



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

# NEWS RELEASE

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## METROPOLITAN HERALDS GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER, LEGISLATIVE LEADERS FOR CALLING SPECIAL SESSION ON WATER ISSUES

Officials with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California today commended Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and state legislative leaders for calling a special session on water issues to forge a comprehensive bond for a future ballot.

"A special session will give California's water issues the focused attention it deserves," said Metropolitan General Manager Jeff Kightlinger. "We are optimistic that, with the continued leadership of state Senate and Assembly leaders, a comprehensive package addressing the problems in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is within reach."

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.

News of the special session comes as Metropolitan's Board of Directors continues to refine and strengthen the district's Delta policies and potential actions, in the face of mounting environmental, water supply and quality challenges. As part of that effort, Metropolitan's board today outlined the district's long-term needs in the Delta by approving a set of criteria that any comprehensive solution package must achieve.

In the meantime, Gov. Schwarzenegger's "Delta Vision" task force is expected to make recommendations this November.

"A healthy Delta is a key to a reliable water supply for Metropolitan," said MWD board Chairman Timothy F. Brick. "The continued leadership of the state Legislature and the Governor is paramount to making that happen."

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“In the short and long term, continued investment in regional and local resources will help ensure and diversify reliable water supplies to meet Southern California’s future needs,” Brick added.

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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.*