



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

# NEWS RELEASE

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## METROPOLITAN RESPONDS TO THE FEDERAL BIOLOGICAL OPINION FOR SALMON, OTHER SAN JOAQUIN DELTA FISH SPECIES

*Timothy F. Brick, chairman of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, issued the following statement in reaction to the release of the new federal biological opinion for salmon, steelhead and other migratory species through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta:*

“The species-by-species approach to managing the Delta is rapidly leading to a perpetual state of water shortages for much of California. Our water system relies on capturing adequate supplies in wet years in order to survive the inevitable dry cycles. But with the new restrictions over the past two years, we can no longer look forward to replenishing our storage system once this dry cycle breaks.

“We read the underlying message of this biological opinion loud and clear, which is that a comprehensive approach is necessary to restore our salmon runs and create a sustainable ecosystem in the Delta.

“We are committed to building a future water system in the Delta that dramatically reduces the conflicts with fish species while restoring thousands of acres of needed aquatic habitat. That strategy is coming together in the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan. The BDCP is the best hope for both the Delta ecosystem and the 25 million Californians who rely on this water supply. In the meantime, we will carefully manage our remaining water reserves and urge all Southern Californians to re-examine their water habits.”

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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.*