



**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**8-10**

January 26, 1998

**To:** Board of Directors (Committee on Legislation--Action)

**From:** General Manager

**Submitted by:** John R. Maloy  
Chief of Communications

**Subject:** 1998 State Legislative Portfolio

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

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It is recommended that the Board endorse the district's proposed 1998 State Legislative Portfolio.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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The legislative affairs staff in the Communications Division is proposing a proactive state legislative portfolio emphasizing Metropolitan's commitment to securing the highest quality water at the lowest possible cost to the public. The proposed program includes plans to sponsor legislation in several areas of critical importance to the district. It also provides a means for creating a broad base of support for Metropolitan's positions on other major water policy issues facing California this year.

**DETAILED REPORT**

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This year the legislative affairs staff is proposing a state legislative portfolio emphasizing Metropolitan's commitment to securing a reliable water supply of high quality water for Southern California at the lowest possible cost to the public. By projecting a clear, coherent and consistent message about Metropolitan's basic priorities, the portfolio can help Metropolitan play a positive role in helping to address the state's major water policy issues.

The development of the legislative portfolio for 1998 has been shaped by four guiding principles:

- To ensure the maximum allowable use of the Colorado River through implementation of the California Plan;
- To improve Metropolitan's relations with the environmental community, agriculture, the business sector and with the state's other major water interests;
- To strengthen ties within the Metropolitan family of water agencies; and
- To offer leadership to assist the state in addressing the major issues of water policy for California's future.

Consistent with these principles, staff is proposing that the Board consider sponsorship of three legislative measures:

1. A bond measure to advance implementation of the California Plan;
2. A public benefit partnership measure to enhance Metropolitan's abilities to share the benefits of its expertise, water management and water technology; and
3. A measure to address the threat to water supplies in Southern California from perchlorate contamination.

The proposed state legislative portfolio is consistent with all relevant Board-adopted legislative policy principles and the General Manager's workplan. In their current form, the proposals are "spot" bills which serve as placeholders as specific language is refined.

Aside from Metropolitan's program, staff anticipates the introduction of a number of bills addressing water transfers, flood control and groundwater contamination. Once introduced, staff will analyze the measures and report back to the Board Committee on Legislation and your Board to ascertain whether or not the Metropolitan should support, oppose or monitor the legislation.

A comprehensive overview of the 1998 state legislative portfolio will be presented to the Committee on Legislation at its February meeting.

KC/sk