



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

# NEWS RELEASE

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## WATER TOMORROW INNOVATION GAME PROVIDES FRESH APPROACH TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN UPDATING LONG-TERM REGIONAL WATER PLAN

A new element has been added to this Thursday's (Oct. 22) workshop aimed at providing the public an opportunity to learn about and participate in decisions about how Southern California's water supplies will be developed and managed over the next 25 years.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California will host the all-day public workshop on the agency's long-term regional water plan from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at its downtown Los Angeles headquarters, 700 N. Alameda Street. The session also will be webcast at <http://bit.ly/1LaRTYD>.

In conjunction with the workshop and to help advance new ideas and technologies to meet these water challenges, Metropolitan also will launch the "Water Tomorrow Innovation Game." The game presents a unique opportunity for the public to collaborate with other forward-thinkers from around the world to grow ideas that can help ensure the reliability of the Southland's water resources. Preregistration for the game, which kicks off Thursday and runs through Nov. 12, is open at <http://bit.ly/1MzjfWa>.

The workshop and the online collaboration project are key parts of Metropolitan's efforts to update its Integrated Water Resources Plan. The plan, known as Water Tomorrow, looks at the best ways to achieve long-term water supply reliability using a range of strategies including imported water from the State Water Project and the Colorado River, conservation, groundwater storage, stormwater recharge, recycled water and desalination.

"California has long been a leader in innovation with ideas that change the world," said Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger. "We think Water Tomorrow and the Water Tomorrow Innovation Game can be idea accelerators that put us on a sustainable path to meet our water challenges."

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The Water Tomorrow Innovation Game is a collaboration between Metropolitan and Northern Rift. Idea categories for the game include: The Future of Conservation, Building Local Resources, Sustainable Groundwater, and Stabilizing Imported Supplies. A panel of water professionals will judge and select the top three promising innovations in the Expert's Choice category. The top 20 idea collaborators, as chosen by all game participants, will be eligible for the Community Choice award.

This week's activities build on work done over the past several months, when Metropolitan met with experts and analyzed updated information on local water projects and demographic projections for Southern California. In December, Metropolitan will present the technical analysis to its board of directors. Policy discussions on the Water Tomorrow plan are scheduled to begin in early 2016.

More information about the plan, the public workshop and the Innovation Game is available at <http://bit.ly/1MzjfWa>.

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*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 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.*