

• External Affairs' July 2005 Activity Report

Summary

This report discusses significant activities in which External Affairs was involved during July 2005

Attachments

MWD State Legislative Matrix

Detailed Report

Media Services

The public galleries on the first floor of Metropolitan's headquarters at Union Station feature two new exhibits, called "Broad Visions." One exhibit salutes the role that William Mulholland played in bringing about construction of a Colorado River Aqueduct. Included are photos of Mulholland and associates on their first expedition to chart a route for the aqueduct, in October 1923. The second, larger gallery is exhibiting several dozen vintage photos of CRA construction in the 1930s, taken with an Eastman Kodak "Cirkut" camera that exposed 180-degree panoramic views. Many of the prints are six feet long.

Press office staff coordinated public information efforts with the Department of Water Resources in anticipation of interest in the recently released seismic safety report about Lake Perris Dam. Metropolitan's executive management, engineers and communications experts met with DWR officials to coordinate and create an action plan and outline communications strategies that informs the news media, public in affected communities and elected federal, state and local officials. Coordination includes creation of a joint task force, an information hotline and dedicated Web site.

Metropolitan debuted its online training course on "bewaterwise.com" to help Southern Californians learn about water-wise landscaping. The "California Friendly Gardening for the Water Wise" course went live July 17. Using a narrator-guided, animated interface, the course teaches the basics of California Friendly landscaping in modules entitled "Getting Started," "Plant Selection," "Irrigation Basics," and "Landscape Planting and Maintenance." The modules, which take about 15 minutes each to complete, give learners the opportunity to take them all at once or one at a time. Any portion of the module can be repeated with the click of a mouse. A gardening expert developed the course in conjunction with Metropolitan's established training programs.

External Affairs issued a press release about the start of ozone treatment operations at the Joseph Jensen Treatment Plant, resulting in favorable coverage in the Los Angeles Daily News and coverage on KNBC (Channel 4).

Staff produced and issued the 2005 annual drinking water quality report, featuring a "roadmap" showing the long route of water from source to tap. Printed copies were delivered to those agencies that rely on this report at their annual report. Information was posted on the mwdh2o.com Web site and a Spanish-language version will be published as well.

Internal communication efforts included the mid-year printed edition of Metropolitan's employee newsletter – People.interactive, a lunch seminar on managing change in the workplace, site visits by executive management to field locations and a memo to all employees reminding them to be diligent in the wake of subway bombings in London.

Community and Business Outreach

Lynn Lipinski spoke to a group of master gardeners about Metropolitan's California Friendly program as part of a two-day continuing education course held at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

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Business Outreach held a class in Riverside for 20 small construction businesses on “Strategies for Public Sector Contracting.” Participants received a half-day class on strategies for forming teams and determining prices and spent the second half of the day in an exercise that simulated the entire process of Metropolitan’s construction bid process.

Chairman Wes Bannister was the keynote speaker at a joint luncheon meeting of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Orange County and the Filipino Engineering Association. The chairman spoke about Metropolitan’s mission to provide water to Southern California and how small businesses would be able to help achieve this goal and staff spoke on upcoming opportunities for procurement and engineering. The luncheon ended with on-site Small Business certification.

At the request of Director Randy Record, staff attended the Riverside County Water Symposium and made presentations on several issues, including Capital Improvement Program components within Riverside County, new developments on the California Friendly Program, and the update to the Urban Water Management Plan.

During July, the Business Outreach Program networked and met with the following organizations: Southern California Minority Business Development; Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce; Regina Birdsell of the California Public Utilities Commission; National Association of Women Business Owners; Montebello Chamber of Commerce; Urban Land Institute; Riverside Chamber of Commerce; Business Development Association of the Inland Empire; Southern California Construction Association; National Latina Business Women Association; Pacific West Association of Realtors; Santiago Community College; Southern California Minority Business Development Council; San Diego Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Advisory Council; and the San Diego County Water Authority to discuss cooperative training of small businesses.

Community Partnering

Staff presented the revamped Community Partnering Program to public affairs representatives from Inland Empire Utilities Agency and Western Municipal Water District. Among the changes to the program is a separate application process for traditional CPP applicants and those applying for funding for special events and activities. This was added in response to the state auditor’s suggestion that latter category needed a clear application and review process. Since the 2005-06 application period opened, staff has received a handful of inquiries and interest in applying. We expect inquiries to pick up after summer.

Education and Outreach

In preparation for the 2005-06 tour season, Education Unit staff sent Colorado River Aqueduct, State Water Project, Diamond Valley Lake and Lower Colorado River Agriculture trip confirmations to all Directors who submitted requests and were eligible; met with management and staff at Gene Field Headquarters to discuss program logistics; began converting trip binders into CDs to save printing costs and update information in a compact and easy-to-use format; and is scheduling policy and initiative briefings and updates with key groups, managers and executive management.

