



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

# NEWS RELEASE

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## METROPOLITAN DEVELOPING PLAN TO FURTHER REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE **Board approves funding for Climate Action Plan**

With the goal of further reducing the greenhouse gas emissions produced in the delivery of water to Southern California, the Metropolitan Water District has initiated the development of a comprehensive plan to combat climate change.

Metropolitan's Board of Directors voted Tuesday (Oct. 9) to develop a Climate Action Plan that will provide a complete framework of how to reduce the district's carbon footprint. The plan will include an analysis of the emissions produced in importing, treating and delivering water, assess the actions the district has already taken to reduce that footprint and provide a blueprint of how to further mitigate emissions.

"Climate change is already stressing the water supplies that Southern California relies on," Metropolitan board Chairman Randy Record said. "Metropolitan is confronting those challenges and, with this plan, will comprehensively evaluate our overall footprint and assess what more should be done."

Assembly Bill 32 and subsequent state regulations have set a statewide goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent of 1990 levels by 2050. The state has asked the water sector to contribute to that reduction.

Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger said the Climate Action Plan will translate what that goal means in terms of metric tons of carbon. It will quantify the district's existing greenhouse gas reduction measures, including its solar and hydropower facilities, water conservation programs, and employee rideshare and transit programs. And it will provide guidance on mitigation necessary for future projects, such as the Regional Recycled Water Program—a demonstration project that could become the largest water recycling facility in the country, he said.

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“Everyone in California must take greenhouse gas emissions into account as new projects are developed. The Climate Action Plan will inform Metropolitan’s future decisions as we continue our commitment to sustainability and reducing the effects of climate change,” Kightlinger said.

Metropolitan’s board voted to award an \$815,000 contract to Rincon Consultants, Inc. to assist in creating the plan, which will be developed over the next 18 months.

The Climate Action Plan is the district’s latest effort to address climate change. Metropolitan already voluntarily reports much of its emission data to the Climate Registry. And last month, the district joined the California Resilience Challenge, a new initiative to strengthen the state’s resilience to climate change.

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*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative that, along with its 26 cities and retail suppliers, provide water for nearly 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.*