

WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH METROPOLITAN DIRECTORS  
18700 Ward Street, Conference Room 101, Fountain Valley, California  
April 1, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

**Telephone Audio: (669) 900 9128**  
**Webinar ID: 882 866 5300#**

## **AGENDA**

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### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **ROLL CALL**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

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

### **ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED**

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

### **ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

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

### **NEXT RESOLUTION NO. 2170**

### **PRESENTATION ITEM**

#### **1. METROPOLITAN BUDGET**

*Recommendation: Receive and file the presentation.*

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**2. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**

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

*Recommendation: Review and discuss the information presented.*

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

*Recommendation: Receive input and discuss the information presented.*

**ACTION ITEMS**

**4. ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (OC LAFCO) SPECIAL DISTRICT MEMBER SEATS APPOINTMENT – AUTHORIZATION TO VOTE**

*Recommendation: Authorize President Larry Dick and an alternate to vote in the 2026 Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission Regular and Alternate Special District Member Seats appointment process; and direct staff to submit the declaration form by the deadline.*

**5. ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 161 (ADDIS) – SPECIAL DISTRICTS WEEK 2026**

*Recommendation: Adopt a support position on Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 161 (Addis) and join the California Special Districts Association’s coalition and outreach efforts.*

**6. SENATE BILL 1153 (CABALLERO) – WATER SYSTEMS AND WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS**

*Recommendation: Adopt a support position on Senate Bill 1153 (Caballero) and join the Association of California Water Agencies’ coalition letter.*

**7. ASSEMBLY BILL 2180 (WARD) – PROPOSITION 218 OMNIBUS IMPLEMENTATION ACT: PROPORTIONAL COST OF SERVICE**

*Recommendation: Adopt a support position on Assembly Bill 2180 (Ward) and join the Association of California Water Agencies’ coalition letter.*

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**8. METROPOLITAN ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY**

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

**9. METROPOLITAN BOARD AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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



**PRESENTATION ITEM**

April 1, 2026

**TO: Board of Directors**

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

Staff Contact: Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Manager  
Jared Dawson, Water Resources Analyst

**SUBJECT: METROPOLITAN BUDGET**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends the Board of Directors receive the presentation.

**REPORT**

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this item is to provide the Board of Directors (Board) with an update on the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (Metropolitan) Proposed Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years (FY) 2026-27 and 2027-28.

**Background**

Every two years, Metropolitan embarks on its Biennial Budget, along with the associated rates and charges, and prepares a ten-year forecast. The [Proposed Biennial Budget](#) is for FYs 2026-27 and 2027-28 and includes proposed water rates and charges for calendar year (CY) 2027 and CY 2028 to meet the revenue requirements, a ten-year financial forecast, and the Cost-of-Service Report supporting the proposed rates and charges.

The process of evaluating and considering the proposal began with [Workshop #1](#) on February 10 and [Workshop #2](#) on February 24. At the March 4 Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWD OC) Joint Workshop Board Meeting, Metropolitan staff presented a [Metropolitan Biennial Budget Overview](#) that covered budget highlights, budget drivers, and estimated overall rate increases for the biennium and the ten-year forecast.

On March 10, Metropolitan held [Workshop #3](#), which was followed by [Workshop #4](#), on March 24. Final consideration of the Biennial Budget by the Metropolitan Board is scheduled for April 14, 2026.

## **Discussion**

The Proposed Biennial Budget appropriates \$2.72 billion for FY 2026-27 and \$2.92 billion for FY 2027-28, requiring revenue from rates and charges of \$1.72 billion and \$1.83 billion in each year, respectively. Budget appropriations represent the total anticipated costs, while revenue requirements represent the amount to be recovered from rates and charges, after the application of property taxes, investment income, and other sources of revenue.

The proposed rate increases for CYs 2027 and 2028 are 9.3% and 9.2%, respectively, representing an 18.5% increase over the biennium. Compared to Metropolitan's original Proposed Biennial Budget, which posed a 9.5% increase in both CYs 2027 and 2028, this illustrates a minor reduction in the overall rate increase over the biennium.

The updated rate increases for CYs 2027 and 2028 are driven by the San Diego County Water Authority's (SDCWA) notice to Metropolitan of reduced second right of refusal to purchase Conserved and/or Canal Lining Water from 50.7 thousand acre-feet (TAF) to 5 TAF in CY 2026. This resulted in revised assumptions of exchange revenues, water sales, and the supply program budget that impacts the baseline and proposed budget.

Rate increases over the biennium are driven by funding of essential operations to maintain system reliability, supporting a growing and aging capital program, and providing funding for the 45 million gallon per day (MGD) Stage 1 Pure Water Southern California (Pure Water) project.

The proposed rate and charge for increases of 9.3% effective on January 1, 2027, and 9.2% effective on January 1, 2028, are to cover the costs in the Proposed Biennial Budget for FYs 2026-27 and 2027-28, meet financial policy guidelines apart from revenue bond coverage, and maintain steady rates for the future. The proposed increases in rates and charges ensure that Metropolitan continues to make progress toward meeting all coverage targets.

The rates and charges for FY 2026-27 are based on the estimated revenue requirements of \$1.72 billion and are based on total water transactions of 1.21 million acre-feet (MAF), of which 621 TAF is treated full-service water, 367 TAF is untreated full-service water, and the remaining 227 TAF is projected exchange transactions with SDCWA.

The rates and charges for FY 2027-28 are based on the estimated revenue requirements of \$1.83 billion and are based on total water transactions of 1.29 MAF, of which 690 TAF is treated full-service water, 372 TAF is untreated full-service water, and the remaining 227 TAF is projected exchange transactions with SDCWA.

## Baseline Budget

Metropolitan's proposed rate increases for CY 2027 and CY 2028 begin with the baseline Biennial Budget, which reflects previously approved Metropolitan Board actions and updated assumptions. These include the 70% exceedance water sales methodology, the Second Amended and Restated SDCWA-Metropolitan Exchange Agreement updated pricing model, Department of Water Resources (DWR) credits, and zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) program financing. Subsequent refinements reflect revised water transactions, updated State Water Project (SWP) and Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) power costs and post-2026 Colorado River supply assumptions, updated property tax revenue estimates, and refinements to the Local Resources Program and non-rate revenues.

Calendar Year	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	
<b>Revised Baseline Budget<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	6.5%	6.5%	5.0%	5.0%	4.5%	4.5%	4.0%	4.0%
Incremental Drivers											
Proposed Increase Base CIP	0.5%	1.0%	0.5%	0.5%	1.0%	1.0%	0.5%	0.5%	1.0%	1.0%	
Proposed Operating Equipment	0.4%										
Proposed Staffing	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%					
<b>Revised Baseline + Inc. Drivers</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	
45-MGD PWSC (Stage 1)	0.5%	0.5%	1.5%	1.5%	2.5%	2.5%	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%	3.0%	
<b>Revised Proposed Budget</b> <small>(Baseline + Inc. Drivers + PWSC)</small>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	

## Incremental Budget Drivers

Building on the baseline, Metropolitan staff incorporated incremental requirements to support ongoing operations, maintain reliability, and advance planned reinvestment and workforce needs. These incremental drivers result in proposed increases of 9.3% in CY 2027 and 9.2% in CY 2028 and fall into three primary categories:

**Proposed Base Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Increase.** The Proposed Biennial Budget reflects \$950 million in funding for the base CIP over the biennium, consisting of \$450 million in FY 2026-27 and \$500 million in FY 2027-28, not including Pure Water project expenditures. This level of investment is driven by the need to maintain Metropolitan's existing infrastructure, address deferred refurbishment and replacement of aging assets, meet regulatory compliance requirements, and sustain reliable operation of Metropolitan's regional water system.

**Proposed Staffing.** The proposed budget for FYs 2026-27 and 2027-28 includes 87 Operations and Maintenance positions, ten Capital positions related to CIP refurbishment and replacement projects, and eight Capital positions for the Pure Water project. These positions were identified through a Staffing Needs Analysis that incorporated operational risk assessments, input from Metropolitan's Executive Team, historical unfunded position requests, the 2024 Workplace Assessment, and, where possible, feedback from Metropolitan's bargaining units. The analysis also considered staffing needs extending beyond the current biennium and into the next two budget cycles.

**Proposed 45-MGD Pure Water.** The Proposed Biennial Budget assumes approval and construction of the 45-MGD Stage 1 Pure Water project over the ten-year financial forecast. Over the biennium, the proposed budget funds final design, permitting, and initial construction activities, with total biennial Pure Water expenditures estimated at \$150 million, or approximately \$58.2 million net of grant funding.

Beyond the biennium, Pure Water is reflected in Metropolitan's ten-year CIP forecast, with total capital expenditures for the 45-MGD Stage 1 project estimated at approximately \$3.6 billion before grants. Spending is relatively modest in the early years, increases significantly during peak construction in the early 2030s, and tapers as the facility approaches completion.

### Budget Highlights

The following items represent key policy decisions and external factors that have shaped the Proposed Biennial Budget and are highlighted for the Board's awareness:

**Colorado River Post-2026 Reductions.** The expiration of the current Colorado River operating guidelines in 2026 and the transition to post-2026 operating rules are expected to reduce the reliability of Metropolitan's Colorado River supplies. The Proposed Biennial Budget reflects this updated outlook and assumes approximately 654 TAF of CRA diversions for FY 2026-27 and 558 TAF of CRA diversions for FY 2027-28, consistent with emerging post-2026 conditions.

**Treatment Capacity Fixed Charges for Treated Water.** In July 2025, the Metropolitan Board approved a treated water cost recovery rate structure to be used in developing the Biennial Budget and associated rates and charges. The approved structure transitions Metropolitan from a fully volumetric treatment surcharge to a hybrid framework that recovers up to 30% of treatment revenue requirements through fixed Treatment Capacity Charges, with the remaining approximately 70% recovered through volumetric charges based on treated water deliveries.

**Water Sales Forecast Methodology.** In July 2025, the Metropolitan Board adopted a policy to use a more conservative water sales forecast for budget development and rate setting, approving the use of a 70% exceedance level for the upcoming biennium and an 80% exceedance level thereafter. Setting an exceedance level means forecasting water transactions at an amount that Metropolitan anticipates will be met or exceeded at that probability level. At 70%, the water transactions forecast is projected to be met or exceeded 70% of the time. This approach reduces downside financial risk and lowers the likelihood of mid-biennium shortfalls, while increasing near-term unit costs because fixed costs are recovered over fewer projected sales.

**Ad Valorem Property Tax Revenues.** The Proposed Biennial Budget keeps the assumed property tax rate unchanged at 0.007% of assessed valuation (approximately \$7 per \$100,000 of assessed value). The projected ad valorem property tax revenues are approximately \$407.7 million in FY 2026-27 and \$424.7 million in FY 2027-28. This compares to the FY 2025-26 budget of \$333.8 million and the latest FY 2025-26 projection of \$395.6 million. The increase reflects updated assessed valuation data within Metropolitan’s service area.

**SDCWA-Metropolitan Exchange Agreement.** Revenue assumptions in the Proposed Biennial Budget reflect the amended and restated Exchange Agreement between Metropolitan and SDCWA, effective June 2, 2025. Under the agreement, SDCWA makes a fixed baseline exchange payment set at the exchange unit price multiplied by 227 TAF, paid in equal monthly installments and due regardless of whether SDCWA takes the full baseline quantity in a given year. The Proposed Biennial Budget reflects this fixed baseline payment as a stabilizing non-rate revenue source. If SDCWA exchanges more than 227 TAF, and up to 277.7 TAF under the contract, it pays the exchange unit price, which is considered volumetric revenue for Metropolitan.

Ten-Year Financial Forecast

Overall rate increases over the ten-year forecast period reflect lower projected water transactions, higher projected costs, and the inclusion of Pure Water implementation costs beginning in FY 2026-27. Near-term Pure Water costs in the biennium are modest and substantially offset by grant funding, with larger financial impacts increasing over time as the project advances through peak construction. Metropolitan's annual expenditures are expected to increase from \$2.4 billion in FY 2026-27 to \$4.2 billion by FY 2035-36, representing an average annual increase of approximately 6 percent. Capital investments over the same period are expected to total approximately \$9.2 billion.

**Next Steps**

The following sets forth the proposed schedule for Metropolitan’s Proposed Biennial Budget and revenue requirements for FYs 2026-27 and 2027-28, and proposed water rates and charges for CYs 2027 and 2028.

Date	Related Activity
April 14, 2026	Metropolitan Board <b>ACTION</b> regarding Biennial Budget for FYs 2026-27 and 2027-28, rates and charges for CYs 2027 and 2028, and Ten-Year Financial Forecast
May 12, 2026	Metropolitan Board <b>Action</b> regarding continuation of Standby Charge for FY 2026-27
August 18, 2026	Metropolitan Board <b>Action</b> regarding fixing ad valorem property taxes for FY 2026-27

## **ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

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

<b>Attachments/Links:</b>
Link 1: Metropolitan Proposed Biennial Budget - <a href="https://go.mwdoc.com/K8ltbg">https://go.mwdoc.com/K8ltbg</a>
Link 2: Metropolitan Workshop #1 Presentation - <a href="https://go.mwdoc.com/dHiV9P">https://go.mwdoc.com/dHiV9P</a>
Link 3: Metropolitan Workshop #2 Presentation - <a href="https://go.mwdoc.com/qNJMYD">https://go.mwdoc.com/qNJMYD</a>
Link 4: Metropolitan Budget Overview Presentation: <a href="https://go.mwdoc.com/z2a2Nj">https://go.mwdoc.com/z2a2Nj</a>
Link 5: Metropolitan Workshop #3 Presentation - <a href="https://go.mwdoc.com/YpOwyt">https://go.mwdoc.com/YpOwyt</a>
Link 6: Metropolitan Workshop #4 Presentation - <a href="https://go.mwdoc.com/NJln2f">https://go.mwdoc.com/NJln2f</a>



NATURAL RESOURCE  
RESULTS

**To:** Board of Directors, *Municipal Water District of Orange County*

**From:** Natural Resource Results

**RE:** Monthly Board Report – April 2026

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### **One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB)**

On March 17, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced the allocation of \$889 million in funding from the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB) to support federally owned water storage and conveyance infrastructure across the western United States. The legislation provides \$1 billion to the Bureau of Reclamation through 2034 to modernize aging facilities, expand storage capacity, and improve the reliability of water delivery systems critical to agricultural production and growing communities.

#### **Funding allocations:**

- **California – \$540 million total:**
  - Delta-Mendota Canal — \$235 million for canal rehabilitation, including embankment improvements and structural repairs
  - Friant-Kern Canal — \$200 million for subsidence correction
  - San Luis Canal — \$50 million to address subsidence and restore delivery reliability
  - Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority Pumping Plant — \$15 million to increase flow capacity and improve system performance
  - Shasta Dam — \$40 million for planning and preconstruction activities associated with a dam raise to expand storage capacity
- **Idaho — \$30 million:** Conveyance and pump storage project for the Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District
- **North Dakota — \$108 million total:**
  - Eastern North Dakota Alternate Water Supply Project — \$100 million
  - Garrison Diversion Unit (McClusky Canal and Snake Creek Pumping Plant repairs) — \$8 million
- **South Dakota — \$11 million:** Belle Fourche Siphon lining project to repair aging infrastructure serving agricultural lands
- **Utah — \$100 million:** Replacement of the Highline Canal with an enclosed pipeline to improve safety and efficiency
- **Wyoming — \$100 million:** Long-term repairs to the Fort Laramie Tunnels to reduce the risk of system failures

### **Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Passes House**

On March 16th, the House passed Congressman Calvert’s H.R. 831, Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2025. Senator Padilla has a Senate companion bill, which passed out of Committee of February 4<sup>th</sup> and now awaits action from the full Senate.

The bill would increase the funding available for species conservation by creating an interest-bearing account at the Department of the Treasury for funds that the Colorado River Lower Basin states and the federal government contribute to the LCR MSCP.

### **Bureau of Reclamation Funding**

After several months of delays, pauses, and limited public activity around federal water funding, the Bureau of Reclamation has recently begun moving forward with the release and deployment of previously appropriated funding, including funding tied to the Inflation Reduction Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and core programs like WaterSMART.

Earlier in 2025 and into early 2026, several grant opportunities and funding announcements were paused, delayed, or slow to materialize, with some solicitations temporarily put on hold and limited transparency around timelines for awards. However, recent announcements and funding opportunities indicate that Reclamation is now actively advancing these investments—issuing new grant solicitations, finalizing awards, and obligating funds for water recycling, drought resilience, and infrastructure modernization projects across the West.

**March 23, 2026****To:** Minucipal Water District of Orange County**From:** Michael Boccadoro  
Beth Olhasso**RE:** March Report

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**Overview:**

While reservoir levels remain strong, the March heatwave is rapidly melting the Sierra Snowpack. The state is quickly approaching the record for the worst April 1 snowpack on record. The statewide snowpack is at just 29 percent of April 1 average (just 11 percent in the Northern Sierra)

Reservoir levels remain strong, as much of the melting snow has been captured and reservoirs are being managed for flood control. Lake Oroville is sitting at 89 percent capacity, 125 percent of normal; Lake Shasta is sitting at 89 percent of capacity, 116 percent of average; while San Luis Reservoir is at 89 percent of capacity, 104 percent of average for this time of year.

