



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

# NEWS RELEASE

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July 23, 2007

## METROPOLITAN COMMENDS GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER FOR SPOTLIGHTING WATER CHALLENGES, DELTA NEEDS

Officials with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California today praised Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for his leadership in helping secure the state's water future by addressing its most pressing issues, particularly in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Noting the governor's latest stop in Long Beach today as part of his administration's statewide tour highlighting water issues, Metropolitan board Chairman Timothy F. Brick acknowledged Gov. Schwarzenegger's efforts to focus on potential solutions.

"We are pleased to see Gov. Schwarzenegger place a spotlight on water issues and, in particular, the troubles facing the Delta," Brick said. "Metropolitan is committed to the development of a comprehensive solution that addresses the environment, water quality and supply reliability."

Located at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, the Delta is a significant drinking water source for 25 million people throughout California. The largest estuary on the West Coast, the Delta is interlaced with major utilities, highways and railroads, and provides for the passage of fresh water delivered through the state and federal water systems.

With the Delta in the midst of an ecological crisis, Metropolitan General Manager Jeff Kightlinger said it would not be sustainable unless immediate actions are taken. "California must initiate near-term actions that prioritize resources to stabilize the Delta until an ultimate solution is selected and implemented," he said.

Kightlinger added that Metropolitan supports a funding package that addresses conditions both in the near- and long-term.

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*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 18 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.*