



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

P. O. Box 54153, Los Angeles, California 90054-0153 • (213) 217-6485 • www.mwdh2o.com

Contact: Bob Muir, (213) 324-5213, mobile

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METROPOLITAN GENERAL MANAGER'S STATEMENT ON FEDERAL BIOLOGICAL OPINION FOR DELTA SMELT

Jeffrey Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, issues the following statement regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's new biological opinion regarding Delta smelt that will guide operations of the State Water Project in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta:

“There is a regulatory noose around the state’s most important water system, and it is tightening. We are facing a species-by-species, lawsuit-by-lawsuit, regulation-by-regulation approach to managing the Delta. It is a cycle of conflict that can only be broken with a comprehensive, sustainable fix for the Delta. That fix must include restoration of the ecosystem in tandem with major changes to the water system.

“Metropolitan staff will review this new biological opinion for the Delta smelt in the coming days to identify its potential impacts on supplies for 19 million Southern Californians in our six-county service area.”

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