California's long-planned Sites Reservoir project is moving closer to construction after securing a key draft permit, advancing what could become the state's largest new reservoir in decades. Designed to store water during wet periods for use in droughts, the project highlights both the urgency of expanding storage and the ongoing tension between water supply reliability and environmental protection.

A new Legislative Analyst's Office report is intensifying debate over how California should manage the Bay-Delta, examining voluntary agreements as an alternative to stricter regulations. While the report emphasizes flexibility and collaboration, it has drawn sharp criticism from environmental and Tribal groups who argue it lacks balance, weakens enforceability, and could fall short in protecting ecosystems.

The state officially launched an ambitious new water strategy under SB 72, aiming to create 9 million acre-feet of new supply by 2040 through recycling, storage, and groundwater recharge. The plan signals a major shift toward locally controlled, diversified water systems, but its success will depend on funding, coordination, and balancing competing demands in a changing climate.

The Legislature has started working through the committee process for all the legislation introduced since the first of the year. Water stakeholders are working with legislators and other proponents on issues including tribal rights, low-income water rate assistance, State Revolving Fund reform, golden mussels, funding and operation for the State Water Project and many other issues. The deadline for bills to make it out of their first house policy committee is April 23.

# **Municipal Water District of Orange County**

## **Status Report – March 2026**

### ***Water Supply Conditions***

As widely reported, the Sierra snowpack is melting unusually early this year as a stretch of early season heat rapidly reduces one of the state's most important natural water reserves. In the past three weeks alone, statewide snowpack has been declining by about 1% per day, with melting occurring even at the highest elevations.

Snowpack typically supplies up to one-third of California's water, gradually melting through spring to feed rivers and fill reservoirs. But this year, warming temperatures have pushed peak accumulation to mid-February—far earlier than the usual April 1 peak—and continued heat will accelerate runoff in the coming weeks.

Forecasts of above-normal temperatures raise concerns that California could end up with one of its lowest April 1 snowpack levels on record, potentially second only to the extreme drought year of 2015. If that pattern continues, it could reduce late-season water supplies during the dry summer months.

To better track conditions and improve runoff forecasting, the Department of Water Resources and partners are conducting mid-month snow surveys across key watersheds and using airborne measurements to refine estimates of how much water remains in the snowpack. Water managers say these real-time observations help guide reservoir operations, allowing them to capture as much runoff as possible to support communities and ecosystems through the summer.

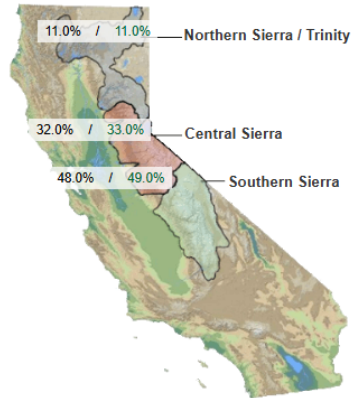
The Northern Sierra snowpack went from 43 percent of normal for this date to 11 percent of normal in just 30 days.

Reservoirs are still holding strong-- San Luis reservoir is at 104 percent of historical average and 89 percent capacity. Lake Oroville is at 89 percent capacity, 125 percent of normal; Lake Shasta is sitting at 89 percent of capacity, 116 percent of average for this time of the year.

Provided by the California Cooperative Snow Surveys

Data For: 23-Mar-2026

% Apr 1 Avg. / % Normal for this Date



Change Date:

NORTH	
Data For: 23-Mar-2026	
Number of Stations Reporting	33
Average snow water equivalent	2.9"
Percent of April 1 Average	11%
Percent of normal for this date	11%

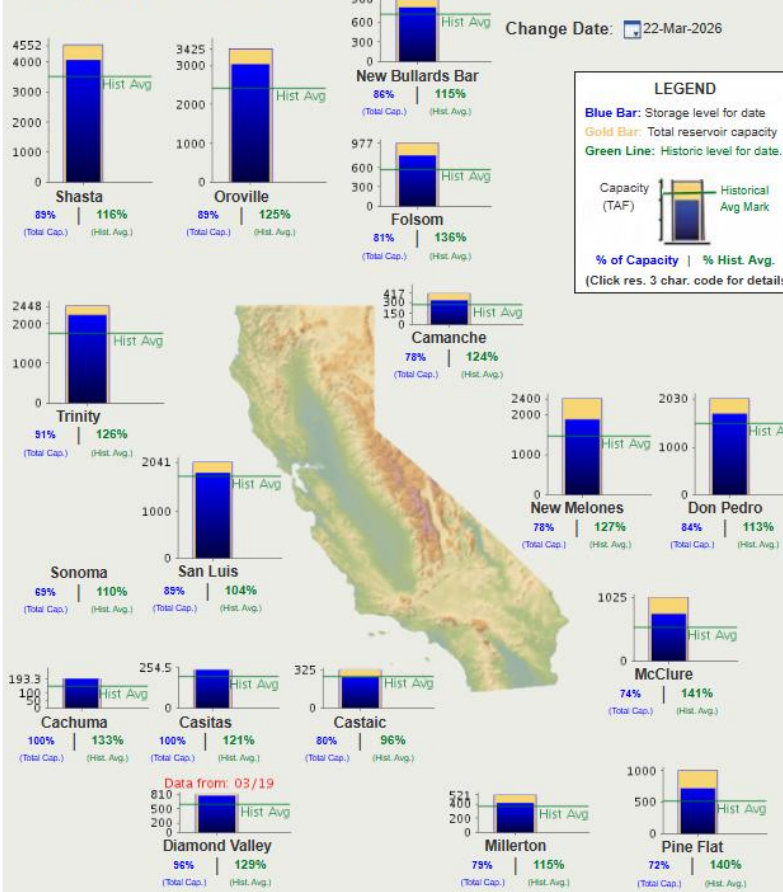
CENTRAL	
Data For: 23-Mar-2026	
Number of Stations Reporting	53
Average snow water equivalent	8.8"
Percent of April 1 Average	32%
Percent of normal for this date	33%

SOUTH	
Data For: 23-Mar-2026	
Number of Stations Reporting	24
Average snow water equivalent	11.4"
Percent of April 1 Average	48%
Percent of normal for this date	49%

STATEWIDE SUMMARY	
Data For: 23-Mar-2026	
Number of Stations Reporting	110
Average snow water equivalent	7.6"
Percent of April 1 Average	29%
Percent of normal for this date	29%

**CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS: 22-MAR-2026**

Data as of Midnight: 22-Mar-2026



### ***Sites Reservoir Clears Major Hurdle***

California's long-planned Sites Reservoir project has moved closer to reality after state regulators issued a draft water permit, a key step toward what could become California's largest new reservoir in decades. The project, located off-stream in Colusa and Glenn counties, would store water pumped from the Sacramento River during wet periods rather than damming a river directly.

If approved, the roughly \$6–\$6.8 billion project could begin construction as soon as late 2026, with completion targeted for the early 2030s. The reservoir is designed to hold up to 1.5 million acre-feet of water, which would be used to bolster supplies during drought years and improve long-term water reliability for cities, farms, and industry.

The draft permit would allow water diversions only during wetter months and under strict environmental flow conditions intended to protect fish and river health. The proposal reflects an attempt to balance expanded storage with environmental safeguards.

Supporters, including water agencies and state officials, argue the project is a critical investment in drought resilience as climate change increases swings between floods and dry periods. However, environmental groups and some tribes remain concerned it could further strain the Sacramento River ecosystem and harm salmon populations.

The State Water Resources Control Board will take public comments through May before making a final decision expected later this year, with funding and environmental challenges still ahead even if approved.

### ***Legislative Analyst's Office Releases Report on Bay-Delta Plan***

California's Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) report on the Bay-Delta Plan and proposed Voluntary Agreements (VAs) examines the state's effort to balance water supply reliability with ecosystem restoration in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. The report reviews the hybrid approach of setting water quality standards while also pursuing negotiated agreements with water users that would fund habitat restoration and manage environmental flows more flexibly than traditional regulation.

The LAO emphasizes that while voluntary agreements are intended to accelerate collaboration and investment in habitat improvements, their success depends heavily on clear performance metrics, transparency, and strong legislative oversight. It also warns that the state must ensure any voluntary framework produces measurable environmental benefits and does not delay or weaken enforceable water quality standards.

However, the report has drawn strong criticism from a coalition of environmental organizations and Tribes, who argue it is not a neutral assessment and instead assumes approval of the voluntary agreement pathway. Critics say the LAO downplays the importance of enforceable regulatory flow standards and fails to adequately evaluate alternatives grounded in legally binding water quality protections.

Opponents also raise concerns about accountability, warning that the VA framework could allow water agencies to self-report compliance with limited oversight, creating risks for an already

stressed ecosystem. They argue this approach may not adequately protect Tribal Beneficial Uses or address issues such as harmful algal blooms. The coalition further disputes the report's framing of "environmental flows," saying that flows needed for ecosystem health should be set through enforceable standards rather than negotiated arrangements.

Additional criticism centers on claims that the report understates the extent of Tribal and environmental participation and opposition in the process, including testimony from more than 150 individuals opposing the agreements at recent hearings. Some coalition members also argue that past restoration efforts highlighted in the report were driven by litigation, reflecting long-standing failures to protect endangered species.

As the debate continues, the LAO underscores the need for legislative oversight as California considers whether voluntary agreements can effectively deliver ecological outcomes or whether stronger regulatory action will be required.

### ***SB 72 Implementation Kicks Off!***

The Department of Water Resources has launched an ambitious new phase of its long-term water strategy, signaling a major shift in how the state plans to secure supplies amid intensifying climate pressures. Anchored by Senate Bill 72, the plan sets a target of developing 9 million acre-feet of new water supply by 2040, reflecting growing urgency as California faces more extreme swings between drought and flood.

Rather than relying on a single solution, the strategy emphasizes a portfolio approach—expanding water recycling, stormwater capture, groundwater recharge, and new storage projects. State leaders say this diversified model is essential as traditional sources, including Sierra snowpack and imported water from the Delta and Colorado River, become less predictable.

A central focus of the plan is accelerating locally controlled water supplies, particularly in urban regions like Southern California. Investments in advanced water recycling and reuse are expected to play a major role, alongside efforts to capture more runoff during wet periods and store it underground for use in dry years. The plan also calls for streamlining permitting and improving coordination across state and regional agencies to speed up project delivery. At the same time, the initiative underscores the importance of modernizing aging infrastructure and improving the state's ability to move and store water efficiently. This includes upgrades to canals, reservoirs, and groundwater systems that are increasingly strained by both overuse and climate impacts.

Supporters describe the plan as one of the most comprehensive water strategies in decades, aimed at building long-term resilience while supporting economic stability and environmental needs. However, its success will depend on sustained funding, coordination across agencies, and the ability to balance competing demands from cities, agriculture, and ecosystems.

As implementation begins, the plan sets the tone for California's water future: more localized, more flexible, and increasingly shaped by the realities of a warming climate.

### ***Legislative Update***

Committees are starting to work their way through all of the bills introduced in 2026 ahead of the April 24 deadline for bills to advance out of policy committee.

Following the “30 day in print rule” before bills can be amended or acted upon, significant changes have been made to legislation MWDOC has been watching.

#### State Water Contractors Sponsored Legislation:

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

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

Key provisions include:

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

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

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

The bill got bipartisan support in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and will next be heard in the Natural Resources and Water Committee.

**AB 2215 (Calderon):** moves a portion of the DCP Trailer Bill from 2025 into a policy bill. AB 2215 would require that the time periods for the application of water to beneficial use and for the completion of construction work for specific water right permits held by the Department of Water Resources for the operation of the State Water Project be December 31, 2085. The bill has been referred to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

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

Other significant legislation:

- **AB 1881 (Ramos)** and **AB 2218 (Kalra)** on tribal water rights. Both bills give tribes significant powers over infrastructure projects. However, stakeholders are working with the authors and sponsors to work out mutually aggregable language.
- **SB 1001 (Archuletta)** Identification cards for utility workers to allow access during emergencies. This legislation was significantly amended to align with an already existing system at the CA Office of Emergency Services to offer Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable (PIV-I) cards to operators who apply and meet the requirements.
- Golden Mussels Bills
  - **AB 2032 (Ransom)**: specifies specific actions for the state to undertake to research and provide best management practices for eradication.
  - **AB 1772 (Papan)**: creates a standardized boat inspection program for all reservoir operators.
  - **AB 1894 (Rubio)**: Looks to address some agencies forbidding SWP water from entering a system.

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

Two-Year Bills:

**AB 35 (Alvarez)** would provide an Administrative Procedures Act Exemption for Proposition 4 bond funds. The legislation will help get bond funds out faster. The bill has over 40 co-authors and has not received a single no vote. It has moved to the Senate where it will likely sit until later in the spring.

Early Budget Action: The legislature passed and the Governor signed a “Budget Bill Jr.” that provides the APA exemption for Prop 4 funds allocated in the 2025-26 budget. This action eases some of the pressure to get AB 35 passed quickly.

# ACKERMAN CONSULTING

## Legal and Regulatory

April 1, 2026

- San Diego Water Sales:** As a result of the recent settlement between MWD and the San Diego Water Authority, the Authority can sell some of its excess water and use MWD infrastructure to transfer the water. The Authority is selling around 10,000 acre feet of water to Western Municipal Water District in Riverside County over the next 21 years. The contract will cost about \$100 million over the first five years. San Diego has some of the highest water rates in the State. This will help them in their financial situation.
- DOI Investment:** The Federal Government, through the Department of the Interior, will be investing \$889 million for water infrastructure in the states of California, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. This was part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed in July of last year. The majority of that (\$540 million) will be coming to California. Delta-Mendota Canal \$235 million, Friant-Kern Canal \$200 million, San Luis Canal \$50 million, Tehama-Colusa Canal \$15 million, Shasta Dam raising \$40 million.
- EPA Limits:** The Environmental Protection Agency has entered into a research agreement with various industry trade associations representing aluminum, cobalt, copper, lead, zinc and nickel. The debate over how much of these metals should be allowed in water has been going on for decades. The EPA wants to use the “gold standard science” to set limits based on their impact on toxicity and their effect on fish and other aquatic life. This effort was started in the first Trump Administration but discontinued under the Biden Administration. There is general concurrence that standards are necessary for health and safety reasons. Some environmental groups are opposed as they think the industry will have too much influence in the process. Whatever the outcome, there will be more effort required from Water World to monitor and mitigate in the future.
- Mission Bay:** What is now known as Mission Bay in San Diego was called “False Bay” by Juan Cabrillo in 1542. It was originally a tidal marsh which went from water to sand every tidal action. In the 1940s and 1950s, the city of San Diego and the US Corp of Engineers completely changed the landscape. Extensive dredging, changing tidal channels and shoreline, producing new beaches, created a man made aquatic park from the 4600 acres. They also moved the mouth of the San Diego River. A small portion of the original marsh still exists in Pacific Beach under the care of the University of California Natural Reserve System.
- Farming’s Future:** The future of farming in California is becoming a bigger issue as each day goes by. Water shortages, environmental regulations, legislation raise more concerns about the sustainability of agriculture in our State. Ground water restrictions by themselves are estimated to cause over \$7 billion loss in revenue and the loss of thousands of jobs. The “big ag” versus family farms also fuels the debate.

Many planning efforts are taking place regarding water planning for the future. All this will have a significant impact on the role of agriculture in our State. Keep in mind that we are the number one state in the nation with respect to ag!!

6. **Nuclear Powered Water:** Solutions for our water problem in California are in abundance. Which one(s) will actually solve the problem is the real question. A recent one is catching lots of attention. The BlueRibbon Coalition from Idaho suggests building 8 large desal plants off the coast of California and Mexico at a cost of \$40 billion. Output would be 7 million acre feet and the electricity would be provided from wind and solar farms if the nuclear option was not accepted. They would be built on federal land and in Mexico to get around the environmental restrictions. The plan has been criticized as crazy, not doable, unaffordable and impractical. This proposal would be a very large version of what Australia actually did.
7. **Iran Water Issue:** The Iran War and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz could have significant impact on Water World on a global scale. As we have learned, a large portion of the world (not USA) is dependent on oil flowing through the Strait. Oil, petro chemicals and plastics come through this Strait and are now being hampered. Both availability and costs are impacted by this restriction. Again, this impact will be felt by Asia, the Middle East and Europe much more than us. All of these factors impact water treatment and transportation. As an example, 84% of the plastic pipe produced in the Middle East flows through the Strait of Hormuz. Other side effects of the oil restrictions will drive cost up for plastic pipe, components and fittings, chemical feed stocks and polymers and resins.
8. **Groundwater Case:** The first groundwater adjudication under SGMA just completed the appeal process. The Second District Court of Appeal (State) sustained a trial court ruling by Los Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition v Ventura County. The issues settled were how much could be extracted, what is the allocation between stakeholders and basin governance. Issues not decided, which will be appealed, included property rights and priority. Comments on the case were the speed of the process (over 5 years) and relative cooperation of parties. As we have mentioned before, the property rights issues will not be easy and could ultimately end up in the US Supreme Court.
9. **PFAS Update:** A study by the University of Chicago of lithium battery failure has led to PFAS cures. Conditions that degrade lithium batteries also destroy PFAS. The process, called lithium-mediated electroreduction in non-aqueous electrolytes, achieves 95% elimination of PFAS. This breakdowns the PFAS completely as opposed to cutting into smaller pieces. After reading this article, my only admonition would be Do Not try this at home!!
10. **Dam Removal Lessons:** Dam removal has been on the increase. 2024 tied 2019 for the most dam removals in one year (108). The largest dam removal project in the US was on the Klamath River. Much advanced planning and modeling has produced very positive results. Chinook salmon migrations began almost immediately. The concern over heavy metals in sediment was not found. The sediment primarily behind the dams contained algae and organic material. Disturbance and reconfiguration occurred but was within

limits. Most of the removal process was conducted at high water windows which produced better overall results.