Staff participated in a three-hour environmental/water workshop for 20 Leadership Education & Activism Development (LEAD) students. LEAD, a non-profit organization created by California Assemblywoman Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park), promotes civic involvement and responsibility among junior and senior high school honor roll students in the San Gabriel valley.

Legislative Activities

Regional

Staff coordinated a meeting with Metropolitan Director Anthony Fellow and state Assemblywoman Judy Chu to discuss legislation on special district reform AB 1234 (Salinas, D-Salinas), water planning SB850 (Kuehl, D-Santa Monica), the importance of Cal Fed and anticipated release of Department of Water Resources Environmental Impact Report on the South Delta Improvement Program.

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Sacramento

Directors Willard Murray and Fellow hosted a water issues briefing at Union Station for Prime Minister José Neves and Ambassador José Brito and eight other members of their delegation from Cape Verde, West Africa. Rich Nagel, of West Basin, also participated in the event. Having recently received a \$110 million grant from the Bush Administration, the Prime Minister sought Metropolitan's guidance in identifying water-reuse solutions that would support its agricultural sector and lift his country out of abject poverty. The Prime Minister was impressed with Metropolitan's integrated resources portfolio and has asked to partner in Metropolitan's World Water Forum.

Metropolitan, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Calleguas Municipal Water District met with Assemblywoman Fran Pavely (D-Woodland Hills) to discuss pending state legislation and brief her on the latest development on the South Delta Improvement Program. Directors Glenn Peterson and Ted Grandson briefed Pavely on Association of California's Water Agencies' latest report, "No Time To Waste: A Blueprint for California Water." Additionally, they discussed the South Delta Improvement Program and its importance to Southern California, SB 820 (Kuehl, D-Santa Monica) and AB 1234 (Salinas, D-Salinas) and their current status in the legislature.

Staff conducted South Delta Improvement Program briefings for the following organizations: Orange County Business Council, Infrastructure and Legislative committees; Temecula Chamber of Commerce; Murrieta Chamber of Commerce; Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce; Southwest California Legislative Council; Orange County Taxpayers Association; Inland Empire Economic Partnership; League of Women Voters; Talley & Associates, Water Resource Institute; Orange County Association of Realtors; Orange County Sanitation District and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority; Lucy Dunn, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

General Counsel Jeff Kightlinger briefed the KB Home Community Advisory Board on how Metropolitan works with the Endangered Species Act and the resulting cost to local water projects. Additionally, he discussed signing of the Colorado River Multi-species plan, the cost to the consumers and the efforts of Congressman Richard Pombo (R-Tracy) to change the ESA in this legislative session. Kightlinger also met with Lucy Dunn, the director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Metropolitan remains opposed to SB 113 (Machado, D-Linden), which would define the CALFED concept of "beneficiary pays." In light of strong opposition from Metropolitan and other water users, the bill has been made a two-year bill by the author, pending development of a 10-year CALFED finance plan.

SB 820 by Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee Chair Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), which seeks to develop better reporting of water use and improved water planning, will be amended to address many of the concerns advanced by the opposition. The amendments will appear in print after the Legislature returns from its summer recess on August 15.

Metropolitan supports AB 371 (Goldberg, D-Los Angeles), which seeks to reduce barriers to the use of recycled water. The bill was substantially amended May 17 to remove controversial provisions related to limiting health-based requirements to those established by the California Department of Health Services and directing the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt and use general water recycling requirements – rather than individual water recycling or water discharge requirements – for non-potable uses of recycled water.

Metropolitan staff continues to support AB 1234 (Salinas, D-Salinas), the local government "sunshine" measure that would provide criteria for compensation and reimbursement practices, but would also allow local governments to adopt their own guidelines as long as the policies are publicly adopted and accessible.

Metropolitan, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, San Diego County Water Authority and Calleguas MWD are now neutral on AB 672 (Klehs, D-Hayward), which reflects an agreement struck with the author prior to the bill being heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on June 17.

Metropolitan and the other agencies opposed the bill based on the infeasibility of providing recreation at certain reservoirs for a variety of reasons, including security, water quality and cost concerns.

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For more information about proposed legislation Metropolitan is tracking, see [Attachment 1](#) state legislative matrix.

Washington D.C.

