



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

# NEWS RELEASE

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## METROPOLITAN CHAIRMAN BRIEFS KEY FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE LEADERS ON SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER SUPPLY CHALLENGES

WASHINGTON, D.C.—With California in the throes of drought, the chairman of Southern California’s primary water import agency delivered a somber message to members of the region’s congressional delegation by outlining the severe impacts that water shortages are having on the regional economy.

Surrounded by major regional employers, labor leaders and local elected officials, Timothy F. Brick served as the keynote speaker Wednesday (March 11) for the congressional briefing, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (D-Montebello) at the request of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

During his hour-long address, Brick detailed the financial costs of the on-going drought in statewide job losses and pressed for actions needed soon to avoid further damage to California’s environment and economy.

“The state’s agricultural community alone has lost 40,000 jobs due to these severe water supply conditions caused by drought and environmental regulations in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. To date, agriculture has experienced a \$300 million economic loss that may reach \$3 billion total by the end of 2009.”

Several members of the House of Representatives participated in the two-hour briefing, which filled a Capitol Conference Room, located just outside the Speaker’s office. Those in attendance included U.S. Reps. Dan Lundgren (R-Gold River), Laura Richardson (D-Compton), Ed Royce (R-Orange) and Brian Bilbray (R-Solana Beach).

In her welcoming remarks, Napolitano, who was recently reappointed chair of the House Water & Power Subcommittee, provided an overview of the supply challenges facing California this year.

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“There is no simple solution to California’s water problems. Everyone is going to have to give because of the decreased water supplies,” Napolitano said. “To meet this challenge, we all need to take proactive steps to increase local supplies and lessen our dependence on imported water through conservation and water recycling.”

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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.*