

● **Communications, Outreach and Legislation Committee**

December 10, 2001 Committee Meeting

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Subject

Report on federal and state proactive legislative priorities to be pursued by Metropolitan during 2002

Description

On November 20, 2001, the Communications, Outreach and Legislation Committee reviewed draft proactive legislative priorities for the 2002 legislative year with directors providing input for possible consideration by the Board in December. The committee generally agreed that issues such as wheeling and CALFED would continue to be monitored with recommendations by staff for positions by the Board as circumstances warrant.

Several proposals discussed during the Committee meeting require additional study by staff. Since they require changes and or adoption of policy principles, the proposals are being submitted to Metropolitan’s legal counsel for further evaluation. These proposals include: 1) Funding a study for evaluating centralized drinking water treatment and alternative method for the protection and security of domestic water supplied and to meet evolving water quality standards. This study could be redundant given a similar industry study by AWWARF; 2) Pursuing grants and low-cost loans for infrastructure investment and development. Staff will be working with other agencies and associations to determine how best to pursue potential funding opportunities.

Several proposals were also made by directors during the meeting regarding potential amendments to SB 221; the state water project and desalination; potentially changing the classification of recycled water; and the state’s ability to use municipal tax funds. These proposals have been referred to Metropolitan’s legal counsel for additional study.

Attachment 1 contains revised legislative priorities that have been evaluated since the November meeting. Upon reviewing director comments, staff has determined that all of these proposals are consistent with Board-adopted policy and therefore no action is required by the Board at this time. **Attachment 2** outlines Metropolitan’s legislative review process.

As legislation progresses and/or staff received reports from Metropolitan’s legal counsel on proposals under study, these items will be brought to the committee for consideration.

Policy

None

Fiscal Impact

None

 Adán Ortega, Jr. Vice President	12/5/2001 Date
 Ronald R. Gastelum Chief Executive Officer	12/5/2001 Date

Attachment 1 – Matrix – Proposed federal & state proactive legislative priorities

Attachment 2 – Legislative Review Process