11. **More Dam Analysis:** Hoover Dam is turning 90 and is still one of the most successful of all dam projects. It achieved many goals over its lifetime: generation of electricity, flood abatement, water storage, recreational use. There are over 90,000 dams meeting the Army Corp requirements. Half of those were built between 1950 and 1979. Beginning in the 1980s, dam construction slowed down and around 2000 more dams were being removed. The main reasons for removal were safety, cost to maintain and lack of utility. Hydro power from smaller dams was not economical. Environmental benefits became more evident.
12. **Conservation Pool?:** The Colorado River solution is still wanting. Some experts are pushing an idea that has been discussed in the past. The creation of a conservation pool. This idea would require unanimous approval of all the Basin States. The concept is that all water users would cut back a certain percentage which would be documented, then stored in Lake Powell or Lake Mead to insure a more secure water supply in the future. Opponents state that it lacks specificity, ignores economic realities and would damage rural and agricultural areas. Upper Basin states claim they have no way to measure and track the water. The Department of the Interior actually mentioned conservation pools in 3 of their 5 options. Also there is no mention of compensation for the participants. The proposal has merit but is short on details.
13. **Dairy Issue:** California has more large dairies than any other state. As we have noticed over time, they have moved around the State, generally from southern California to central California. Their issue is usually groundwater pollution from cow leftovers. They are now required to report animal waste and other related issues. Stanford University has discovered they have failed to accurately report these issues. Thus the danger to water continues. We will see if anyone other us reads their report.



TO: MWDOC Board of Directors

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: April 1, 2026

SUBJECT: April 2026 Local Legislative Report

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

- Shannon DeLong began her tenure this past Monday, March 30 as the new City Manager in the City of Cypress. Ms. DeLong most recently served as Assistant City Manager for the City of Whittier, and prior to that she spent more than a decade with the City of Downey. She is the tenth City Manager, and first woman, in the City's history
- Elsewhere, Anaheim's Assistant City Manager, Greg Garcia, has been serving as Interim City Manager since the resignation of former City Manager Jim Vanderpool in early February, Finance Director Ann Eifert continues to serve as Interim City Manager in Aliso Viejo after the sudden passing of Mitzi Ortiz, and the Fullerton City Council formally appointed Eddie Manfro to serve as its City Manager. In addition, the Board of Supervisors may consider extending the contract of current CEO Michelle Aguirre beyond the current contract end date of June 30, 2026, while an outside search firm is in the midst of the latest search to find a potential successor. Ms. Aguirre has served as CEO since June of last year after a nine-month tenure as Interim CEO.
- The County is currently investigating alternative methods of controlling foliage in San Juan and Trabuco Creeks after a newly formed community group, Creek Team OC, mounted a social media campaign to raise concerns regarding the use of herbicides. Fifth District Supervisor Katrina Foley called for County Public Works to discontinue the use of herbicides and instead evaluate the costs and effectiveness of using "mechanical and manual methods" of removing growth in the creeks, which is essential to preventing flooding. The group's founder has filed dozens of public records requests about herbicide usage in local creeks and posted the findings on Creek Team OC's Instagram page, which has amassed more than 8,000 followers since early February.

- The Board of Supervisors approved a continuation of the local health emergency for the areas affected by the September 9, 2024, Trabuco Canyon Airport Fire to facilitate debris and ash removal as well as mitigation efforts to protect water wells. The Board must review the need for continuing the local health emergency at least every 30 days until conditions warrant the termination of the emergency. To date, the Board of Supervisors has approved more than \$80 million in settlements to victims of the Airport Fire, which was started by County Public Works crews.
- Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (OC LAFCO) leadership participated in a meeting on March 24 with counterparts from Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and San Diego County LAFCOs. This initial meeting of the Alliance of Local Agency Formation Commissions (Alliance) focused on relevant legislation and other matters of interest to the four agencies, which formed the Alliance in 2025 to provide better coordination on common issues and priorities than was being offered through CALAFCO.
- As was mentioned previously, County Supervisor Don Wagner was recently reappointed as the sole Board representative to OC LAFCO. Yorba Linda City Council member Peggy Huang’s spot will come before the City Selection Committee this Spring; Derek McGregor’s spot as Public Member will be voted upon by the other LAFCO Commissioners; and the potential reelection of Special District Commissioners Doug Davert (East Orange County Water District), and Alternate Commissioner Kathryn Freschley of El Toro Water District was initiated by OC LAFCO March 9. Nominations and declarations for interested candidates for the special district seats are due by April 13, with ballots emailed to each special district presiding officer by May 4 and due back to OC LAFCO by June 8.
- The County deferred a scheduled virtual community meeting on the proposed increase of the Prima Deshecha Landfill’s daily maximum trash intake from 4,000 tons to 8,000 tons. The CEQA process for this proposed expansion began in 2023 and the project is necessitated by the planned closure in several years of Olinda Alpha Landfill near Brea.
- As of the date of this report, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has issued nine Notices of Violation (NOVs) to Orange County Waste and Recycling’s Frank R. Bowerman Landfill in Irvine. Since the start of the year, SCAQMD inspectors have been responding to several hundred public complaints of “rotten, sour, garbage-type odors” in the area. The inspectors confirmed the odors with community members and traced them back to operations at the landfill and subsequently issued three initial NOVs in January and another six in February and early March for violations of the public nuisance rules. In addition, the Prima Deshecha Landfill has been issued two NOVs, and SCAQMD staff have visited the Olinda Alpha Landfill several times but have not yet issued any Notices of Violation regarding that facility.
- Cities and sanitary districts countywide are adopting the Waste Infrastructure System Enhancements (WISE), Organic Services, and Disposal Fees and Rates Agreements that were approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 27. The

tiered rates for the WISE agreements will start at \$67/ton in FY 26-27, increasing to \$74/ton in 27-28, \$81/ton in 28-29, and \$81 + CPI in Year 4.

- An audit report commissioned by the Board of Directors of CalOptima Health found no evidence of impropriety related to actions taken by former County Supervisor and Board Chair Andrew Do, who is currently serving a five-year sentence in federal prison for accepting bribes to direct more than \$10 million in COVID-19 funding to a charity affiliated with his daughter.
- A separate audit commissioned by the Board of Supervisors in 2025, however, found that former Supervisor Do steered contracts and payments to allies and campaign contributors well in excess of the \$10 million he was convicted of diverting. This new audit by a Houston-based accounting firm found that roughly \$800,000 in payments were made to a firm that may have double-billed the county for COVID-19 testing and guided the money to campaign contributors who worked on a Tet Festival event sponsored by Do's office.
- Newport Beach leaders are studying the possible replacement of a part of the city's sculpture garden with a new police station amidst questions on whether or not the site can support new construction, and pushback from residents concerned about losing this park space. City council members unanimously agree that the police station needs to be replaced, citing regular plumbing issues, electrical outages, and a recent electrical fire as signs the building is reaching the end of its usable life, and they have made it clear the sculpture garden site next to city hall is a viable location since it is the cheapest option that would keep the police station centrally located in the city. The estimated cost of the project is \$162 million; longtime residents of the city remember the controversy in 2013 surrounding the unveiling of the park and its rabbit sculptures.
- The City of Orange, one of the few cities in Orange County that does not prohibit smoking or vaping in parks and other public spaces, is considering such an ordinance as a potential tool for the City's police officers in addressing homelessness and loitering in city parks. The city has had a number of challenges in recent years with its homeless population, including a federal lawsuit dealing with the former Mary's Kitchen operation at the City's corporate yard.
- The Fullerton City Council, which is considering placing two sales tax measures on the November ballot, was recently informed by City staff that roughly \$10 million previously understood to have been secured in reserves had actually been obligated across a host of City programs, leaving reserve funds precariously low.
- The California Coastal Commission has directed the environmental group that manages the Dana Point Headlands preserve to initiate steps to reduce public access by 60% to a blufftop trail, beginning this month. The Commission's effort to help preserve the Pacific pocket mouse would substantially reduce public access to the trail that runs along the ridge of the massive rock outcropping, which is a popular spot to watch marine life and seabirds and connects Strand Beach and Dana Point Harbor. The trail, which is managed by the Center for Natural Lands Management,

runs through one of three known habitats where the “severely imperiled” mouse lives. The City of Dana Point is pointing to an injunction issued by a judge in 2022 to extend trail hours and is contesting the Commission’s authority to limit public access.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Whittingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" being more prominent than the last name "Whittingham".

Peter Whittingham

# Municipal Water District of Orange County Legislative Matrix

Updated 3/22/26

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
<b>Priority</b>								
<b>AB 1772</b>	<b><u>Papan, D</u></b>	Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels.	03/23/2026	03/24/2026 - Re-referred to Com. on W., P., & W.	03/23/2026 - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife		This bill would require the department to require water supply system operators to update their plans to address all invasive mussel species present in the operator's water system as of January 1, 2026, as provided. (Based on 03/23/2026 text)	
<b>AB 2013</b>	<b><u>Bennett, D</u></b>	Fire risk areas: water suppliers: emergency preparedness plan.		03/16/2026 - Referred to Coms. on E.M and E.S & T.M.	03/16/2026 - Assembly Emergency Management		This bill would require a water supplier that services more than 100 customers that are located in a moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zone, as specified, to establish an emergency preparedness plan for response to red flag warnings, extreme weather events, and other major power outages or emergencies that pose a potential threat to providing adequate water service. (Based on 02/17/2026 text)	
<b>AB 2215</b>	<b><u>Calderon, D</u></b>	Water rights: permits: State Water Project.	03/19/2026	03/23/2026 - Re-referred to Com. on W., P., & W.	03/19/2026 - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife		This bill would require that the time periods for the application of water to beneficial use and for the completion of construction work for specific water right permits held by the Department of Water Resources for the operation of the State Water Project be December 31, 2085. (Based on 03/19/2026 text)	Support

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
SB 872	<u>McNerney, D</u>	Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.	03/19/2026	03/24/2026 - Set for hearing April 7.	03/18/2026 - Senate Natural Resources and Water	04/07/26 S-NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 113 BECKER, JOSH, Chair	This bill would establish the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund in the State Treasury and, upon appropriation, would make the moneys in the fund available to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency for expenditure consistent with the allocations described below. The bill would authorize the secretary to seek out, and the fund to accept, state moneys from, among other sources, any bond funds, the General Fund, or the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The bill would authorize the fund to accept moneys from nonstate sources, including federal and private moneys, and would continuously appropriate those moneys without regard to fiscal year, for allocation as described below, thereby making an appropriation. The bill would require the secretary to allocate moneys in the fund, through the 2046–47 fiscal year, subject to funding availability, as follows: (1) in the amount of \$150,000,000, annually, to the Department of Water Resources for the purposes of supporting capital improvements to restore the original design water conveyance capacity for state water conveyance systems impacted operationally by land subsidence, and (2) in the amount of \$150,000,000, annually, to the conservancy for projects in the Delta to improve existing levees, as specified. The bill would require the secretary to proportionally reduce the above-described amounts if there is insufficient moneys in the fund, as provided. The bill would prohibit these moneys from being expended to pay the costs of the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of any additional Delta conveyance facilities, as Delta conveyance facilities, as provided. (Based on 03/19/2026 text)	Support

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
<b>SB 1001</b>	<b>Archuleta, D</b>	Local agency, corporation, or mutual water company: personnel access: Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable.	03/17/2026	03/24/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on PUB. S. (Ayes 8. Noes 0.) (March 24). Re-referred to Com. on PUB. S.	03/24/2026 - Senate Public Safety		This bill would, beginning on July 1, 2028, require the Office of Emergency Services, upon request, to issue a local agency, corporation, or mutual water company responsible for public works and critical infrastructure with specified credentialing to facilitate personnel access to an area during or following a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster. The bill would specify that the credentialing, a Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable (PIV-I), would conform with the federal Personal Identity Verification standards pursuant to federal National Incident Management System guidelines. (Based on 03/17/2026 text)	
<b>SB 1153</b>	<b>Caballero, D</b>	Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water systems: wildfire.		03/24/2026 - From committee: Do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on N.R. & W. (Ayes 8. Noes 0.) (March 24).	03/24/2026 - Senate Natural Resources and Water	<b>03/26/26 #11 S- SENATE BILLS - SECOND READING FILE</b>	The California Emergency Services Act requires all public water systems, as defined, with 10,000 or more service connections to review and revise their disaster preparedness plans in conjunction with related agencies, including, but not limited to, local fire departments and the Office of Emergency Services to ensure that the plans are sufficient to address possible disaster scenarios. A person, as defined, who violates the provisions of this act is guilty of a misdemeanor. This bill, beginning January 1, 2028, would require all urban retail water suppliers, as defined, serving a high or very high fire hazard severity zone to include incident-specified response procedures for wildfires as part of their disaster preparedness plans, including any applicable emergency response plan as required by federal law. The bill would require these plans to include mitigation actions, including actions, procedures, and equipment, that can obviate or significantly lessen the impact of a wildfire on the water system and the supply of drinking water provided by the water supplier. Because violation of these requirements by certain urban retail water suppliers would constitute a misdemeanor, the bill would expand the scope of a crime, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program. (Based on 02/18/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
<b>AB 1821</b>	<b>Pacheco, D</b>	California Public Records Act: fees and agency response time.	03/16/2026	03/17/2026 - Re-referred to Com. on JUD.	03/16/2026 - Assembly Judiciary		The California Public Records Act requires each state or local agency, upon a request for a copy of records that reasonably describes an identifiable record or records, to make the records promptly available to any person upon payment of fees covering direct costs of duplication, or a statutory fee if applicable, except with respect to public records exempt from disclosure by express provisions of law. This bill would require, if a single request exceeds 2 hours of search time, or if the total requests by a requestor exceed 10 hours of search time in one month, the requestor to also submit to the agency a payment of fees in an amount determined by the agency as reasonable to compensate the agency for the administrative time of completing the requests. The bill would exempt from that requirement a journalist, a newspaper, and an educational or noncommercial scientific institution, as specified. (Based on 03/16/2026 text)	

