for the use of these supplies during water supply shortages, through exemptions or provisions of credit during state mandated reductions.

4) Supports ecosystem restoration, increased stormwater capture where the capture avoids impact to others, and sediment management activities that are cost-effective and enhance the quality or reliability of water supplies.

5) Authorizes, promotes, and/or provides incentives for indirect and direct potable reuse projects and provides protections for the use of local supply projects during water shortages by exempting them from state mandated reductions.

6) Recognizes that the reliability and high quality of supplies to the end user is the primary goal of water suppliers.

7) Keeps decision-making, with regard to stormwater management and recapture, at the local or regional level.

8) Recognizes stormwater management and recapture, where the capture avoids impact to other water users, as important tools in a diversified water portfolio that can help to achieve improved water quality in local surface and groundwater supplies, and can augment surface and groundwater supplies.

9) Reduces or removes regulatory hurdles that hinder the use of augmented or alternative water supplies.

10) Provides incentives for local or regional use of augmented or alternative water supplies.

11) Support the inclusion of environmental infrastructure projects the Army Corps of Engineers must consider in its Report to Congress.

12) Allows Investor Owned Utilities to invest in redundancy and reliability projects.

13) Provides funding for seawater and brackish groundwater desalination studies and facilities.

14) Streamlines permitting of desalination facilities.

15) Encourages the State to foster investments in water quality, storage, and/or reliability projects.

16) Eliminates state-mandated restrictions on any sources of recycled water, including desalinated water and water reuse by allowing local agencies beneficial use of such water without limitation. Whenever possible, such legislation, regulatory and administrative actions should encourage water use efficiency through goals and guidelines, not requirements.

17) Recognizes that desalinated water, recycled water, and potable reuse are important components of water use efficiency and drought resiliency.

18) Standards should be science-based and peer-reviewed; take economic feasibility and impact into consideration; respect existing water rights; include reasonable time for implementation and compliance; and, be subject to Legislative oversight and review biennially.

19) Authorizes, promotes, and/or provides incentives for the development of extraordinary emergency water supplies for voluntary use by local water agencies during times of drought or water shortages.

20) Is inclusive of transparent collaboration techniques for legislation and regulation regarding water use efficiency.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

1) Restricts a local governmental agency's ability to develop their local water resources in a manner that is cost-effective, environmentally sensitive, and protective of public health.

2) Imposes barriers or increases costs to the safe application of recycled water and continues to define recycled water as a waste or resource of lesser value than traditionally defined potable water.

3) Would make urban water supplies less reliable, or would substantially increase the cost of imported water without also improving the reliability and/ or quality of such water.

4) Restricts or limits a local governmental agency's ability to establish local priorities for water resources planning decisions.

5) Reduces a local agency's ability to benefit from local investments in drought-proof or emergency water supplies during water shortages.

6) Would impose conservation mandates that do not account for the unique local water-supply circumstances of each water district.

7) Would disincentivize or impede water agencies from making investments to maximize the potential for recycled water, potable reuse, desalination and other drought-resilient local water supplies.

WATER STORAGE

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation and regulation that:

1) Provides conveyance and storage facilities that are cost-effective for MWDOC, its member agencies and their customers, while improving the reliability and quality of the water supply.

2) Supports the evaluation of reservoirs to provide an enhancement in water supplies.

3) Supports administrative/legislative action and funding to add surface and/or groundwater storage statewide.

- 4) Supports administrative/legislative action and funding to add South of Delta above ground and ground water storage that is able to receive supplies from the State Water Project and Colorado River Aqueduct.
- 5) Supports “beneficiaries pay” for water storage that ensure full cost recovery.
- 6) Supports the siting and construction of surface storage in Southern California, which is sited to receive either State Water Project (SWP) or Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) supplies.
- 7) Supports bifurcated Surface and Groundwater Storage Funding at the state and federal level.
- 8) Will support the completion of the State Water Project (SWP) through the construction of conveyance facilities. The preferred capacity of the facilities should be between 9,000 and 15,000 CFS.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER LOSS

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation and regulation that:

