



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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METROPOLITAN STATEMENT ON NEAR-TERM WATER FUNDING, CONSERVATION PACKAGE INTRODUCED BY STATE SENATE, ASSEMBLY LEADERS

Timothy F. Brick, chairman of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, issues the following statement regarding the water legislation package advanced today by state Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata and Assembly Speaker Karen Bass:

“With billions of dollars of funds from existing water bonds unspent, it is vital to prudently and expeditiously tap this resource for essential projects throughout Southern California and the state, particularly in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Senate Bill 1XX represents a balanced approach to spending some of these available funds. Senate President Pro Tem Perata and Assembly Speaker Bass clearly understand that tapping these hundreds of millions of dollars is good for addressing water needs and for ensuring California’s economy.

“At the same time, Assembly Bill 2175, authored by Assembly Members John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) and Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles), addresses the longer-term need to advance water conservation throughout the state. Conservation is a necessity everywhere in California, not just in the Southland.

“AB 2175 represents an important step toward measuring and monitoring water savings throughout California. Per-capita water consumption is a reasonable yardstick to assessing water use and savings. Conservation has been a vital water management tool for Metropolitan and will grow in importance over time. With the pending pressures on the Delta ecosystem and water delivery systems statewide, the responsible, careful use of water throughout California is an absolute necessity.”

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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.