**Watch**

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
<u>AB 1881</u>	<u>Ramos, D</u>	California Indian Freedom Act of 2026.		03/03/2026 - In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.	03/02/2026 - Assembly Judiciary	04/14/26 A-JUDICIARY 8 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 437 KALRA, ASH, Chair	This bill, the California Indian Freedom Act of 2026, would prohibit a governmental agency from substantially burdening a California Indian or California Native American tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices, including their access to and use of sacred sites and objects, and their ability to perform religious ceremonies and rites, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, unless the governmental agency demonstrates that application of the burden is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is in the least restrictive means of furthering that interest. The act would apply to all state and local government actions, including, among others, permitting decisions, land use approvals, and enforcement actions. The bill would authorize a California Indian or tribe to assert a violation of these provisions as a claim or defense in any judicial or administrative proceeding, as specified. Before any governmental agency undertakes, approves, permits, funds, or authorizes a project that may impact a sacred site or cultural landscape, the bill would require the governmental agency to engage in early, meaningful and good-faith government-to-government consultation with an affected tribe. (Based on 02/12/2026 text)	
<u>AB 1894</u>	<u>Rubio, Blanca, D</u>	Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels.	03/16/2026	03/17/2026 - Re-referred to Com. on W., P., & W.	03/16/2026 - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife		This bill would provide that, notwithstanding any other law, the state has exclusive authority to regulate invasive mussels. The bill would prohibit a city, county, district, or other local agency from adopting, enforcing, or implementing any ordinance, rule, regulation, policy, or other declaratory action pertaining to invasive mussels unless expressly authorized by state law. (Based on 03/16/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
<b>AB 2032</b>	<b>Ransom, D</b>	Fish and wildlife: golden mussels.	03/19/2026	03/23/2026 - Re-referred to Com. on W., P., & W.	03/19/2026 - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife		This bill would exempt from the requirement to obtain a restricted species permit a public or private agency that operates a water supply system for maintenance and operational activities to control the spread of golden mussels in the water supply system, as specified. This bill would require the department's Invasive Species Program, through the Golden Mussel Task Force convened by the department, to develop and adopt, by April 1, 2027, best management practices for public and private agencies that operate water supply systems to control the spread of golden mussels, as specified, and would encourage those public and private agencies to comply with those best management practices. (Based on 03/19/2026 text)	
<b>AB 2045</b>	<b>Connolly, D</b>	Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act.		03/02/2026 - Referred to Com. on W., P., & W.	03/02/2026 - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife		Under the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act, a habitat restoration or enhancement project is a project with the primary purpose of improving fish and wildlife habitat. The act requires the Director of Fish and Wildlife to approve a habitat restoration or enhancement project if the director determines that specified conditions are met. Under the act, the director's approval of a habitat restoration or enhancement project is in lieu of any other permit, agreement, license, or other approval issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The act makes moneys in the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Account available to the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes of administering and implementing the act. Current law repeals the act on January 1, 2027. This bill would extend the operation of the act indefinitely. (Based on 02/17/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
<u>AB 2218</u>	<u>Kalra, D</u>	Water policy: California Native American tribes.		03/24/2026 - In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.	03/09/2026 - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife		Current law establishes various state water policies, including the policy that the use of water for domestic purposes is the highest use of water and the human right to water. This bill would declare that it is the established policy of the state to acknowledge and correct the inequities caused by state-sanctioned acts of termination, removal, and assimilation inflicted upon all California Native American tribes through compensation, legal recognition of rights, or replacement of benefits lost. The bill would require all relevant state agencies, including the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board, to consider and incorporate this policy when revising, adopting, or establishing rights, policies, regulations, permits, or grant criteria to address identified inequities. (Based on 02/19/2026 text)	
<u>AB 2381</u>	<u>Johnson, R</u>	Local Agency Public Construction Act: municipal water districts: sanitation districts: lowest responsible bidder.		03/09/2026 - Referred to Com. on L. GOV.	03/09/2026 - Assembly Local Government		The Local Agency Public Construction Act sets forth the requirements for competitive bidding on various types of contracts awarded by local agencies. Under current law, a municipal water district and a sanitation district, when letting a contract for \$35,000 or more, is required to let the contract to the lowest responsible bidder. This bill would increase that threshold dollar amount to \$220,000. The bill would require the Controller, commencing January 1, 2028, to adjust that amount annually to reflect the percentage change, as specified, and publish the adjusted amount on its internet website. (Based on 02/20/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
<b>AB 2568</b>	<b>Johnson, R</b>	Water district directors: compensation.	03/10/2026	03/11/2026 - Re-referred to Com. on L. GOV.	03/09/2026 - Assembly Local Government		Existing law authorizes a water district, as defined, to adopt an ordinance that provides compensation to members of the governing board, as specified. Existing law prohibits a water district from adopting an ordinance that compensates members of the governing board for more than a total of 10 days in any calendar month. This bill would instead prohibit a water district from adopting an ordinance that compensates members of the governing board for more than a total of 15 days in any calendar month. (Based on 03/10/2026 text)	
<b>AB 2619</b>	<b>Papan, D</b>	Water resources: data centers.		03/09/2026 - Referred to Coms. on W., P., & W. and L. GOV.	03/09/2026 - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife		This bill would require a person who owns or operates a data center, prior to applying to a city or a county for an initial business license, equivalent instrument, or permit, to provide its water supplier, under penalty of perjury, an estimate of the expected water use, the anticipated source of water, and the data center's projected water use volume for the maximum day, maximum month, and average year. When applying to a city or county for an initial business license, the bill would require a person who owns or operates a data center to report, under penalty of perjury, on the application, an estimate of the expected water use, the anticipated source of water, and the data center's projected water use volume for the maximum day, maximum month, and average year. When applying to a city or county for a renewal of a business license, equivalent instrument, or permit, the bill would require a person who owns or operates a data center to report, under penalty of perjury, on the application, the data center's annual water use for the preceding calendar year, including total water use, direct water use, and indirect water use, as prescribed. By expanding the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would define terms for purposes of these provisions. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. (Based on 02/20/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
<b>AB 2630</b>	<b>Bennett, D</b>	Water diversion and use; adoption of regulations.		03/24/2026 - VOTE: Do pass as amended and be re-referred to the Committee on [Natural Resources] (PASS)	03/24/2026 - Assembly Natural Resources		Current law authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt regulations requiring measurement and reporting of water diversion and use by persons, including, among others, those authorized to appropriate water under a permit, a license, a registration for small domestic, small irrigation, or livestock stockpond use, or a certificate for livestock stockpond use. For the initial regulations, current law requires that they be adopted as emergency regulations and provides that the emergency regulations remain in effect until revised by the state board. Current law also exempts the initial regulations from the California Environmental Quality Act. This bill would require that all further regulations adopted by the state board pursuant to these provisions be adopted as emergency regulations and remain in effect until revised by the state board, and would exempt them from the California Environmental Quality Act. (Based on 02/20/2026 text)	
<b>AB 2728</b>	<b>Soria, D</b>	Open and Transparent Water Data Act.	03/19/2026	03/23/2026 - Re-referred to Com. on W., P., & W.	03/19/2026 - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife		Existing law, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act, requires the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to coordinate and integrate existing water and ecological data from local, state, and federal agencies for specified purposes, including, among others, improving the management of the state's water resources. This bill would specify for purposes of that provision that improving the management of the state's water resources includes improving the efficacy of management actions. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. (Based on 03/19/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
SB 986	Sevarto, R	Major regulations.		02/18/2026 - Referred to Coms. on G.O. and JUD.	02/18/2026 - Senate Governmental Organization		Current law, known as the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), governs the procedures for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of regulations by state agencies and for the review of those regulatory actions by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The APA requires a state agency proposing to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative regulation to, among other things, assess the potential for adverse economic impact on California business enterprises and individuals, and requires a state agency proposing to adopt, amend, or repeal a major regulation to prepare and submit to the Department of Finance for review, a standardized regulatory impact analysis, as provided. The APA defines "major regulation," for purposes of the act, to mean any proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal of a regulation subject to review by the OAL that will have an economic impact on California business enterprises and individuals in an amount exceeding \$50,000,000, as provided. The APA provides exceptions for emergency regulations in the case of a situation that calls for immediate action to avoid serious harm to the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare. This bill would prohibit a major regulation from taking effect until the Legislature enacts a law to approve the regulation, except as provided for emergency regulations. (Based on 02/05/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
SB 994	<u>Cabaldon, D</u>	Local government: nondisclosure agreements.		03/24/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on L. GOV. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 12. Noes 0.) (March 24). Re-referred to Com. on L. GOV.	03/24/2026 - Senate Local Government		. This bill would prohibit a local government official acting in their official capacity from entering into, or requesting that another individual enter into, a nondisclosure agreement relating to public business that precludes their ability to share information with fellow local government officials serving on the same council, board, commission, district, or agency. The bill would require a local government official in violation of that provision to, among other things, disclose the existence of the nondisclosure agreement, as specified, and would provide that these requirements imposed on a local government official also apply to a local government official acting in their official capacity who entered into, or requested that another individual enter into, a nondisclosure agreement described above before January 1, 2027. By imposing additional duties on local government officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would also make any nondisclosure agreement relating to public business that precludes the ability of a local government official to share information with fellow local government officials serving on the same council, board, commission, district, or agency and that is entered into after January 1, 2027, void and unenforceable. (Based on 02/05/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
SB 1085	<u>Durazo, D</u>	Water supply planning; California Environmental Quality Act determination.		03/24/2026 - March 24 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.	02/26/2026 - Senate Natural Resources and Water		The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to be responsible for determining whether a project is exempt from CEQA and whether an environmental impact report, a negative declaration, or a mitigated negative declaration is required. Current law requires a city or county that determines a certain type of project is subject to the requirements of CEQA to identify any public water system that may supply water for the project and to request those public water systems to prepare a specified water supply assessment, as provided. This bill would instead require a city or county to make that identification of public water systems for certain projects that the city or county approves, without regard to whether the project is determined to be subject to the requirements of CEQA. (Based on 02/13/2026 text)	

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
SB 1123	Wiener, D	Administrative Procedure Act: major regulations.		02/26/2026 - Referred to Com. on G.O.	02/26/2026 - Senate Governmental Organization		<p>The Administrative Procedure Act requires a state agency proposing to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative regulation to assess the potential for adverse economic impact on California business enterprises and individuals and avoid the imposition of unnecessary or unreasonable regulations or reporting, recordkeeping, or compliance requirements. The act requires a state agency proposing to adopt, amend, or repeal a major regulation to satisfy additional requirements, including by requiring the state agency to prepare a standardized regulatory impact analysis in the manner prescribed by the Department of Finance, as specified, and requires the analysis to address certain items, including the creation or elimination of jobs within the state and the competitive advantages or disadvantages for businesses currently doing business within the state. This bill would require an agency, in estimating the economic impact of adopting, amending, or repealing a regulation, to identify and calculate any offsetting benefits, impacts, or savings that might result directly or indirectly from that adoption, amendment, or repeal and factor those benefits, impacts, or savings into its economic impact estimate. (Based on 02/17/2026 text)</p>	

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
<b>SB 1125</b>	<b>Menjívar, D</b>	Public water systems: drinking water needs assessment.		03/10/2026 - Set for hearing April 8.	02/26/2026 - Senate Environmental Quality	04/08/26 S- ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 112 BLAKESPEAR, CATHERINE, Chair	Current law establishes the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury to help water systems provide an adequate and affordable supply of safe drinking water in both the near and long terms. Current law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to annually adopt a fund expenditure plan, as provided, and requires expenditures from the fund to be consistent with the fund expenditure plan. Current law requires the state board to base the fund expenditure plan on data and analysis drawn from a specified drinking water needs assessment. This bill would require the board to, on or before May 1, 2027, and on or before May 1 of each year thereafter, develop a drinking water needs assessment, as specified. The bill would require the assessment to include an analysis of the funds necessary to make water service affordable for customers of community water systems with fewer than 3,000 service connections and would require this analysis to be updated at least every 3 years. (Based on 02/17/2026 text)	
<b>SB 1187</b>	<b>Durazo, D</b>	Open meetings: majority.		03/04/2026 - Referred to Com. on L. GOV.	03/04/2026 - Senate Local Government		Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body, as defined, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. Existing law defines "meetings" for these purposes to mean any congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body at the same time and location, as specified, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. This bill would define "majority" for purposes of the act to mean the number of members of the legislative body equating more than half of the total number of seats on the legislative body. The bill would specify that if a seat on the legislative body is vacant, that seat is to still be counted as a seat on the legislative body. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. (Based on 02/19/2026 text)	

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session  
March 9, 2026**

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
<p><b>AB 35</b> <b>D. Alvarez</b> <b>(D – San Diego)</b></p> <p>Sponsor: San Diego County</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Natural Resources Committee on 1/14/2026</p>	<p><b>Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.</b></p> <p>This bill exempts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4) from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which establishes rulemaking procedures and standards for state agencies in California, to expedite funding allocations.</p>	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>AB 35 would streamline the funding process for Proposition 4 projects and allow Metropolitan, its member agencies, and partner agencies to access funds more quickly and accelerate project timelines. Proposition 4 funding includes multiple critical areas for Metropolitan, including funding for groundwater management, water recycling, Delta levees, and repairs to regional conveyance.</p>
<p><b>AB 259</b> <b>B. Rubio</b> <b>(D – Baldwin Park)</b></p> <p>Sponsors: California Special Districts Association, Three Valleys Municipal Water District</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Local Government Committee on 4/21/2025.</p> <p>Two-Year Bill</p>	<p><b>Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.</b></p> <p>This bill eliminates the sunset on provisions added to the Brown Act by AB 2449, a bill that provided additional flexibility with Brown Act meeting procedures in the event of a board member’s physical absence in connection with a “just cause” or “emergency circumstances,” allowing those members to participate in the meeting remotely consistent with the process detailed in the bill.</p>	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>By removing the sunset on the Brown Act provisions, AB 259 preserves flexibility for Metropolitan and Member Agency board members to meet remotely and continue providing the public with essential services.</p>

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session**

**March 9, 2026**

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

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session**

**March 9, 2026**

<b>Bill Number and Author</b>	<b>Amended Date and Location</b>	<b>Title – Summary</b>	<b>Metropolitan Position</b>	<b>Effects on Metropolitan</b>
<p><b>SB 601</b>  <b>B. Allen (D – Santa Monica)</b>  <b>Sponsors:</b>                      California Coastkeeper Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife</p>	<p>Amended in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 7/10/2025.                       Two-Year Bill</p>	<p><b>Water: waste discharge</b>                       The intent of this bill is to restore Clean Water Act protections in California that were removed per the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2023 Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision. However, the bill goes beyond restoring statute and includes several provisions that expand regulatory requirements without the benefit of scientific analysis.</p>	<p><b>Oppose</b>                       Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>Currently, AB 601 poses risks to Metropolitan and its member agencies by: adopting EPA’s drinking water standards for PFAS/PFOS, bypassing the state rulemaking process; increasing costs of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) permits for discharges of water when dewatering or operating water supply infrastructure, potentially requiring all such water to be recycled regardless of cost to comply; exposing Metropolitan and its Member Agencies to citizen suits in state court, and, for certain nexus waters, both state and federal court; and creating uncertainty in discharge permitting as the bill’s ambiguous provisions and implications are likely to be litigated.</p>
<p><b>SB 872</b>  <b>J. McNERNEY (D – Pleasanton)</b></p>	<p>Amended in Senate Rules Committee on 2/18/2026</p>	<p><b>Climate Change: funding priorities</b>                       This bill would require, over the next 20 years, that \$150M is to be appropriated annually to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to support capital improvements to restore water conveyance capacity for state water conveyance systems affected by subsidence. Additionally, this bill would require that \$150M be appropriated to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy for levee improvements that would improve the sustainability of local or state water supplies, and projects that improve instream, riparian, flood plain, and wetland habitat.</p>	<p><b>Support</b>                       Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>The proposed annual appropriation of \$150M over 20 years to fund capital costs of subsidence repairs could reduce State Water Project charges to contractors and could result in savings of up to \$1.5B for Metropolitan ratepayers.                       The proposed allocations for improvements to levees within the Delta and other actions to improve the sustainability of local or state water supplies and projects that that improve instream, riparian, floodplain, and wetland habitat would directly benefit Metropolitan by providing additional funding streams for levee improvements and indirectly through improvements within the Delta region.</p>



**ACTION ITEM**

April 1, 2026

**TO: Board of Directors**

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

Staff Contact: Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs

**SUBJECT: ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (OC LAFCO) SPECIAL DISTRICT MEMBER SEATS APPOINTMENT – AUTHORIZATION TO VOTE**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize President Larry Dick and an alternate to vote in the 2026 Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission Regular and Alternate Special District Member Seats appointment process; and direct staff to submit the declaration form by the deadline.

**REPORT**

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**Purpose**

The nomination period for the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (OC LAFCO) Regular and Alternate Special District Member Seats is now open. The purpose of this item is for the Board of Directors (Board or Director) to authorize a regular and alternate voting member in the upcoming election, and direct staff to submit the declaration form by the deadline.

**Discussion**

Founded in 1963, the OC LAFCO strives to ensure the delivery of effective and efficient public services, such as water, sewer, public safety, and parks, by local governments to Orange County residents. The OC LAFCO Board is comprised of two county members, two city members, two special district members, and one member of the public. Each also has an alternate member.

Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		Budgeted amount:
Core: <input type="checkbox"/>	Choice: <input type="checkbox"/>	Movement between funds: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Action item amount:		

The term of office for one of the OC LAFCO Regular and the Alternate Special District Member Seats expires on June 30, 2026. These seats are currently held by Douglass Davert and Kathryn Freshley, both of whom have expressed interest in running again.

The nomination period for these seats is open from March 9 through April 13, 2026. The appointment process is governed by Government Code Section 56332 and the Independent Special District Selection Committee Bylaws.

The announcement of the nomination process, along with a Declaration of Qualification to Vote and 2026 Nomination Forms (Attachment 1), was transmitted electronically via email on March 9, 2026. Nomination submissions and Declaration of Qualification to Vote forms must be returned to OC LAFCO by Monday, April 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. **If the Declaration of Qualification to Vote form is not received by OC LAFCO by the deadline, the District will be ineligible to vote in the upcoming election.**

A schedule of key dates for the appointment process is as follows:

<i>Appointment Process Schedule for OC LAFCO Regular and Alternate Special District Member Seats</i>	
ACTION	DATE
LAFCO Executive Officer emails notification letters with nomination and Declaration of Qualification to Vote forms to independent special district presiding officers (c/o district clerk) and general managers.	<b>March 9, 2026</b>
Deadline for submitting nomination and declaration forms to OC LAFCO by 4:00 p.m.*	<b>April 13, 2026 (4 PM)</b>
Ballots emailed to special district presiding officers/designees (c/o district clerk).	<b>May 4, 2026</b>
Ballots due to OC LAFCO by 4:00 p.m.	<b>June 8, 2026 (4 PM)</b>
OC LAFCO staff (or designee) tabulates ballots and announces results.	<b>June 15, 2026</b>
Oath of Office Administered.	<b>July 8, 2026 (Commission Hearing)</b>
<i>* Pursuant to Government Code Section 56332(c)(1), if only one candidate is nominated for a vacant seat, that candidate shall be deemed selected with no further proceedings.</i>	

The Directors of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWD OC or District) have not expressed interest in either the Regular or Alternate Special District Member seats.

**Next Steps**

The voting period for the election process ends on June 8, 2026. To ensure the District's ballot is counted, MWD OC shall submit its ballot on or before that date.

Staff recommends the Board of Directors select Option #1 to authorize President Larry Dick and an alternate to vote in the 2026 Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission Regular and Alternate Special District Member Seats appointment process; and direct staff to submit the declaration form by the deadline.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

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

## **BOARD OPTIONS**

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**Option #1:** Authorize President Larry Dick and an alternate to vote in the 2026 Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission Regular and Alternate Special District Member Seats appointment process; and direct staff to submit the declaration form by the deadline.

**Fiscal Impact:** None.

**Option #2:** Take no action.

**Fiscal Impact:** None.

<b>Attachments/Links:</b>
Attachment 1: Nomination Period and Appointment Process for the OC LAFCO Regular and Alternate Special District Member Seats

**REGULAR MEMBERS**

CHAIR  
**Wendy Bucknum**  
City Member

VICE CHAIR  
**James Fisler**  
Special District Member

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR  
**Donald P. Wagner**  
County Member

**Douglass Davert**  
Special District Member

**Peggy Huang**  
City Member

**Derek J. McGregor**  
Public Member

**VACANT**  
County Member

**ALTERNATES**

**Kathryn Freshley**  
Special District Member

**Carol Moore**  
City Member

**Lou Penrose**  
Public Member

**VACANT**  
County Member

**STAFF**

**Luis Tapia**  
Executive Officer

**Scott Smith**  
General Counsel

March 9, 2026

**TO:** Independent Special District, Presiding Officer  
**(Delivered by email: c/o Clerk of the District)**

**FROM:** Luis Tapia, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Nomination Period and Appointment Process for the OC LAFCO  
**Regular and Alternate Special District Member Seats**

The nomination period for the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (OC LAFCO) **Regular and Alternate** Special District Member seats is now open. The OC LAFCO Executive Officer will accept nominations for these seats from **March 9 through April 13, 2026**. The current term for these seats expires June 30, 2026.

The appointment process for the OC LAFCO special district seats is governed by Government Code Section 56332 and the Independent Special District Selection Committee Bylaws. In accordance with the statute and the Committee's Bylaws, the appointment process is conducted by mailed ballot, and attached to this notification are the following:

(1) The **"Declaration of Qualification to Vote"** for designating the authorized regular voting member and alternate voting member, if applicable, of your district for this appointment process. These forms must be returned to OC LAFCO no later than **4:00 p.m., Monday, April 13, 2026**. Please note, in accordance with the Independent Special District Selection Committee Bylaws, if OC LAFCO does not receive the forms by this date, your district will be ineligible to vote; and

(2) The **"2026 Nomination Forms"** for submitting a candidate's name for the OC LAFCO **Regular and Alternate** Special District Member seats. If your district is nominating a candidate, the form must be filled out completely and returned to OC LAFCO by **4:00 p.m., Monday, April 13, 2026**. Candidate resumes or other supplemental information may be attached to the nomination form, and these materials will be distributed with the ballot.

Completed declaration and nomination forms may be submitted to OC LAFCO electronically or by USPS mail at:

**Electronically:**

Email: [ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org](mailto:ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org)

**USPS Mail:**

Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission  
 Attention: Cheryl Carter-Benjamin, Commission Clerk  
 2677 North Main Street, Suite 1050  
 Santa Ana, CA 92705

For your reference, the schedule of key dates for the appointment process is shown below:

<i>Appointment Process Schedule for OC LAFCO Regular and Alternate Special District Member Seats</i>	
ACTION	DATE
LAFCO Executive Officer emails notification letters with nomination and Declaration of Qualification to Vote forms to independent special district presiding officers (c/o district clerk) and general managers.	<b>March 9, 2026</b>
Deadline for submitting nomination and declaration forms to OC LAFCO by 4:00 p.m.*	<b>April 13, 2026 (4 PM)</b>
Ballots emailed to special district presiding officers/designees (c/o district clerk).	<b>May 4, 2026</b>
Ballots due to OC LAFCO by 4:00 p.m.	<b>June 8, 2026 (4 PM)</b>
OC LAFCO staff (or designee) tabulates ballots and announces results.	<b>June 15, 2026</b>
Oath of Office Administered.	<b>July 8, 2026 (Commission Hearing)</b>
<i>* Pursuant to Government Code Section 56332(c)(1), if only one candidate is nominated for a vacant seat, that candidate shall be deemed selected with no further proceedings.</i>	

Should you have any questions on this matter, you may contact OC LAFCO Commission Clerk Cheryl Carter-Benjamin at (714) 640-5100 or by email at [ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org](mailto:ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org).

Attachments:

1. Declaration of Qualification to Vote
2. 2026 Nomination Form – **Regular and Alternate** Special District Member Seats

cc: Special District General Managers

**DECLARATION OF QUALIFICATION TO VOTE**

*Larry D. Dick, Presiding Officer*

*Municipal Water District of Orange County*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, \* hereby attest that  
\_\_\_\_\_ \*\* has been authorized by the Board of  
\_\_\_\_\_ to vote in the OC LAFCO Special  
District Selection Committee election as the regular voting member.

The Board also designated \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* as the alternate voting  
member.

**Name and Title\*:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature\*:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date\*:** \_\_\_\_\_

\* Declaration MUST be completed and signed by either Board President or Board Secretary.

\*\* Must be a member of the Board.

**In accordance with the Independent Special District Selection Committee Bylaws, completed declarations must be received by OC LAFCO by 4:00 PM, Monday, April 13, 2026. Declarations may be submitted electronically by email or USPS mail at:**

(1) Email: [ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org](mailto:ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org)

(2) USPS Mail: Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission  
2677 North Main Street, Suite 1050  
Santa Ana, CA 92705  
Attn: Cheryl Carter-Benjamin



# 2026 NOMINATION FORM

**NOMINEE INFORMATION FOR ALTERNATE SPECIAL DISTRICT MEMBER SEAT:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

Check box if resume or statement of qualifications is attached.

**SPECIAL DISTRICT SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBER SUBMITTING NOMINATION (*Must be the presiding officer or a designated alternate board member.*)**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

A resume or other supplemental information about the nominee may be included and will be distributed with the ballot. The completed nomination form and any supplemental information must be returned to OC LAFCO by **4:00 p.m., Monday, April 13, 2026** and may be submitted electronically or by USPS to:

- **Electronically**  
Email: [ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org](mailto:ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org)
- **USPS Mail**  
Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission  
Attention: Cheryl Carter-Benjamin, Commission Clerk  
2677 North Main Street, Suite 1050  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

***Nomination forms or candidate information received after the deadline will not be considered in part to the nomination process conducted by OC LAFCO.***



# 2026 NOMINATION FORM

**NOMINEE INFORMATION FOR REGULAR SPECIAL DISTRICT MEMBER SEAT:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

Check box if resume or statement of qualifications is attached.

**SPECIAL DISTRICT SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBER SUBMITTING NOMINATION (*Must be the presiding officer or a designated alternate board member.*)**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

A resume or other supplemental information about the nominee may be included and will be distributed with the ballot. The completed nomination form and any supplemental information must be returned to OC LAFCO by **4:00 p.m., Monday, April 13, 2026** and may be submitted electronically or by USPS to:

- **Electronically**  
Email: [ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org](mailto:ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org)
- **USPS Mail**  
Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission  
Attention: Cheryl Carter-Benjamin, Commission Clerk  
2677 North Main Street, Suite 1050  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

***Nomination forms or candidate information received after the deadline will not be considered in part to the nomination process conducted by OC LAFCO.***



**ACTION ITEM**

April 1, 2026

**TO: Board of Directors**

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

Staff Contact: Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs

**SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 161 (ADDIS) – SPECIAL DISTRICTS WEEK 2026**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt a support position on Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 161 (Addis) and join the California Special Districts Association’s coalition and outreach efforts.

**REPORT**

---

**Purpose**

The purpose of this item is for the Board of Directors (Board or Director) to consider adopting a support position on Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) No. 161, which would proclaim the week of April 5 - 11, 2026, to be Special Districts Week in California.

**Background**

Similar to previous years, ACR 161 encourages all Californians to engage with their local government and become actively involved with the Special Districts that serve them.

Special Districts, such as the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWD OC or District), are local government entities created by a community’s residents, funded by those residents, and overseen by those residents to provide specialized services and infrastructure.

Today, approximately 2,000 independent special districts provide millions of Californians with essential services, including services related to water, sanitation and water recycling, fire protection, electricity, parks and recreation, health care, open space, ports and

Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		Budgeted amount:
Core: <input type="checkbox"/>	Choice: <input type="checkbox"/>	Movement between funds: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Action item amount:		

harbors, flood protection, mosquito abatement, cemeteries, resource conservation, airports, transit, road maintenance, veterans' facilities, and more.

## Discussion

ACR 161 is sponsored by California Special Districts Association (CSDA), a statewide association representing over 1,000 special districts and affiliate organizations throughout the state. This is California's eighth annual celebration of Special Districts, and CSDA hopes that this year's Special Districts Week will have an even greater impact on our communities.

Special Districts Week coincides with the CSDA 2026 Special Districts Legislative Days conference in Sacramento. CSDA will pre-arrange Legislative Office Visits between Legislators, their staff, and the special districts that provide essential services to their communities. This will establish connections between local governments and their state elected representatives.

CSDA previously sponsored ACR 36 (Carrillo, 2025), ACR 163 (Hart, 2024), Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52 (Alvarado-Gil, 2023), ACR 180 (Bauer-Kahan, 2022), ACR 17 (Voepel, 2021), ACR 179 (Voepel, 2020), and ACR 89 (Cooley, 2019) to encourage all Californians to be involved in their communities and be civically engaged with their government.

## Next Steps

Staff recommends the Board select Option #1, adopt a support position on ACR 161 (Addis), and join CSDA's coalition and outreach efforts.

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

## ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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

## BOARD OPTIONS

---

**Option #1:** Adopt a support position on ACR 161 (Addis) and join CSDA's coalition and outreach efforts.

**Fiscal Impact:** None.

**Option #2:** Take no action.

**Fiscal Impact:** None.

<b>Attachments/Links:</b>
Attachment 1: ACR 161 Full Text


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## ACR-161 Special Districts Week. (2025-2026)

SHARE THIS:



CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTION**

**CONCURRENT**

**NO. 161**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Addis**

**March 18, 2026**

Relative to Special Districts Week.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 161, as introduced, Addis. Special Districts Week.

This measure proclaims the week of April 5, 2026, to April 11, 2026, to be Special Districts Week.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Special districts are local governmental entities created by a community's residents, funded by those residents, and overseen by those residents, to provide specialized services and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Today, just over 2,000 independent special districts provide millions of Californians with essential services, including services related to water, sanitation, and water recycling, fire protection, electricity, parks and recreation, health care, open space, ports and harbors, flood protection, mosquito abatement, cemeteries, resource conservation, airports, transit, road maintenance, veterans' facilities, and more; and

WHEREAS, Special districts first arose when San Joaquin Valley farmers needed a way to access their local water supply; and

WHEREAS, Under the Wright Act of 1887, the Turlock Irrigation District became California's first special district and made it possible for local farmers to intensify and diversify agriculture in California's central valley; and

WHEREAS, In the 20th century, special districts increased dramatically in both number and scope, and during the periods of prosperity and population growth that followed both world wars when the demand for all types of public services increased, and special districts met that need; and

WHEREAS, The statutory authorization for mosquito abatement districts was enacted in 1915 to combat the salt marsh mosquitoes around the San Francisco Bay and higher than average malaria cases in rural counties; and

WHEREAS, Fire protection districts can trace their origins to a 1923 state law, and, in 1931, the Legislature authorized recreation districts, the forerunners of today's recreation and park districts; and

WHEREAS, Hospital districts arose in 1945 because of a statewide shortage of hospital beds. In 1994, the Legislature then expanded their breadth and renamed them health care districts in recognition of the diverse, modern needs of California's communities and the importance of proactive, affordable health care beyond the walls of a hospital building; and

WHEREAS, Although originally created to provide individual services, in 1961, the Legislature authorized special districts to address multiple needs when it provided for multipurpose, community services districts; and

WHEREAS, Special districts vary in size and scope and serve diverse communities throughout California, from small rural neighborhoods, such as the Pine Cove Water District in the San Jacinto Mountains in the County of Riverside, to large urban regions, such as the East Bay Municipal Utility District spanning much of the Counties of Alameda and Contra Costa; and

WHEREAS, Local residents own special districts and govern them through locally elected or appointed boards. A series of sunshine laws ensure special districts remain transparent and accountable to the communities they serve, as these laws require open and public meetings, public access to records, regular audits, online posting of finances and compensation, and more; and

WHEREAS, To prevent overlapping services and ensure that local agencies are operating effectively and efficiently to meet community needs, special districts are formed, reviewed, consolidated, or dissolved through a methodical local process that includes the oversight of a local agency formation commission and the consent of local voters; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, several independent special districts formed a statewide association called the California Special Districts Association, commonly referred to as the CSDA, to promote good governance and improved essential local services through professional development, advocacy, and other services for all types of independent special districts; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature seeks to promote democratic institutions, community-based services, local control, and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature seeks to promote and educate the public about their local public service providers, including awareness and understanding of special districts; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the week of April 5, 2026, to April 11, 2026, inclusive, to be Special Districts Week and encourages all Californians to be involved in their communities and be civically engaged with their local government; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.



**ACTION ITEM**  
April 1, 2026

**TO:** Board of Directors

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

Staff Contact: Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs

**SUBJECT:** SENATE BILL 1153 (CABALLERO) – WATER SYSTEMS AND WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

---

Staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt a support position on Senate Bill 1153 (Caballero) and join the Association of California Water Agencies’ coalition letter.

**REPORT**

---

**Purpose**

The purpose of this item is for the Board of Directors (Board or Director) to consider adopting a support position on Senate Bill (SB) 1153, which would clarify the limited role of public water systems during wildfires while strengthening emergency preparedness in high-risk areas.

**Background**

Public water systems are designed to provide customers with safe, reliable drinking water and aid in structural firefighting for the properties they serve. They are not designed, intended, or funded to supply the significant volume of water necessary for large-scale wildfire defense and suppression, and doing so would be physically impracticable, financially infeasible, and would compromise water quality and affordability.

Water systems can become overwhelmed when too many fire hydrants are used within the same pressure zone. For a structural fire, there might be three to five fire engines responding. For a wildfire, there can be hundreds of fire engines hooked up to the same

Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		Budgeted amount:
Core: <input type="checkbox"/>	Choice: <input type="checkbox"/>	Movement between funds: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Action item amount:		

system. Wildfires can also damage pipelines, storage tanks, and power infrastructure, further limiting system performance.

Misunderstandings about the limitations of public water systems have led to unrealistic public expectations and the perception that water systems underperformed following a wildfire event. Following major wildfires, public water agencies have increasingly faced claims and lawsuits for wildfire damage. The financial burden of litigation is ultimately borne by ratepayers, affecting water affordability.

## **Discussion**

SB 1153, sponsored by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), proposes a new section to the California Emergency Services Act that requires urban retail water suppliers to include incident-specific wildfire response procedures in their disaster preparedness plans. It also codifies the *City of Oroville v. Superior Court of Butte County* (2019) decision, namely – that the inability of a public water system to maintain water supply or water pressure during a wildfire is not a substantial cause of the damages resulting from a wildfire, and the spread of wildfire is not considered an inherent risk presented by the deliberate design, construction, or maintenance of a public water system.

SB 1153 would benefit Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) member agencies by:

- Strengthening preparedness by requiring urban retail water suppliers in high and very-high fire hazard severity zones to incorporate wildfire-specific response procedures into existing emergency plans, beginning January 1, 2028;
- Establishing water supply or pressure limitations during a wildfire is not a substantial cause of wildfire damage; and
- Affirming system design limits by recognizing that wildfire spread is not an inherent risk of water system design.

By improving wildfire planning and resilience while recognizing the physical and financial limits of water infrastructure, this bill protects ratepayers, supports emergency response, and ensures the long-term reliability of California’s drinking water systems.

## **Next Steps**

Staff recommends the Board select Option #1, to adopt a support position on SB 1153 (Caballero), and join ACWA’s coalition letter.

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

## **ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

---

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

## **BOARD OPTIONS**

---

**Option #1:** Adopt a support position on SB 1153 (Caballero), and join ACWA's coalition letter.

**Fiscal Impact:** Not determined at this time.

**Option #2:** Take no action.

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

<b>Attachments/Links:</b>
Attachment 1: SB 1153 Full Text


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## **SB-1153 Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water systems: wildfire.** (2025-2026)

SHARE THIS:  

Date Published: 02/18/2026 09:00 PM

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

**SENATE BILL**

**NO. 1153**

**Introduced by Senator Caballero**

**February 18, 2026**

An act to add Section 8607.3 to the Government Code, relating to disaster preparedness.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1153, as introduced, Caballero. Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water systems: wildfire.

