



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

# NEWS RELEASE

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Oct. 13, 2009

## METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL OF TENTATIVE LABOR AGREEMENTS

*Timothy F. Brick, chairman of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, issued the following statement regarding the decision to withdraw from the board's consideration the tentative labor agreements with the district's four employee bargaining units:*

"We all recognize that the tentative labor agreement has sparked controversy around Southern California. We have all heard the criticisms, some of which are constructive. The controversy threatens to alienate this board from our dedicated employees.

"The General Manager has withdrawn the item from the board agenda, and I fully support that action.

"We must all take a step back. We need a breathing space so bargaining unit leaders can hold discussions with their members, and the board can discuss collectively how we should proceed.

"The stakes are simply too high. The role that Metropolitan has played and must continue to play in Southern California is vital to the life and economy of this region.

"We must not push this organization to a decision that will rupture the spirit of consensus and common purpose that Metropolitan must maintain if it is to serve 19 million persons who depend on it for their water.

"This board is at a crossroads. We cannot afford to become political pawns; and we cannot permit our differences to overwhelm the mission we are all sworn to achieve.

"The Metropolitan Water District has a proud legacy of success. That legacy was built—and must continue to be built—on achieving the common purpose forged by regional consensus.

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“Metropolitan only moves forward when we move forward together, with board and employees working together.

“I am determined that we start moving forward again today.”

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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.*