- 1) Furthers the statewide goal of increasing water use efficiency, as opposed to water conservation throughout the state.
- 2) Would allow flexibility and fosters local and regional collaboration to develop and implement options for compliance in achieving statewide water reduction goals.
- 3) Seeks to cost-effectively improve water efficiency standards and policies for water-using devices *such as, but not limited to, the EPA Water Sense Program and Cal Green Building Standards.* (Staff)
- 4) Provides grants and low-interest loans to fund incentives for water conserving devices or practices.
- 5) Legislatively sets water efficiency standards provided the standards are developed with local and regional input, reasonable, cost effective for Orange County agencies, and customers, and consider unintended consequences, such as impacts to wastewater systems, reductions in recycled water supplies, demand hardening, and impacts to regional reliability and drought preparedness.
- 6) Reasonably improves landscape water use efficiency and Commercial, Institutional and Industrial (CII) water use efficiency programs while preserving community choice and the local economy.
- 7) Encourages regionally appropriate statewide landscape water efficiency-standards and regulations that consider *age of development*, land use, plant material, irrigation efficiency and climate factors. (Staff)

- 8) Provides financially appropriate incentives, funding, and other assistance where needed to facilitate market transformation and gain wider implementation of water-efficient indoor and outdoor technologies and practices.
- 9) Provides incentives, funding, and other assistance where needed to facilitate water use and energy efficiency partnerships with the energy sector.
- 10) Recognizes and protects past investments of agencies and customers in water use efficiency measures, especially from the demand hardening perspective.
- 11) Recognizes community *age*, growth and development when developing comparative standards for water use efficiency year-over-year. (Staff)
- 12) Provides federal and state tax exemptions for water conservation or efficiency incentives for measures including, but not limited to, turf removal, devices, and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape.
- 13) Creates a process for development and implementation of locally activated emergency drought declarations and regulations that recognizes *investments in supply reliability*, variations among communities, regions, and counties with respect to their abilities to withstand the impacts, water supply conditions, and effects of drought. (Staff)

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulations that:

- 1) Fails to ensure balance in the implementation of water efficiency practices throughout the state and requirements for both urban and agricultural use.
- 2) Would repeal cost-effective efficiency standards for water-using devices.
- 3) Diminishes local agency control or flexibility in implementing water efficiency practices or standards.
- 4) Places unreasonable conservation measures on residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customers that would negatively impact or limit the potential for economic growth.
- 5) Fails to recognize the importance of both water use efficiency and water supply development.
- 6) Fails to recognize augmented or alternative water supplies as an efficient use of water, or that fails to provide an adequate incentive for investments in such water, for potable or non-potable reuse.
- 7) Fails to consider regional and local reliability *investments* when establishing any reduction targets during water shortages.
- 8) Requires water efficiency standards or performance measures that are infeasible, not practical or fail to have a positive cost-benefit ratio when comparing the cost of meeting the

standard or implementing the performance measure with the value of the volume of water saved.

9) Creates a “one-size-fits-all” approach to emergency drought declarations and regulations that ignores variations among communities, regions, and counties with respect to their ability to withstand the impacts, water supply conditions, and effects of drought.

WATER QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

It is MWDOC's policy to support:

- 1) Legislation that protects the quality of surface water and groundwater including the reduction of salt loading to groundwater basins.
- 2) Funding that helps agencies meet state and federal water quality standards.
- 3) The establishment and/ or implementation of standards for water-borne contaminants based on sound science and with consideration for cost-effectiveness.
- 4) A science-based regulatory process that has been established under the Safe Drinking Water Act is the best approach for any consideration and development of drinking water regulations to address any contaminant or family of contaminants, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS).
- 5) The investment in the development of analytical methods to more reliably and accurately measure various contaminants, including PFAS, in drinking water.
- 4) Administrative/legislative actions to improve clarity and workability of CEQA, and eliminate other duplicative state processes.
- 5) Streamlining or exempting water, recycled water, wastewater projects, and/or environmental restoration projects, from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- 6) Provides liability protections to public water districts, and related wholesale water providers, seeking to consolidate with or serve as the administrator for troubled water systems that cannot consistently demonstrate that they are able to provide safe, clean and reliable water supplies to their customers.
- 7) State-funded groundwater basin contamination studies and associated economic or environmental impacts.
- 8) Supports the efforts of water industry to promote policies that enhance the pace and scale of headwaters and forest management, including improved planning, coordination, and implementation; increase financing, research, and resources to protect water supply and quality; bring management practices in line with modern challenges; and provide multiple benefits to the State's water users.
- 9) *Support the eradication and prevention of invasive species from becoming established in or around water supplies. (Staff)*

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose:

- 1) Legislation that could compromise the quality of surface water and groundwater supplies.
- 2) Legislation that establishes and/ or implements standards for water-borne contaminants without regard for sound science or consideration for cost effectiveness.
- 3) Projects that negatively impact the water quality of existing local supplies.
- 4) Legislation or regulation that would mandate an unscientifically supported federal or state maximum contaminant level, or mandating an artificial deadline for promulgating a maximum contaminant level for drinking water.
- 5) Legislation, regulation or other policy that would hold drinking water and wastewater facilities liable for PFAS contamination caused by third parties; or that does not clearly state that the party directly responsible for the PFAS pollution is solely liable for the costs associated with the contamination cleanup.