Existing law, the California Emergency Services Act, requires all public water systems, as defined, with 10,000 or more service connections to review and revise their disaster preparedness plans in conjunction with related agencies, including, but not limited to, local fire departments and the Office of Emergency Services to ensure that the plans are sufficient to address possible disaster scenarios. A person, as defined, who violates the provisions of this act is guilty of a misdemeanor.

This bill, beginning January 1, 2028, would require all urban retail water suppliers, as defined, serving a high or very high fire hazard severity zone to include incident-specified response procedures for wildfires as part of their disaster preparedness plans, including any applicable emergency response plan as required by federal law. The bill would require these plans to include mitigation actions, including actions, procedures, and equipment, that can obviate or significantly lessen the impact of a wildfire on the water system and the supply of drinking water provided by the water supplier. Because violation of these requirements by certain urban retail water suppliers would constitute a misdemeanor, the bill would expand the scope of a crime, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

This bill would deem the inability of a public water system to maintain water supply or water pressure during a wildfire not a substantial cause of the damages resulting from a wildfire. The bill would also deem the spread of wildfire not an inherent risk presented by the deliberate design, construction, or maintenance of a public water system.

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

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

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

### **SECTION 1.** The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) Wildfires are increasing in frequency, severity, and destructive impact in California.
- (b) Public water systems are increasingly vulnerable to wildfire, either directly or indirectly, including physical damage to critical infrastructure; disruption of access and operations; interruption of power supplies; degradation of water quality; excessive or uncontrolled water demands; and impairment of pumping, treatment, and distribution capabilities.
- (c) Public water systems impacted by wildfires may experience disruptions in water supply or pressure during wildfire events.
- (d) Public water systems are deliberately designed and constructed to provide clean and safe drinking water in accordance with state and federal safe drinking water laws and regulatory requirements.
- (e) Existing law, Section 53750.5 of the Government Code, finds that water service is a different and distinct service from fire service, and that water service is a property-related service that aids in the provision of fire service provided to properties. While public water systems are often relied upon to aid firefighting activities, including the use of fire hydrants, they are not intentionally designed or constructed for wildfire defense or suppression. Hydrants are generally designed and installed, consistent with applicable fire codes and industry standards to aid in firefighting, but not to provide water service to aid in extinguishing fires that threaten property not served by a water service provider or wildfires.
- (f) Designing and constructing public water systems to function as wildfire defense or suppression systems would be physically impracticable and financially infeasible, and may compromise the quality of water for human consumption and the affordability of drinking water for ratepayers.
- (g) To limit the risks presented by wildfires to water systems and water supply, it is imperative that urban retail water suppliers serving high-risk areas prepare for wildfire incidents and seek to mitigate the impacts of wildfires on the water systems.

### **SEC. 2.** Section 8607.3 is added to the Government Code, to read:

**8607.3.** (a) Beginning January 1, 2028, all urban retail water suppliers serving a high or very high fire hazard severity zone shall include incident-specific response procedures for wildfires as part of their disaster preparedness plans, including any applicable emergency response plan as required by Section 1433(b) of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300i-2). The plans shall include mitigation actions, including actions, procedures, and equipment, that can obviate or significantly lessen the impact of a wildfire on the water system and the supply of drinking water provided by that water supplier.

(b) While public water systems, including wholesale water systems, and the water distributed through them, may be available to aid in firefighting activities, both of the following shall apply:

- (1) The inability of a public water system to maintain water supply or water pressure during a wildfire shall not be considered a substantial cause of the damages resulting from a wildfire.
- (2) The spread of wildfire shall not be considered an inherent risk presented by the deliberate design, construction, or maintenance of a public water system.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to impose a duty on public water systems, including wholesale water systems, to design, construct, or maintain a water system for wildfire defense or suppression. Noncompliance with subdivision (a) shall not be considered a substantial cause of the damages resulting from a wildfire.

(d) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "High or very high fire hazard severity zone" means those areas identified by the State Fire Marshal as high or very high fire hazard severity zones pursuant to Section 51178.
- (2) "Public water system" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (3) "Urban retail water supplier" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (af) of Section 10608.12 of the Water Code.
- (4) "Wholesale water system" has the same meaning as defined in paragraph (6) of subdivision (c) of Section 116455 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (5) "Wildfire" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 51177.

**SEC. 3.** No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.



**ACTION ITEM**  
April 1, 2026

**TO:** Board of Directors

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

Staff Contact: Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs

**SUBJECT:** ASSEMBLY BILL 2180 (WARD) – PROPOSITION 218 OMNIBUS IMPLEMENTATION ACT: PROPORTIONAL COST OF SERVICE

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

---

Staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt a support position on Assembly Bill 2180 (Ward) and join the Association of California Water Agencies’ coalition letter.

**REPORT**

---

**Purpose**

The purpose of this item is for the Board of Directors (Board or Director) to consider adopting a support position on Assembly Bill (AB) 2180, which would authorize a local government to demonstrate the proportional cost of service attributable to the parcel by any method that reasonably allocates the ascertainable cost of providing service.

**Background**

Proposition 218, adopted by voters in 1996, requires that water rates be proportional to the cost of service attributable to each parcel.

Public water agencies rely on professional cost-of-service studies and established rate-setting practices to comply with these constitutional requirements. Many agencies use uniform “flat” or tiered-rate structures to reflect differences in water use and the higher incremental costs associated with serving higher usage.

While courts have previously upheld tiered water rates supported by cost-of-service analysis, recent appellate decisions have produced conflicting interpretations of the

Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		Budgeted amount:
Core: <input type="checkbox"/>	Choice: <input type="checkbox"/>	Movement between funds: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Action item amount:		

manner in which proportionality must be demonstrated. This uncertainty increases litigation risk and creates unpredictability for agencies and their customers.

## **Discussion**

AB 2180, sponsored by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), would clarify how agencies may comply with Proposition 218's proportionality requirement by codifying the framework established in *Dreher v. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power*.

Specifically, the bill would affirm that:

- Costs related to water supplies, infrastructure, and system-wide peak demand may be allocated using reasonable methodologies without tracing specific water sources to individual parcels;
- Agencies may use any reasonable method, supported by existing or projected data, to allocate service costs;
- Agencies are not required to determine the exact cost of service for each parcel; and
- Uniform and tiered rate structures are permissible when based on reasonable cost allocation principles.

Supporting AB 2180 would benefit Municipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC or District) member agencies by:

- Providing predictability and consistency for public water agencies statewide;
- Reducing unnecessary litigation and associated costs;
- Allowing agencies to confidently develop constitutionally sound rates; and
- Supporting rate structures that reflect the real costs of delivering reliable water service

By providing clear statutory guidance, AB 2180 will help ensure stable, defensible water rates for California communities.

## **Next Steps**

Staff recommends the Board select Option #1, adopt a support position on AB 2180 (Ward), and join ACWA's coalition letter.

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

## **ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

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

## **BOARD OPTIONS**

---

**Option #1:** Adopt a support position on AB 2180 (Ward) and join ACWA's coalition letter.

**Fiscal Impact:** Not determined at this time.

**Option #2:** Take no action.

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

<b>Attachments/Links:</b>
Attachment 1: AB 2180 Full Text


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## AB-2180 Local government: Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act: proportional cost of service. (2025-2026)

SHARE THIS:  

Date Published: 03/11/2026 09:00 PM

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 11, 2026

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**NO. 2180**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Ward**

**February 19, 2026**

An act to add Section 53751.5 to the Government Code, relating to local government finance.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2180, as amended, Ward. Local government: Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act: proportional cost of service.

The California Constitution specifies various requirements with respect to the levying of assessments and property-related fees and charges by a local agency. As part of those requirements, the California Constitution mandates that such fees or charges that are extended, imposed, or increased satisfy certain requirements, including, but not limited to, that the amount of the fee or charge imposed upon any parcel or person as an incident of property ownership not exceed the proportional cost of the service attributable to the parcel.

Existing law, known as the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act (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.

This bill would authorize a local government to demonstrate the proportional cost of the service attributable to the parcel by any method that reasonably allocates the ascertainable cost of providing service to all parcels, if substantiated as provided. The bill would, however, provide that for water or sewer service fee or charge impositions, a local government is not required to provide an exact measure of the cost of the service at each parcel and may instead impose uniform or tiered ~~fees or charges~~ rates to parcel or customer classes that are defined based on common characteristics indicative of likely water or sewer use. The bill would provide that the proportional cost of service within each tier of water service may be substantiated by using any reasonable basis for allocating costs attributed to the tier, as ~~described~~: described, and would provide a local government

*discretion to determine the costs allocated to each tier as long as the rate for each tier does not exceed the proportional cost of service reasonably allocated to parcels subject to that tier.*

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.** Section 53751.5 is added to the Government Code, to read:

**53751.5.** (a) For any fee or charge adopted under Section 6 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution, "the proportional cost of the service attributable to the parcel" may be demonstrated by any method that reasonably allocates the ascertainable cost of providing service to all parcels. That allocation shall be substantiated by ~~existing or reasonably estimated~~ *historic, existing, estimated,* or projected data that reasonably captures the cost of the service to be provided.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), when imposing a fee or charge for water or sewer service, an agency is not required to provide an exact measure of the cost of the service at each parcel and an agency may impose uniform or tiered ~~fees or charges~~ *rates* to parcel or customer classes that are defined based on common characteristics indicative of likely water or sewer use, including, but not limited to, the nature and size of improvements to a parcel, land use, the nature or number of plumbing fixtures, *meter size,* or peak use characteristics.

(c) (1) When imposing a ~~fee or charge~~ *tiered rate* for water service, an agency may substantiate the proportional cost of the service within each tier by using any reasonable basis for allocating costs attributed to the tier, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (A) The cost of water from various sources.
- (B) Facilities operation, maintenance, or construction costs.
- (C) Contribution to systemwide peak demand projections.

*(D) Costs that an agency incurs as a result of the use of water at various tiers or to implement water conservation or demand management measures, or incremental costs, as that term is used in Chapter 3.4 (commencing with Section 370) of Division 1 of the Water Code.*

*(2) An agency is not required to have a cost-based, or any other, justification for establishing any tier breakpoint. For purposes of this paragraph, "tier breakpoint" means the point where a customer leaves one tier and enters another tier.*

~~(2)~~

*(3) An agency has discretion to determine the ~~service~~ costs allocated to each ~~tier. That allocation is consistent with subdivision (b) of Section 6 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution if tier, provided that~~* the rate assigned to each tier ~~reasonably reflects the cost of providing service for~~ *does not exceed the proportional cost of service reasonably allocated to parcels subject to that tier.*



**INFORMATION ITEM**

April 1, 2026

**TO: Board of Directors**

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

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

**SUBJECT: METROPOLITAN ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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

**REPORT**

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This report provides a brief update on the status of the following key Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) issues that may affect Orange County:

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

**ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

---

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

<b>Attachments/Links:</b>
Attachment 1: Issue Briefs A-E

## Issue Brief A

**SUBJECT: Metropolitan Finances**

### **RECENT ACTIVITY**

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Water Transactions for March 2026 (for water delivered in January 2026) totaled 79.7 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 11.0 TAF lower than the budget of 90.7 TAF. This translates to \$100.2 million in receipts for March 2026, which were \$5.5 million lower than the budget of \$105.8 million.

Year-to-date water transactions through March 2026 (for water delivered in May 2025 through January 2026) were 1.0 million acre-feet (MAF), which was 62.9 TAF lower than the budget of 1.07 MAF.

Year-to-date water receipts through March 2026 were \$1.17 billion, which was \$40.6 million lower than the budget of \$1.21 billion.

*FY25-26 Cash Water Transactions and Revenues Budget vs Actual (Preliminary, subject to change)*

Month		Acre-Feet (AF) <sup>1</sup>		Variance		Revenue (\$) <sup>2</sup>		Variance	
Delivered/Billed In	Collected in	Budget	Actual	AF	%	Budget	Actual	\$	%
May	July	110,834	104,802	(6,032)	-5%	122,873,672	134,899,988	12,026,316	10%
June	August	117,893	105,957	(11,936)	-10%	150,194,358	117,905,817	(32,288,541)	-21%
July	September	130,799	117,324	(13,475)	-10%	149,512,493	134,297,129	(15,215,364)	-10%
August	October	133,060	121,437	(11,623)	-9%	152,486,828	153,574,498	1,087,670	1%
September	November	125,227	131,836	6,609	5%	141,365,920	150,893,965	9,528,045	7%
October	December	126,161	123,200	(2,961)	-2%	139,251,899	132,150,366	(7,101,533)	-5%
November	January	128,056	103,951	(24,105)	-19%	136,399,566	109,283,424	(27,116,142)	-20%
December	February <sup>3</sup>	107,621	119,244	11,623	11%	112,940,009	136,943,652	24,003,643	21%
January	March <sup>3</sup>	90,739	79,717	(11,022)	-12%	105,775,733	100,240,583	(5,535,150)	-5%
<b>YTD Total</b>		<b>1,070,390</b>	<b>1,007,468</b>	<b>(62,922)</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>1,210,800,480</b>	<b>1,170,189,422</b>	<b>(40,611,058)</b>	<b>-3%</b>
February	April	78,856	-	-	0%	91,212,001	-	-	0%
March	May	84,484	-	-	0%	98,206,004	-	-	0%
April	June	110,200	-	-	0%	129,990,583	-	-	0%
<b>FY Total</b>		<b>1,343,930</b>	<b>1,007,468</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>1,530,209,068</b>	<b>1,170,189,422</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

<sup>1</sup> AF reflected does not include non-member agency transactions.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Water Sales, Exchanges, and Wheeling for member agency and non-member agency.

<sup>3</sup> Information is presented on an accrual basis; corresponding cash data is not yet available.

### **Budget Process**

Metropolitan is currently developing its biennial budget for Fiscal Years (FY) 2026-27 and 2027-28. The biennial budget process establishes Metropolitan's financial framework for the two-year period. This includes the Capital Investment Plan and revenue requirements for FYs 2026-27 and 2027-28; proposed water rates and charges for Calendar Years (CY) 2027 and 2028 to meet revenue requirements for FYs 2026-27 and 2027-28; a ten-year financial forecast; and a Cost of Service Report.

In March, Metropolitan staff held two budget workshops for the Metropolitan Board, ahead of the budget's adoption proposed for April 14.

Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) staff also invited Metropolitan staff to present their proposed budget at the March 4, 2026, Joint Workshop Board meeting.

## ISSUE BRIEF B

### **SUBJECT: Metropolitan's Supply Condition Update**

#### **RECENT ACTIVITY**

---

The 2025-26 Water Year (WY) officially started on October 1, 2025. Thus far, Northern California accumulated precipitation (8-Station Index) reported **41.3 inches or 103% of normal as of March 23**. The Northern Sierra Snow Water Equivalent was **2.9 inches on March 23**, which is **10% of normal** for that day. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has increased the initial State Water Project (SWP) **"Table A" allocation for WY 2025-26 to 30%**.

