



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

# NEWS RELEASE

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## METROPOLITAN TO ASSESS SUPPLY POTENTIAL OF STORMWATER CAPTURE **Pilot program continues Metropolitan's effort to diversify water supply portfolio**

With the goal of understanding the potential water supply benefits of local stormwater capture projects, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is launching a new pilot program that will provide vital data on the most efficient and cost effective methods to capture and use rainfall and stormwater runoff.

The \$5 million [pilot program](#), approved by Metropolitan's board of directors today, will help fund the construction of new direct-use stormwater capture projects and the installation of monitoring equipment on existing projects. Information on the costs and volume of water produced by different types of projects will be collected over three years and will inform the possible funding of stormwater capture efforts in the future.

"A lot of hope has been placed in the potential of stormwater as a local water supply for Southern California. We want to better understand that potential, and its cost, as part of our commitment to developing local resources," said Metropolitan Chairwoman Gloria Gray.

Metropolitan has for decades sought to diversify its water supply portfolio by investing in local water supply projects, as guided by its [Integrated Water Resources Plan](#). It has provided more than \$500 million in incentives to more than 100 groundwater recovery and recycled water projects through its [Local Resource Program](#). But no local stormwater capture projects have been funded through the program, due in part to a lack of data on the volume of water actually produced by such projects.

"Stormwater capture projects have a lot of benefits – improving water quality, flood control, habitat creation, and water supply," Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger said. "But they are typically expensive to build. So as we explore opportunities to invest in these projects, in partnership with parties interested in their other benefits, we need to understand their water supply value."

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The pilot program is aimed at direct-use projects, like cisterns and permeable pavement with underground collection systems, that capture rainfall and stormwater and use it on-site for non-potable needs such as irrigation (not for recharge). Projects can be located at public or private non-residential sites, such as schools, parks, golf courses, commercial facilities and cemeteries.

To capture a diverse set of data, the pilot program will fund new and retrofitted projects in three different climate zones across Southern California – coastal, mid and inland. Metropolitan will begin accepting applications Jan. 1, with projects accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

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*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative that delivers water to 26 member agencies serving 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.*