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Compromises the existing governance structure and the representation of member agencies on the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors.
- 2) Would restrict MET's rate-making ability.

WATER TRANSFERS

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation and regulation that:

- 1) Encourages and facilitates voluntary water transfers.
- 2) Provides appropriate protection or mitigation for impacts on the environment, aquifers, water-rights holders and third-parties to the transfer including those with interests in the facilities being used.
- 3) Encourages transfers, or streamlines the transfer approval process, which augment existing water supplies, especially in dry years.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Undermines the operations and maintenance of the conveyance system conveying the water.
- 2) Interferes with the financial integrity of a water utility or compromises water quality.

- 3) Increases regulatory or procedural barriers to water transfers at the local or state level.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING AND PROJECT FUNDING

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation and regulation that:

- 1) Employs a "beneficiary pays" principle that establishes a clear nexus between the costs paid to the direct benefit received. Likewise, those who do not benefit from a particular project or program should not be required to pay for them.
- 2) Establishes grants or other funding opportunities for local and regional water projects, including but not limited to infrastructure projects.
- 3) Considers local investments made in infrastructure, programs, mitigation and restoration in determining appropriate cost shares for water infrastructure, and project investments.
- 4) Reduces the cost of financing water infrastructure planning and construction, such as tax-credit financing, tax-exempt municipal bonds, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (WIFIA), the Environmental Infrastructure Accounts, the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Project, and other funding mechanisms.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Establishes a fee or tax that does not result in a clear and proportional benefit to the District, its member agencies, and their customers.
- 2) Would reduce the total available water infrastructure financing measures such as WIFIA, state-revolving funds, and others.

ENERGY

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Facilitates the development and expansion of clean, and cost effective renewable energy in California, including hydropower.
- 2) Supports water supply reliability as the primary focus of water agencies and energy intensity of water supplies as a secondary factor.
- 3) Recognizes the role and value of the water industry investment in water use efficiency and therefore recognizes WUE efforts towards greenhouse gas reduction, including funding such activities.

4) Recognizes hydroelectric power as a clean, renewable energy source and that its generation and use meets the greenhouse gas emission reduction compliance requirements called for in the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32 and SB 100).

5) Facilitates voluntary and cost effective local investments in renewable energy, energy management and storage, and energy efficiency which improve the water-energy nexus and reduce local agency costs.

FISCAL POLICY

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation or regulation that:

1) Requires the federal and state governments to provide a subvention to reimburse local governments for all mandated costs or regulatory actions.

2) Allows member agencies to voluntarily offer localized Water Rate Assistance Programs that comply with Proposition 218 of California's Constitution and/or are funded either voluntarily or via non-restricted/non-water-rates revenues.

3) Support Proposition 13 as embodied in Article XIII A of the California Constitution, and oppose the "split roll" efforts that would increase property taxes on businesses.

4) Changes how inverse condemnation liability is determined for water service providers in order to limit water agency liability for impacts of wildfire.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

1) Is inconsistent with the District's current investment policies and practices.

2) Pre-empts the District's or its member agencies' ability to impose or change cost-of-service-based water rates, fees, or assessments., or requires them to submit their rates or charges to any state agency for approval.

3) Impairs the District's ability to maintain levels of reserve funds that it deems necessary and appropriate.

4) Impairs the District's ability to provide services to its member agencies and ensure full cost recovery.

5) Makes any unilateral reallocation of District revenues, or those of its member agencies, by the state unless the state takes compensatory measures to restore those funds.

6) Would impose mandated costs or regulatory constraints on the District or its member agencies without reimbursement.

7) Mandates a specific rate structure for water agencies.

8) Imposes a "public goods charge" "water user fee", or "water tax" on public water agencies or their ratepayers.