In addition to removing an MTBE liability waiver from the Energy Bill, Congress is now poised to pass a comprehensive federal Energy Bill that will provide many other benefits to water and power users throughout the United States. The Energy Bill (H.R. 6) includes these amendments requested by Metropolitan:

- An amendment to improve and streamline the license renewal process for operating a hydro-power plant
- An amendment to protect Metropolitan's electric transmission lines from access by non-system power producers seeking to wheel power through other transmission facilities
- An amendment by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Washington) that will preclude the Enron Company's bankruptcy creditors from collecting on contracts written during California's energy crisis for which the Enron Company delivered no power or provided no useful services to their clients, which may prove beneficial to Metropolitan.

Metropolitan continues to work with House and Senate Appropriations Committee members and staff to promote Metropolitan's fiscal 2006 funding requests for projects and programs including CALFED, Colorado River Storage enhancements, local groundwater clean-up initiatives as well as the on-going clean-up effort now under way with the Department of Energy to remove uranium mine tailings from their dangerous proximity to the Colorado River in Moab, Utah. The vote on Appropriations is expected in September, after Congress returns from its summer recess.

MWD State Legislative Matrix

Bill Author	Amended Date; Location	Title - Summary	MWD Position	Effect on MWD
AB 342 Baca (D)	ASSEMBLY (TWO-YEAR BILL)	Perchlorate Fee - Declares the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would authorize the Department of Toxic Substances Control to assess a fee on products that contain perchlorate and to expand those funds to treat drinking water wells contaminated with perchlorate.	Watch	Position based on Board-adopted policy principle.
AB 371 Goldberg (D)	7/6/2005; Senate Appropriations Committee	Water Recycling - Seeks to implement recommendations from the state's Recycled Water Task Force report and also includes other provisions to facilitate the use of recycled water. Specifically, key provisions of the bill would: 1) improve the design code for indoor plumbing systems for recycled water use; 2) create incentives in the State Water Resources Control Board's annual fee structure for publicly-owned treatment works; 3) authorizes recycled water for firefighting; 4) requires installation of recycled water irrigation pipelines in state construction; and 5) removes "skull and crossbones" symbol for recycled water.	Support 7/6/2005	Would improve local agencies' abilities to increase delivery of recycled water needed to achieve Metropolitan's Integrated Water Resources Plan targets. The bill would also revise burdensome regulations and lead to expanded usage of recycled water.
AB 492 Baca (D)	5/26/2005; Senate Third Reading File	Hazardous Materials: Perchlorate/Business Plans - Requires a business that handles perchlorate material to include, as part of its business plan and any updates to the plan, information detailing the manner in which perchlorate waste generated onsite is disposed or otherwise handled.	Watch 5/26/2005	Position based on Board-adopted policy principle.
AB 672 Klehs (D)	07/14/2005; Senate Appropriations Committee	Reservoirs with Water Intended for Domestic Use - Clarifies existing law pertaining to the current, general prohibition against body-contact with reservoir water intended for domestic use. Requires each governmental entity that owns a water supply reservoir larger than 3,500 acre feet to prepare and adopt a watershed or recreation master plan, as specified. Provides an exemption from the recreation planning process for reservoirs for which the public agency has determined that, pursuant to findings of any vulnerability assessment, increased public access poses significant risk. Exempts reservoirs that provide treated water directly to consumers. Exempts pumping-facility forebays.	Watch 7/14/05	Metropolitan and several of its member agencies were opposed to the April 28 version of the bill due to the infeasibility of providing recreation at certain facilities for a variety of reasons, including security and water quality. An agreement was struck with the author on amendments that moved the water agencies to a neutral position.

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<p>AB 771 Saldana (D)</p>	<p>7/14/2005; Senate Appropriations Committee</p>	<p>Coastal Commission: Ex Parte Communications - Amends provisions regarding disclosure of ex parte communications by a commissioner to require that an electronic report of any such communication be made within three days or at the next public hearing on the record, if within three days. Also provides for development of forms for disclosure report and their posting on the Commission's website and agendas.</p>	<p>Watch 07/14/2005</p>	<p>Position based on historical practice (similar Board action on AB 2725 during the last legislative session.) In its prior form, AB 771 would have severely and unreasonably restricted ex parte communications with members of the California Coastal Commission. The ability to effectively communicate information regarding the complex issues associated with ocean desalination projects is critical. The bill was amended to remove Metropolitan's opposition.</p>
<p>AB 1234 Salinas (D)</p>	<p>7/13/2005; Senate Third Reading File</p>	<p>Local Agencies: Compensation and Ethics - Is intended as a local government "sunshine" measure that would apply equally to cities, counties, special districts and school districts. Rather than limit local governments' compensation and reimbursement rates and practices, this measure requires that each local government establish publicly-adopted policies that outline its practices. