



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

June 27, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 400 (Rubio): Local Agency Design-Build Projects: Authorization
(As Amended June 13, 2023) - **SUPPORT**

Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), I am writing to express our support for AB 400, which would extend the sunset on provisions authorizing local agencies to use the design-build contracting method from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2031.

Metropolitan is the primary wholesaler for the Southern California region and provides water supplies to support approximately 19 million residents within its six-county service area. Over the past 20 years, Metropolitan has taken the initiative to invest in strengthening and developing a broad array of supplies to help advance water sustainability and climate resiliency.

The traditional design-bid-build model for the delivery of public works projects involves an arduous process that can be detrimental to the timely construction of large, innovative, and necessary infrastructure. Although current law provides Metropolitan the ability to use the design-build contracting method, without AB 400, this provision will end in 2025. This bill would give Metropolitan the flexibility to expedite the completion of critical new water infrastructure and reduce costs in the process.

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For these reasons, Metropolitan supports AB 400 and respectfully requests your support when the bill is before you in the Senate Appropriations Committee. If you should have any questions, please contact Metropolitan's Executive Legislative Representative, Jay Jefferson II, at jjeffersonii@mwdh2o.com or (916) 538 – 4663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adel Hagekhalil', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adel Hagekhalil

General Manager

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Assemblymember Blanca Rubio
Ashley Ames, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Emilye Reeb, Consultant, Senate Republican Consultant