GOVERNANCE

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Advances good government practices and public transparency measures in a manner that does not take a "one-size fits all" approach, respects local government control, and facilitates technological efficiencies to meet state reporting and disclosure requirements.
- 2) For LAFCO-initiated reorganizations, support the existing protest thresholds per the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, & Oppose changes that would make it more difficult for citizens to protest a LAFCO-initiated reorganization.
- 3) Support exempting special districts from Cumulative and Ranked Choice Voting methods and Oppose attempts to make this method an option or a mandate for special districts elections.
- 4) Supports or facilitates responsible programs, procedures, and methods that promote collaboration, transparency and open government.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Imposes unnecessarily broad burdens upon all local governments.
- 2) Shifts state programs, responsibilities and costs to local governments without first considering funding to support the shift.
- 3) Seeks to limit or rescind local control.
- 4) Reduces or diminishes the authority of the District to govern its affairs.
- 5) Imposes new costs on the District and the ratepayers absent a clear and necessary benefit.
- 6) Resolves state budget shortfalls through shifts in the allocation of property tax revenue or through fees for which there is no direct nexus to benefits received.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSION REFORM

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation that:

- 1) Seeks to contain or reform public employee pension and other post-employment benefit (OPEB) cost obligations that are borne by public agencies via taxpayers and ratepayers.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation that:

- 1) Increases coordination on Homeland Security and emergency response efforts among the federal, state, and local governments with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for each.
- 2) Provides continued funding to enhance and maintain local Homeland Security infrastructure, including physical and cyber protection of critical infrastructure.
- 3) Ensures adequate funding for expenditures related to disaster response and all phases of emergency management; including the earthquake early notification system and efforts to enhance water infrastructure resiliency.
- 4) Strengthens intergovernmental planning and preparation coordination for emergency response and drills.
- 5) Enhances protection of information and cyber security for critical infrastructure through policy and funding for local efforts.
- 6) Supports water utility capability to notify customers of emergency protective measures through ~~reverse~~ mass notification systems. (Staff)
- 7) Properly recognizes water agencies' role in emergency response to wildfires and other natural disasters, where water service is needed or may be impacted, because water and wastewater services are essential public utilities that ensure public health and safety.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Reduces a water utility's ability represent itself ~~in~~ *or implement activities of* any component of the disaster preparedness cycle, especially ~~the~~ *within* response and recovery section ~~staff~~. (Staff)
- 2) Negatively impacts water and wastewater utility's ability to prepare, mitigate or respond to, *or recover from disaster and* emergencies in order to provide fire suppression, drinking water and wastewater services. (Staff)



INFORMATION ITEM
September 21, 2020

TO: **Public Affairs & Legislation Committee**
(Directors Yoo Schneider, Dick, McVicker)

FROM: **Robert Hunter, General Manager**

Staff Contact: Sarah Wilson

SUBJECT: **School Programs Update**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Public Affairs & Legislation Committee: Receive and file this report.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Committee recommends (To be determined at Committee Meeting)

SUMMARY

With 27 school districts covering 600 schools serving close to 500,000 students in Orange County alone, educators, teachers, parents, and students find themselves once again navigating the challenges of another learning transition. While school administrators across the county spent the summer determining their plans for reopening and carefully considering their options for in-person, online, or hybrid learning, MWD OC Public Affairs (PA) worked closely with MWD OC K-12 Choice School Program contractors—Shows That Teach, Discovery Cube Orange County, and Bolsa Chica Conservancy—to offer live, interactive virtual water lessons that can be accessed at home or in class for the 2020-21 school year.

DETAILED REPORT

While each classroom may look different in the fall semester, and could likely change throughout the year, it is evident that students will no longer be able to receive the same

Budgeted (Y/N): Y	Budgeted amount: \$401,729	Core <u> </u>	Choice <u>X</u>
Action item amount:	Line item: 63-7040		
Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):			

learning opportunities that they were once granted. Keeping in mind the health and safety of all involved, both the state and county departments of education have strongly discouraged participation in field trips and large assemblies or presentations from non-essential visitors.

To help meet the needs of Orange County K-12 students and teachers, MWDOC PA and MWDOC K-12 Choice School Program contractors have worked closely to develop new and creative ways to educate students virtually. For the 2020-21 school year, the MWDOC School Programs now offer live, online sessions that engage students whether they are distance learning from home, or are back in the classroom. Sessions cover topics such as: Orange County water supply and the important role of water providers, the importance of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta, and ways to protect the quality, quantity, and availability of water long into the future. Depending on the grade level and attention span of the age group, sessions range from 20 minutes to a full hour. Each session, includes prompted interaction from the students, as well as demonstrations, visual imagery, and video to keep students actively involved throughout the session.