The Upper Colorado River Basin has accumulated precipitation of **13.44 inches, or 117% of normal, as of March 23**. Snowpack is measured across four states in the Upper Colorado River Basin, encompassing the Colorado River system. The Upper Colorado River Basin Snow Water Equivalent was **6.57 inches as of March 23**, which is **45% of normal** for that day. Due to below-average inflows into Lake Powell over the past several years, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation **declared a shortage at Lake Mead that has been ongoing since January 1, 2022 (below the 1,075-foot storage level)**. **As of February 2026, there is a 100% chance of shortage continuing in Calendar Year (CY) 2026, a 93% chance in CY 2027, and a 97% chance in CY 2028. Additionally, there is a 13% chance of a California shortage (below a 1,045-foot storage level) in 2028.**

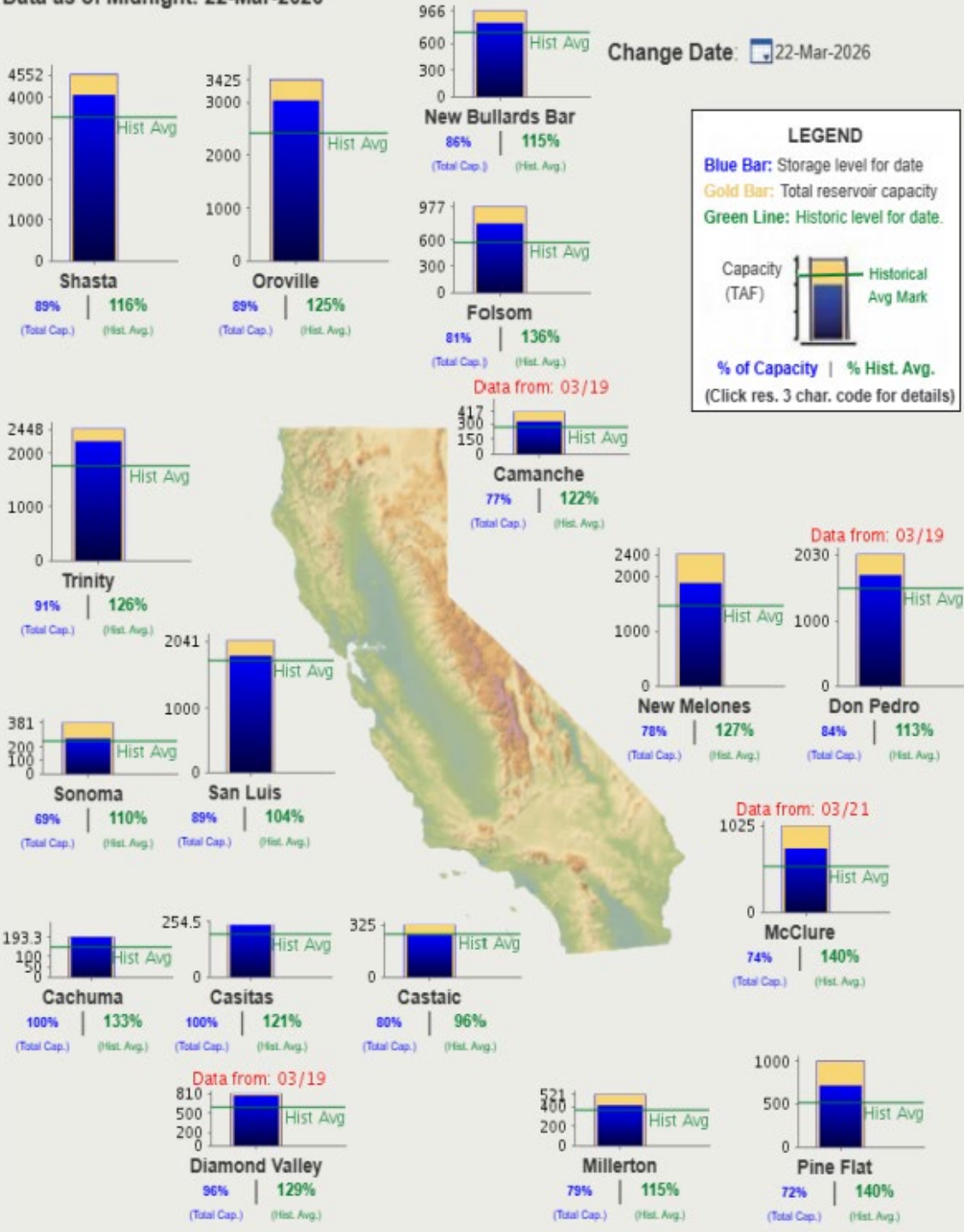
As of March 22, Lake Oroville storage is at **89% of total capacity and 125% of normal**. Additionally, as of March 22, San Luis Reservoir is at **89% of its total capacity and is 104% of normal**.

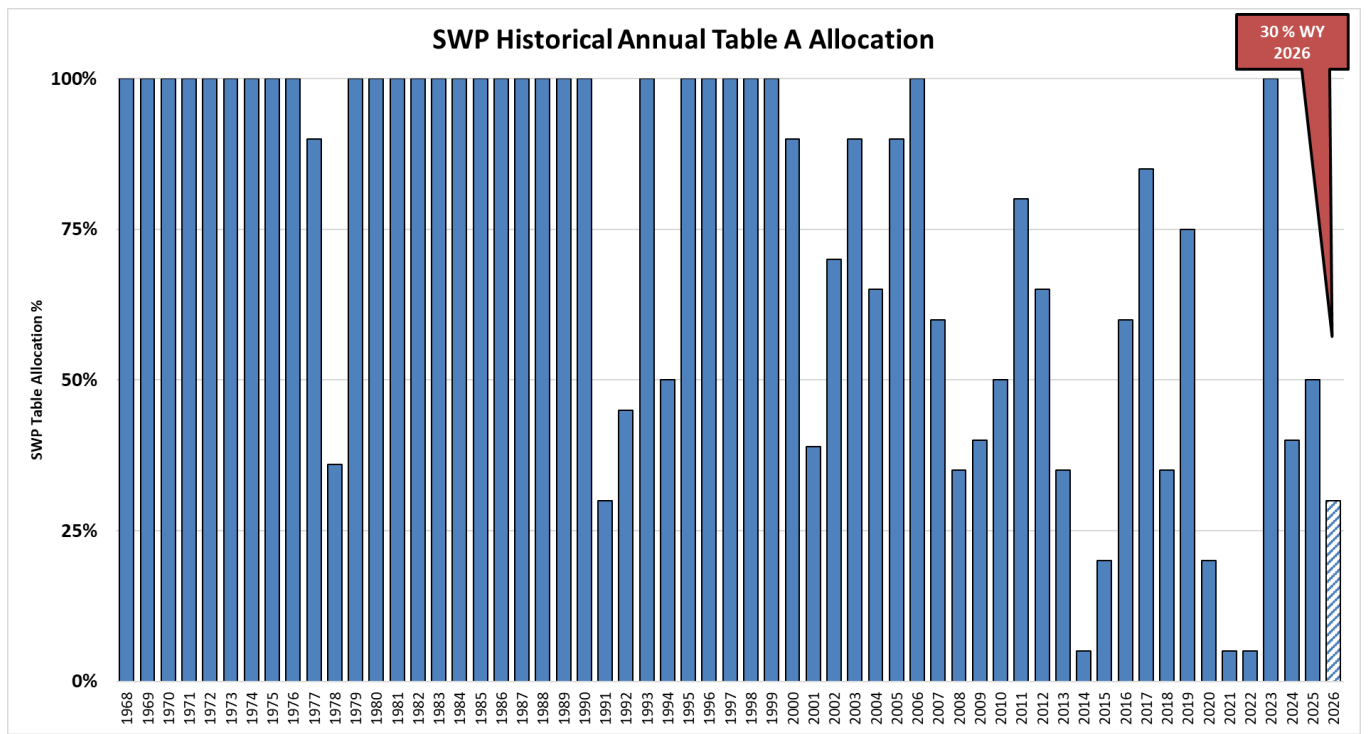
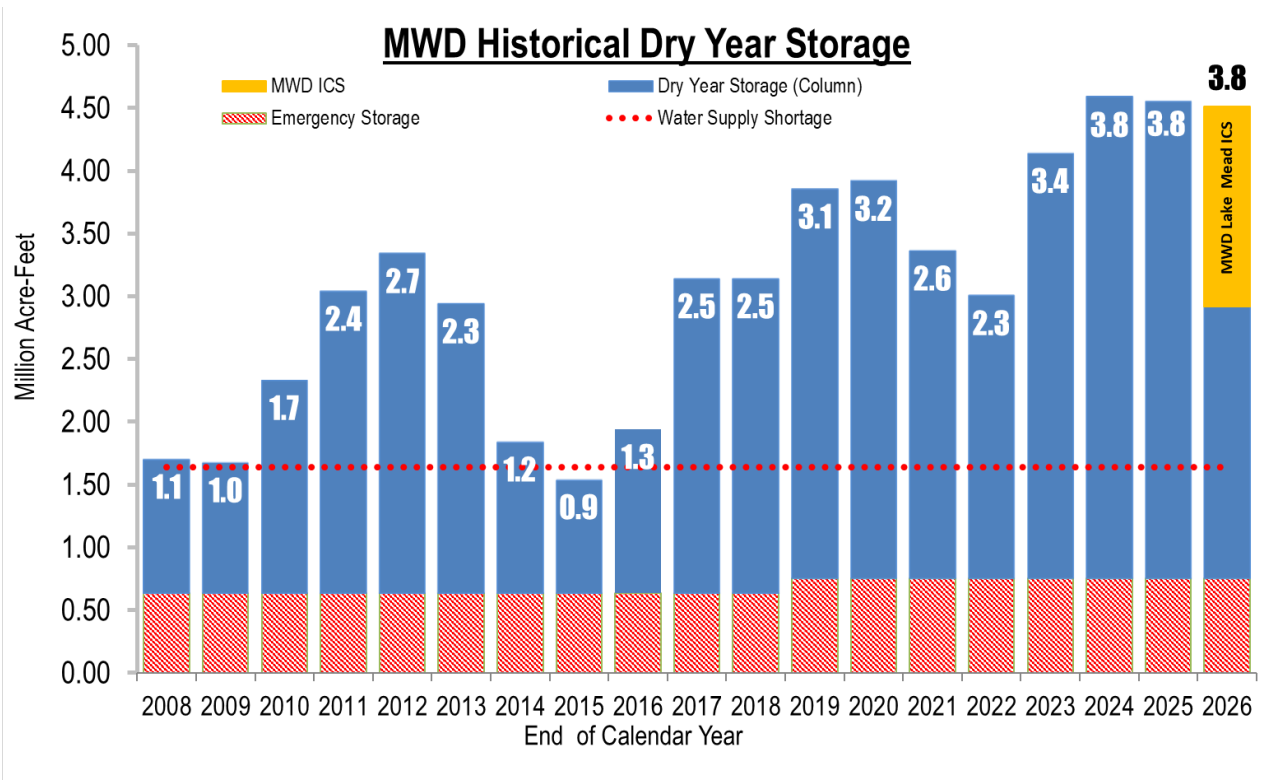
With CY 2026 estimated total demands and losses of 1.486 million acre-feet (MAF) and with a 30% State Water Project (SWP) Table A Allocation, Metropolitan is projecting that demands will equal supply levels in CY 2026. Based on this, the estimated total dry-year storage for Metropolitan at the end of **CY 2026 will be approximately 3.8 MAF**. A projected dry-year storage supply of **3.8 MAF would be approximately 2.8 MAF above the typical level where Metropolitan enters Water Supply Allocations**. A significant factor in maintaining high water storage levels is lower-than-expected water demands. We are seeing regional water demands reaching a 40-year low. **However, with a majority of Metropolitan's water supplies stored in Lake Mead, which still projects a five-year shortage, there remains considerable uncertainty about future supply balances. The Colorado River Basin States failed to meet the February 14, 2026, deadline to negotiate new, post-2026 operations at Glen Canyon Dam, located at Lake Powell, and Hoover Dam, located at Lake Mead.**

**CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS:22-MAR-2026**

Data as of Midnight: 22-Mar-2026

Change Date:





## Attachment 1 – 2026 WSDM Storage Detail

	1/1/2026 Estimated Storage Levels <sup>1</sup>	CY 2026 Put Capacity <sup>2</sup>	CY 2026 Take Capacity <sup>2</sup>	2026 Total Storage Capacity
<b>WSDM Storage</b>				
<b>Colorado River Aqueduct Delivery System</b>	<b>1,568,000</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>1,622,000</b>
Lake Mead ICS	1,568,000 <sup>3</sup>	54,000	185,000 <sup>4</sup>	1,622,000 <sup>3</sup>
<b>State Water Project System</b>	<b>1,265,000</b>	<b>356,000</b>	<b>769,000</b>	<b>2,431,000</b>
MWD & DVCV SWP Carryover	473,000	149,000	473,000	622,000 <sup>5</sup>
MWD Articles 14(b) & 12(e)	0	0	0	0
Castaic & Perris DWR Flex Storage	219,000	0	219,000	219,000
Arvin-Edison Storage Program	100,000	0 <sup>6</sup>	0	350,000
Semitropic Storage Program	237,000	92,000	45,000	350,000
Kern Delta Storage Program	142,000	45,000	32,000	250,000
Mojave Storage Program	19,000	0	0	330,000
AVEK Storage Program	30,000	0	0	30,000
AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program	45,000	70,000	0	280,000
<b>In-Region Supplies &amp; WSDM Actions</b>	<b>1,042,000</b>	<b>71,000</b>	<b>633,000</b>	<b>1,151,000</b>
Diamond Valley Lake	760,000	50,000	503,000	810,000
Lake Mathews & Lake Skinner	204,000	22,000	92,000	226,000
Conjunctive Use Programs	77,000	0	38,000	115,000
<b>Other Programs</b>	<b>684,000</b>	<b>37,000</b>	<b>93,000</b>	<b>1,181,000</b>
Other Emergency Storage	381,000	0	0	381,000
DVCV Advanced Delivery Account	303,000	37,000	93,000	800,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,558,000</b>	<b>519,000</b>	<b>1,680,000</b>	<b>6,385,000</b>
Emergency	750,000	0	0	750,000
<b>Total WSDM Storage (AF) <sup>7</sup></b>	<b>3,808,000</b>	<b>519,000</b>	<b>1,680,000</b>	<b>5,635,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary start of year balances, subject to DWR adjustments and USBR final accounting in May 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Put and Take capacity assumed under a 30 percent SWP Table A Allocation. Storage program losses included where applicable.

<sup>3</sup> This amount is net of the water Metropolitan stored for IID in Lake Mead in an ICS sub-account.

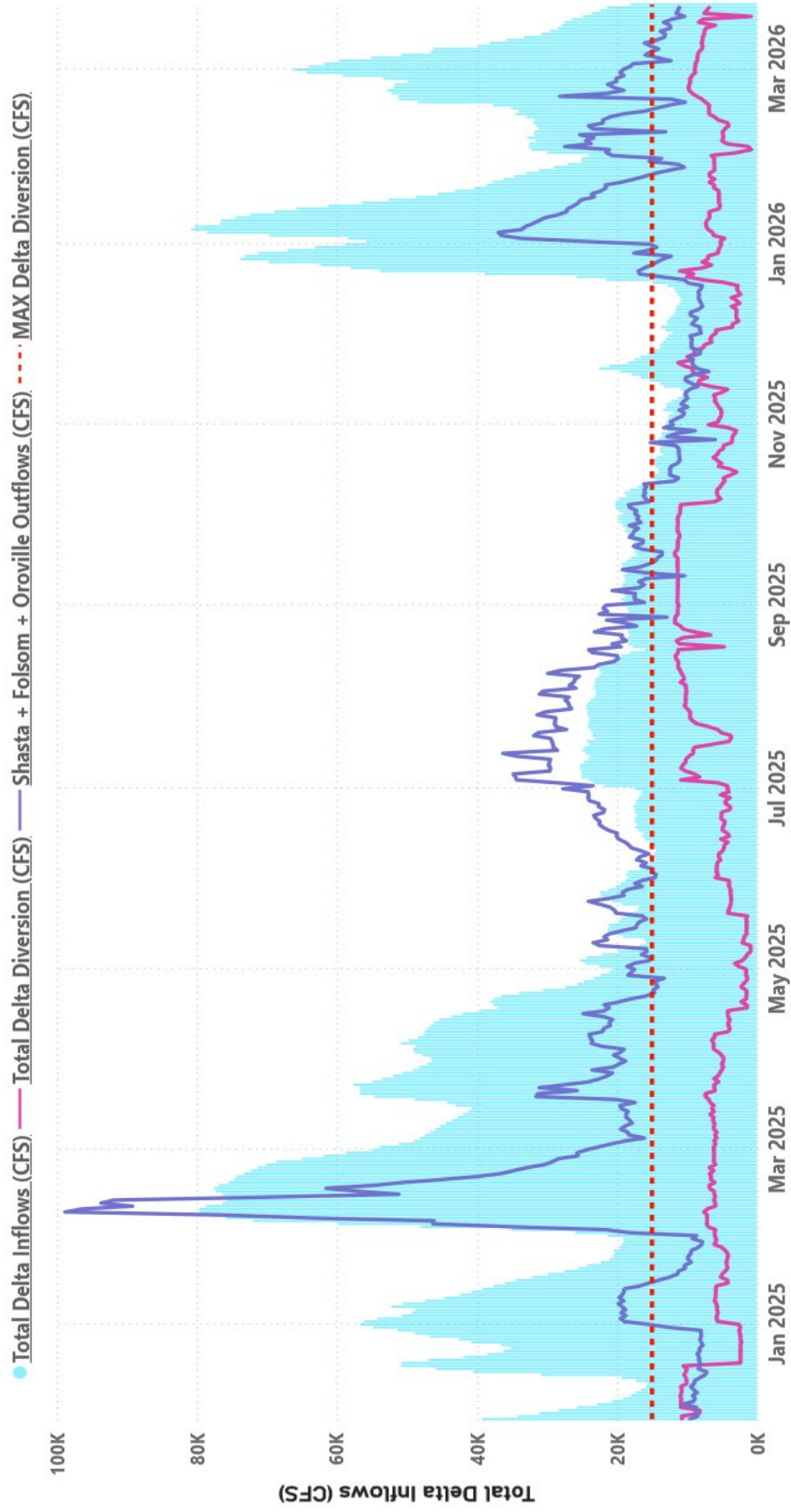
<sup>4</sup> Take capacity is based on planned maintenance activities and current CRA supply estimate.

<sup>5</sup> Total storage capacity varies year-to-year as the contractual annual storage limit, based on the current SWP Table A allocation of 30 percent, is combined with the remaining balance from the previous year. There is a potential risk that Metropolitan's stored water may be converted to SWP contractor water if the San Luis Reservoir approaches full capacity. Metropolitan is actively monitoring the storage in San Luis Reservoir and has plans to manage carryover supply should the reservoir fill.

<sup>6</sup> Puts are limited due to water quality considerations.

<sup>7</sup> Total WSDM Storage level subject to change based on accounting adjustments. Total may not sum due to rounding.

