



## Board-Adopted Priorities for 2020

- **Work to ensure progress on Delta conveyance and EcoRestore, and support legislation to facilitate other habitat restoration projects that benefit endangered and threatened species in the Delta**
- **Support legislation, consistent with board direction, to create a statewide program to identify and evaluate constituents of emerging concern in drinking water**
- **Support legislation, consistent with board direction, to grant Metropolitan lead agency status under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act**
- **Support actions to initiate, expedite, and secure funding for the Regional Recycled Water Program and related projects**
- **Support tax exemptions for water conservation or efficiency incentives for measures including, but not limited to, turf removal, local stormwater capture (e.g., rain barrels, cisterns), and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape**
- **Support administrative/legislative actions to secure funding to help public water systems defray the cost of monitoring and/or remediation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water supplies, including “polluter pay” provisions that allow for full cost-recovery by drinking water and wastewater providers**



### **REGIONAL RELIABILITY AND RESILIENCY**

Metropolitan, in partnership with its member agencies, continues to make long-term investments to ensure water supply reliability and regional resiliency for Southern California’s communities, families and businesses. Governor Newsom’s Water Resilience Portfolio provides constructive direction that will advance sound water management. Three broad priority areas for Metropolitan include:

**Recycled Water and Advancing Potable Reuse** – Metropolitan supports the statewide goals of recycling and reusing 2.5 million acre-feet of water per year within a decade. Metropolitan is exploring the construction of the nation’s largest water recycling facility in a partnership with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, while continuing to invest in local projects across Southern California. Metropolitan has funded the development of the \$17 million demonstration plant to test treatment trains and is preparing for the next phase that will include environmental analysis and engineering. To date, Metropolitan’s investments in recycled water projects has produced nearly 3 million acre-feet of recycled water for the region.

**Resiliency Strategy for the Delta** – More than two-thirds of Californians rely on the State Water Project. Modernizing the state’s water delivery system must be an anchor of any successful water resilience portfolio. Metropolitan supports the Newsom administration’s call for a balanced portfolio of water actions that includes Delta conveyance as part of a cost-effective set of solutions, which is particularly important for the most vulnerable Californians living in disadvantaged communities. A single tunnel, as proposed and properly sized, would convey 6,000 cubic-feet-per-second of water supply for the statewide water system to more efficiently move water, restore the Delta ecosystem and maintain a reliable water supply through climate extremes.



**Effective Collaboration** – Metropolitan strongly supports collaboration between the state government, the federal government, local stakeholders and water agencies. The State Water Project and Central Valley Project share facilities and coordinate operations. Collaboration is essential to have a successful outcome with the new state and federal permits for operation of the projects and to achieve meaningful ecosystem restoration under the proposed Voluntary Agreements for the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

## MAINTAINING CRITICAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Metropolitan maintains and makes significant investments to safeguard a region-wide water supply system that is a cornerstone of Southern California's \$1.6 trillion economy. Subsidence, climate change and aging infrastructure pose serious challenges that must be addressed.

**Colorado River Aqueduct** – Metropolitan is sponsoring legislation to grant it special status under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to administer and enforce compliance for routine maintenance activities on the Colorado River Aqueduct and its other infrastructure used for the distribution of water. With lead agency status under SMARA, Metropolitan would continue to comply with all regulatory and reporting requirements in a more efficient and coordinated manner, ensuring the maintenance and repairs of critical water infrastructure that serves Southern California.

**Investments and Public Financing** – Metropolitan historically supports bond measures that provide critical investments for a range of water management programs and projects, including safe drinking water for all communities, recycled water, drought response activities, ecosystem improvements and climate resiliency.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Metropolitan supports the establishment of programs and incentives to promote long-term water use efficiency. Metropolitan and its 26 member agencies' long-standing commitment to conservation has resulted in a nearly 35% reduction in per capita potable water use over the past 25 years.

Metropolitan also supports statewide efforts to build climate change resilience, consistent with its own leadership to advance initiatives in this area. Among these is the current work to develop a comprehensive Climate Action Plan to quantify and reduce the district's existing greenhouse gas emissions.

## PROTECTING WATER QUALITY

**Constituents of Emerging Concern** – Metropolitan and the California Municipal Utilities Association are co-sponsoring legislation to establish a CEC Drinking Water Program at the State Water Resources Control Board. The program would set up a science-based approach for assessing the public health and drinking water consequences of CECs, while identifying which warrant further action. These chemicals have received growing public attention as potential pollutants in drinking water supplies, particularly within historically disenfranchised and disadvantaged communities.

**Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)** – With concern growing about the presence in some water supplies of a family of chemicals known as PFAS, Metropolitan continues to ensure the region has a safe drinking water supply. Metropolitan supports local efforts to assess whether PFAS are present and to what extent, and is supportive of additional funding to defray the costs of monitoring, testing treatment technologies and remediation of PFAS for local agencies.

## OUR MISSION

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.

## ABOUT METROPOLITAN

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

## BE INFORMED, BE INVOLVED

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THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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