Also, all MWDOC K-12 Choice School Programs now include pre- and post-activities to connect students to their local environment through hands-on learning—a vital element to education that students are missing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These activities also serve as a way to assist teachers in seamlessly incorporating the program into their lesson plans, and extending the discussion well after the live session has concluded. Depending on the grade band, pre-activities could include a home water audit, creating a poster about the ways we value and save water through guided inquiry, and more. Post-activities range from creating a 3-D map of the California Aqueduct or building a model aquifer, to developing and presenting a Public Service Announcement describing how water impacts our daily lives.

NEXT STEPS

As MWDOC School Program contractors begin to book live sessions, the two-month preview of the calendar schedule will be shared in this report along with any metrics or feedback received. Additionally, MWDOC PA will continue to work with education partners Orange County Department of Education and State Education and Environment Roundtable to evaluate and amend the MWDOC School Program goals to ensure students are engaged in their local environment, encouraged to take an active role in protecting water quality and supply, and inspired to make informed decisions. The current MWDOC Choice School Program goals can be accessed [here](#).



INFORMATION ITEM

August 10, 2020

TO: **Public Affairs & Legislation Committee**
(Directors Yoo Schneider, McVicker & Dick)

FROM: **Robert Hunter, General Manager**
Staff Contact: Damon Micalizzi

SUBJECT: **OC Water Summit Update**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Public Affairs & Legislation Committee: Receive and file the report.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Committee recommends (To be determined at Committee Meeting)

REPORT

The 2021 Orange County Water Summit is scheduled for June 4, 2021 at the Disney Grand Californian Hotel. In the event COVID-19 continues to hinder public gatherings staff is exploring options for a virtual 'Plan B' for next year's Summit.

OCWD is the lead agency for the 2021 event. In an effort to be efficient and utilize the work done for this year's Summit which was cancelled the Committee agreed to keep the Water Breaking News theme. Fritz Coleman, who has recently retired from NBC 4 Los Angeles, has been invited to Emcee.

The next meeting of the OC Water Summit Ad Hoc Committee will be September 28th.

Budgeted (Y/N):	Budgeted amount:	Core __	Choice __
Action item amount:		Line item:	
Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):			



INFORMATION ITEM
August 10, 2020

TO: **Public Affairs & Legislation Committee**
(Directors Yoo Schneider, McVicker, Dick)

FROM: **Robert Hunter, General Manager**

Staff Contact: Damon Micalizzi

SUBJECT: VIRTUAL WATER POLICY FORUM - SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Public Affairs & Legislation Committee: Receive and File

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Committee recommends (To be determined at Committee Meeting)

REPORT

At the time of this report, 140 have registered for MWDOC's upcoming Virtual Water Policy Forum. The event, which will be held via Zoom is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 23rd.

Michael George, Delta Watermaster will be the featured presenter, discussing the Bay Delta, and the competing interests across the entire state. Mr. George will highlight areas of agreement and discord, and offer his forecast for how to move past the current state of impasse towards a more sustainable future.

Budgeted (Y/N):	Budgeted amount:	Core __	Choice __
Action item amount:		Line item:	
Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):			

Public & Governmental Affairs Activities Report

August 6, 2020 – September 8, 2020

Member Agency Relations	<p>Public Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated WUE marketing materials for Irvine Ranch Water District • <p>Governmental Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responded to the City of Westminster regarding shutoffs compliance related to SB 998 and the Governor’s current Executive Order • Drafted an agenda and contact list for the MWDOC Member Agency Grants Tracking and Acquisition group • Sent out notification and follow-up reminders for the MWDOC Member Agency Grants Tracking and Acquisition bi-monthly meeting • Provided a Grants Program update to the MWDOC Member Agency Managers meeting • Hosted a Grants Tracking and Acquisition virtual meeting with Joey Soto for MWDOC and member agency staff • Sent email to member agencies asking for feedback on unpaid water bills during COVID-19, gathered responses and passed along the information to CMUA, per request
Community Relations	<p>Public Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in Wyland National Mayor’s Challenge and promoted pledge participation through social media • Attended CalMatters Policy Matters 20-21 school year webinar • Attended Orange County Business Council’s Workforce Development meeting • Met with UC Master Gardeners, OC Coastkeeper, and Moon Valley Nurseries – separately - to propose and plan a Garden Smart social media video campaign • Attended the Girl Scouts of Orange County Virtual Breakfast with the CEO • Participated in CalDesal Outreach and Communications committee and website subcommittee meetings <p>Governmental Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in CSDA’s Virtual Bingo event • Participated in CSDA’s Virtual District Network Meeting
Media Relations	<p>Public Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in weekly County Operational Area PIO COVID-19 Conference Calls • Distributed President Tamaribuchi’s appointment to the Metropolitan Board of Directors press release