## Bay Delta Daily Historical Water Operations



## **ISSUE BRIEF C**

**SUBJECT: Metropolitan's Water Quality Update**

### **RECENT ACTIVITY**

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#### **Water System Operations**

Metropolitan's total imported supply is estimated to be 1.47 million acre-feet (MAF) for Calendar Year (CY) 2026 at current allocation levels, before stored supply withdrawal. On January 29, 2025, the California Department of Water Resources increased the State Water Project (SWP) Table A Allocation from 10 percent to 30 percent, reflecting improved hydrologic conditions observed in late December and early January. This brings Metropolitan's SWP supply to 574 thousand acre-feet (TAF). Further changes to the SWP allocation are possible, but will depend on current and future hydrologic conditions. February and March are the final traditional wet months, and additional snowstorms will be needed to improve snowpack conditions and support water supplies heading into the summer. The Colorado River Lower Basin is at a Level 1 shortage in CY 2026, which does not impact Metropolitan's operations or water supply. Metropolitan's Colorado River supply is currently estimated at 898 TAF. Metropolitan's Colorado River supply may change based on higher priority water use in California and future water management actions taken by Metropolitan.

Metropolitan's CY 2026 demands, including other obligations, are estimated to be 1.50 MAF. Holding the current estimated demand and available imported supply constant, Metropolitan's supplies are effectively balanced, with a minor supply gap of approximately 30 TAF. Metropolitan has sufficient dry-year storage to address the projected supply gap, including for the SWP Dependent Area.

# The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

## Weekly Operations Plan

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

03/19/2026 - 03/26/2026



Colorado River Aqueduct:  
**4-pump flow**

Hydroelectric Generation:  
**4.8 MW**  
1 plant(s) in operation

Total Member Agency Demands  
**3,330 AF/Day**

Change in Member Agency Demands\*  
**▲ 300 AF/Day**

Forecast  
**March**  
Deliveries to  
Member Agencies  
**84 TAF**

**East Branch SPW Imports**

Rialto Pipeline	630 AF/day	▲
Santa Ana Valley Pipeline	170 AF/day	▶
Inland Feeder	1240 AF/day	▼

**West Branch SPW Imports**

Castaic Lake	660 AF/day	▼
SCVWA (formerly CLWA)	80 AF/day	▶

**Water Quality**

Plant Name	Targeted Blend (% SPW)	TDS (mg/L)	TTHMs (µg/L)
	As of 3/18/2026	As of 3/18/2026	As of 3/2/2026
Weymouth	50	425	22
Diemer	50	243	37
Skinner	50	398	24
Jensen	100	291	14
Mills	100	243	37

**Terminal Reservoirs** as of 3/17/2026

<p><b>Lake Mathews</b></p> <p>157,000 AF</p> <p>▲ 1,300 AF*</p> <p>86%</p>	<p><b>Lake Skinner</b></p> <p>37,600 AF</p> <p>▼ -300 AF*</p> <p>86%</p>	<p><b>Diamond Valley Lake</b></p> <p>779,700 AF</p> <p>▲ 9,900 AF*</p> <p>96%</p>
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\* = data from 3/12/2026

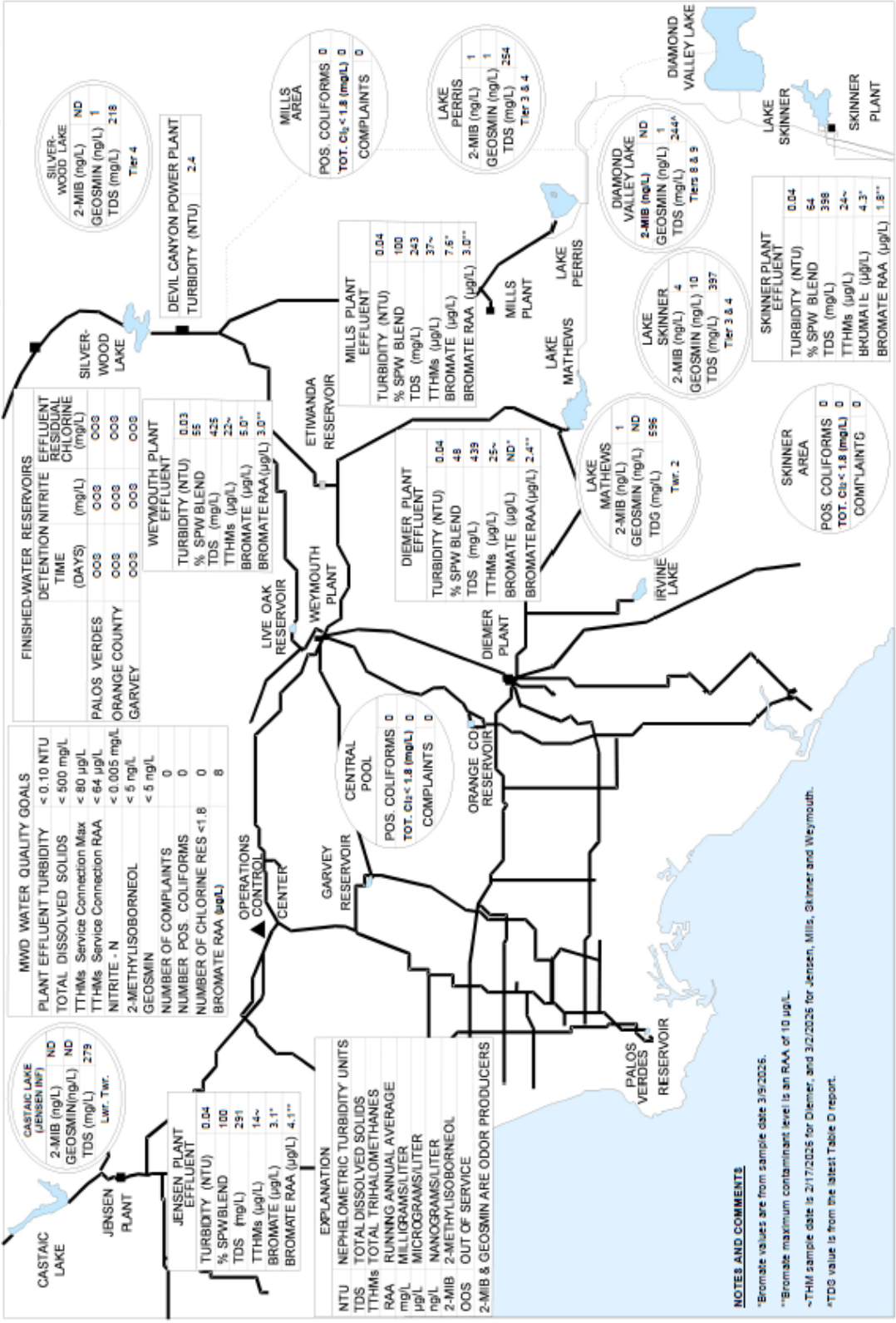
# Weekly Water Quality System Status

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Generated On: 3/18/2026 1:14:25 PM

## THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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



## **ISSUE BRIEF D**

**SUBJECT: Colorado River Issues**

### **RECENT ACTIVITY**

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#### **Develop Post-2026 Guidelines and Negotiate Implementation Agreements: Provide Input that Shapes the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Selected Alternative**

##### ***Basin States Meetings***

Despite sustained and intensive negotiations over the past several months, the seven Basin States did not reach a consensus agreement on the post-2026 operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead by the federal deadline of February 14. Discussions continued up to the deadline and narrowed areas of disagreement, but ultimately did not result in a package of operational elements that all states were prepared to support. The federal team has not established any additional deadlines for the states to reach an agreement, and both states and major water contractors are now assessing next steps in light of this outcome.

In this context, Metropolitan staff will proceed with submitting comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement under conditions of continued uncertainty. Because there is no Basin State consensus alternative at this time, Metropolitan's comments will focus on identifying operational elements necessary to ensure dry-year reliability, protecting existing investments, and preserving long-term system flexibility, rather than recommending selection of a specific preferred alternative. Metropolitan staff will continue to monitor developments closely and evaluate options as the federal government considers how to proceed in the absence of a negotiated agreement.

## **ISSUE BRIEF E**

**SUBJECT: Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues**

### **RECENT ACTIVITY**

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#### **Decide on Sites Reservoir and Bay-Delta Interests**

##### ***Delta Conveyance Project***

On February 2, 2026, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a new [operations fact sheet](#) for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) outlining proposed operational parameters. The fact sheet emphasizes that project operations would be governed by extensive regulatory and permitting requirements to protect fisheries, salinity, and water quality, with real-time coordination among relevant local agencies. Operations would prioritize diversion of available excess flows, and DWR shows that differences in Delta outflow with and without DCP diversions would be minimal. Additionally, DWR released a fact sheet titled "[Adapting to Climate Change: Catching and Moving Water from Big Storms](#)." This document includes the theoretical additional diversions if the DCP were operational in water year 2026.

On February 9, DWR filed its written statement opposing the ten administrative appeals of its certification of consistency with the Delta Plan for the DCP.

##### ***Advance Science and Multi-Benefit Solutions that Improve the Sustainability of the Delta and Inform Regulation***

Metropolitan staff, in partnership with the University of California, Davis, and in collaboration with DWR, United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), conducted their second trial Delta Smelt Pond Harvest Study on Metropolitan's Bouldin Island.

Metropolitan staff received the Restoration Management Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project. Additionally, Metropolitan staff received the Biological Opinion from USFWS. Metropolitan staff expects completion of 100 percent bid drawings for this project by the end of February.

##### ***Sites Reservoir***

At the January 16, 2026, Joint Reservoir Committee and Authority Board meeting, the Sites Authority Board approved the selection of Barnard Construction Company Inc. for the Reservoir Package Construction Manager at Risk contract. The initial award covers pre-construction services, allowing the contractor to provide collaborative input as the project advances from 30 percent design toward construction.

The Site's Authority Board also approved submittal of an amendment to the existing Construction Incidental Take Permit to address the western burrowing owl, subject to review and input from the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority and Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District.

On January 23, 2026, the U.S. Department of the Interior approved the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Sites Reservoir Project, confirming compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, including completion of the Environmental Impact Statement and compliance with the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. With the ROD issued, the Site's Authority will proceed with final planning and advance next steps toward construction. USBR must meet all environmental requirements prior to executing a Partnership Agreement, an agreement needed for USBR participation in the project with the Sites Authority.

**Summary Report for  
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Board Meeting  
March 10, 2026**

**CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

Approved Committee Assignments and appointed:

Director Kurtz as a member of the Audit Committee.

Director Lewitt as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Colorado River Negotiations.

Director Seckel as Chair, Director Cordero as Vice Chair, Directors Douglas, Katz, Lewitt, McCoy, Paule, Ramos, and Shepherd Romey as members on the Ethics Committee. **(Agenda Item 6B)**

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

Approved amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to modify the structure and duties of existing committees to accommodate a new committee, and make other minor non-substantive changes. **(Agenda Item 7-2)**

Authorized an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Van Ness Feldman, LLP, for legal advice on Colorado River matters by \$250,000 to an amount not to exceed \$500,000. **(Agenda Item 7-3)**

**OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION**

Approved option 1 as presented in the confidential board letter. **(Agenda Item 8-2)**

Authorized an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with BDG Law Group, APLC, in the amount of \$400,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$900,000. **(Agenda Item 8-3)**

Authorized increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services in *Katano Kasaine v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; Adel Hagekhalil, an individual*; with Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in the amount of \$500,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$750,000. **(Agenda Item 8-4)**

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

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

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

# The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

# Agenda

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

## Board of Directors - Final

April 14, 2026

1:00 PM

<p>Tuesday, April 14, 2026 Meeting Schedule</p>
<p>08:30 a.m. FAAME 11:30 a.m. ETHICS 12:30 p.m. BREAK 01:00 p.m. BOD</p>

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

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

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

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

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

Teleconference Locations:

3008 W. 82nd Place • Inglewood, CA 90305

Fullerton City Hall • 303 W. Commonwealth Avenue, Chambers • Fullerton, CA 92832

Santa Ana City Hall • 20 Civic Center Plaza, 8th Floor • Santa Ana, CA 92701

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## 1. Call to Order

- a. Invocation: Board Vice Chair Juan Garza, Central Basin Municipal Water District
- b. Pledge of Allegiance: Board Secretary Lois Fong-Sakai, San Diego County Water Authority

## 2. Roll Call

## 3. Determination of a Quorum

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

**5. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS**

- |    |  |                                |
|----|--|--------------------------------|
| A. | Report on Director's Metropolitan Expenses | <a href="#"><u>21-5541</u></a> |
| B. | Chair's Monthly Activity Report            | <a href="#"><u>21-5542</u></a> |
| C. | General Manager's summary of activities    | <a href="#"><u>21-5543</u></a> |
| D. | General Counsel's summary of activities    | <a href="#"><u>21-5544</u></a> |
| E. | General Auditor's summary of activities    | <a href="#"><u>21-5545</u></a> |
| F. | Ethics Officer's summary of activities     | <a href="#"><u>21-5546</u></a> |

**\*\* CONSENT CALENDAR \*\***

**6. BOARD CONSENT ITEMS**

- |    |   |                                |
|----|---|--------------------------------|
| A. | Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors of February 10, 2026 and March 10, 2026, and Board of Directors Workshop on Finance, Affordability, Asset Management and Efficiency of February 24, 2026 and March 24, 2026 | <a href="#"><u>21-5547</u></a> |
|----|---|--------------------------------|

**Attachments:** [04142026 BOD 6A \(02102026 BOD\) Minutes](#)

- |    |                               |                                |
|----|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| B. | Approve Committee Assignments | <a href="#"><u>21-5548</u></a> |
|----|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|

**7. BOARD LETTERS CONSENT**

- |     |  |                                |
|-----|--|--------------------------------|
| 7-1 | Authorize an agreement with Computer Aid, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 for the Enterprise Information Technology Software Asset Management module implementation services; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) | <a href="#"><u>21-5651</u></a> |
| 7-2 | Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and take related CEQA actions for the Casa Loma Siphon No. 1 and San Jacinto Pipeline Protection Project (OWA)  | <a href="#"><u>21-5653</u></a> |
| 7-3 | Approve the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's salary schedules pursuant to CalPERS regulations; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (OPE)  | <a href="#"><u>21-5654</u></a> |

- 7-4 Review and consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the Lead Agency for the project, and authorize the General Manager to grant a permanent easement to the City of Fontana for public road and utility purposes on Metropolitan fee-owned property in the City of Fontana and further identified as San Bernardino County Assessor Parcel Number 0228-021-026 (FAAME) [21-5661](#)
- 7-5 Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the 2024 Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the City of Fontana for the Fontana Fire Station No. 80 and Training Center Project, and authorize the General Manager to execute a new 30-year license agreement with four options to extend the term in five-year increments for a maximum term of 50 years, at twenty percent of Fair Market Value, with the City of Fontana for supplemental parking for a Fire Station and Training Facility on Metropolitan fee-owned property in the City of Fontana, identified as San Bernardino County Assessor Parcel No. 0228-021-26 (FAAME) [21-5662](#)
- 7-6 Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Administrative Code to modify the processes for Department Head evaluations, performance expectations, and annual business planning; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-5693](#)
- 7-7 Discuss and approve renaming Metropolitan's "Cesar Chavez Day" holiday; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (OPE) [21-5776](#)

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

**8. BOARD LETTERS ACTION**

- 8-1 Approve the Proposed Biennial Budget for fiscal years 2026/27 and 2027/28, which includes the Capital Investment Plan and revenue requirements for fiscal years 2026/27 and 2027/28 and the ten-year forecast; adopt resolutions fixing and adopting the water rates and charges for calendar years 2027 and 2028; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (FAAME) [21-5658](#)

- 8-2** Appropriate \$1.1 billion for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2026/27 and 2027/28 and authorize the General Manager to initiate or proceed with work on capital projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2026/27 and 2027/28; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT) [21-5656](#)
- 8-3** Authorize a new agricultural lease agreement with Martini Companies, LLC for rice farming and related uses on portions of Metropolitan-owned real property in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta known as Webb Tract; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with real property negotiators; properties totaling approximately 2,159 gross acres in the area commonly known as Webb Tract, also identified as Contra Costa County Assessor Parcel Numbers: 026-070-001-8, 026-080-006-5, 026-080-009-9, 026-080-007-3, 026-080-008-1, 026-080-004-0, 026-008-005-7; agency negotiators: Steven Johnson, Kevin Webb, and Kieran Callanan; negotiating parties: Robert Maragliano Jr. for Martini Companies, LLC; under negotiation: price and terms; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8] (FAAME) [21-5659](#)
- 8-4** Authorize the Operational Shift Cost-Offset Program and delegate the General Manager authority to activate the Program and execute agreements with member agencies; the General Manager has determined the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (OWA) [21-5665](#)
- 8-5** Adopt Metropolitan's Disruption Policy outlining procedures for reconvening meetings during telephonic or internet service disruptions; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-5666](#)

## 9. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

- 9-1** Equal Employment Opportunities activities [21-5667](#)  
**Attachments:** [04142026 BOD 9-1 Equal Employment Opportunities activities](#)
- 9-2** Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities [21-5668](#)

## 10. OTHER MATTERS

NONE

## **11. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

NONE

## **12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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