Education	<p>Public Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in the monthly Department of Water Resources (DWR) Water Education Committee (WEC) Meeting • Met with DWR, Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, and Valley Water to plan the October DWR WEC conference. • Participated in the bi-weekly Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Education Coordinator's Meeting • Participated in a California Environmental Literacy Leadership Council meeting • Worked with MWDOC Choice School Program contractors on developing and finalizing pre- and post-activities for the K-12 school programs • Attended the CalMatters Webinar on navigating the coronavirus pandemic during the 2020-21 school year through virtual instruction • Met with MWDOC Choice School Program contractor Discovery Cube Orange County on virtual program structure • Worked with education partner Orange County Department of Education to complete two additional Grab-and-Go Water Activities on Orange County Water Supply and Delta Conveyance • Surveyed MWDOC Choice School Program participating member agencies to identify key discussion topics of importance for the MWDOC K-12 school programs
Special Projects	<p>Public Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued planning and preparation for the September 23rd Virtual Water Policy Forum • Updated administrative process for public affairs contacts and re organized list of 29,000+ contacts • Submitted artwork to Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for the 2020 Water Awareness Poster Contest • Published several website updates • Completed several website and electronic and print updates for MWDOC Water Use Efficiency (WUE) rebate programs • Created content and messaging on behalf of Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County during power outage and heat advisories • Designed bill inserts for MWDOC WUE department to distribute to member agencies • Created MWDOC-Orange County Water District joint letterhead • Participated in OC Water Summit planning and committee meetings • Met with Juanita Chan of Rialto Unified School District to secure her as a speaker for the Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA) • Met with California Environmental Education Foundation to discuss agenda items for WEEA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with MWDOC Human Resources to develop and distribute the WEEA Assistant job description and opening • Attended California Association of Public Information Officials webinar Hosting Virtual Events <p>Governmental Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with Nancy Vogel, Director of the Governor’s Water Portfolio and secured her to speak at the September WACO meeting • Worked with Bureau of Reclamation staff to ensure all virtual platforms and equipment worked seamlessly for Commissioner Brenda Burman’s presentation at the August WACO meeting • Staffed the monthly WACO meeting with guest speaker, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner, Brenda Burman • Met with OC LAFCO staff to review information in MWDOC’s Municipal Service Review • Worked with LAFCO staff to make changes/updates to MWDOC’s MSR • Drafted a thank you note to US Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner, Brenda Burman, for speaking to WACO on August 7 • Worked with MWDOC staff to identify photos to include in MWDOC’s Municipal Service Review and created a small photo collage for the report cover • Staffed the WACO Planning meeting and drafted a list of questions for the September speaker • Collected nominations for the ISDOC Executive Board • Staffed the ISDOC Executive Board Meeting • Worked with ISDOC 1st VP of Programs and provided suggestions for the October ISDOC Quarterly luncheon along with potential speakers • Met with OC LAFCO and MWD staff to review GIS boundaries for MWDOC’s service area • Worked with the ISDOC President on talking points for the upcoming “Chapter of the Year” video
Legislative Affairs	<p>Governmental Affairs Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in the ACWA Federal Affairs Infrastructure Funding Committee Meeting • Attended the PPIC virtual conversation with Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins • Participated in the Southern California Water Coalition Legislative Task Force Meeting • Participated in the ACWA Region 10 State Legislative Committee pre-meeting • Participated in the ACWA/CMUA SB 200 Implementation working group meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the CMUA Regulatory Committee meeting • Attended and participated in the CMUA Legislative Committee meeting • Participated in the MWD Member Agency Legislative meeting • Attended the CSDA Legislative Committee meeting • Attended the ACWA State Legislative Committee meeting • Participated in the CalDesal Legislative Committee meeting • Drafted a letter to Congress, re: Special Districts Legislation and funding for COVID-19 • Attended the OCBC D.C. Virtual Summit featuring speakers from the US Chamber of Commerce, Congressmen Cisneros, Takano, Lowenthal, and Levin, and Senator Dianne Feinstein • Attended the OCBC D.C. Virtual Summit (part 2) with Congresswoman Katie Porter and Congressman Harley Rouda • Drafted talking points and introduced MWD's Executive Legislative Representative, Dr. Abby Schneider at the Met Board Workshop meeting • Began the process of updating the Legislative and Regulatory Policy Principles, and sent them to the MWDOC Board and staff for review, as well as the member agencies for review and input
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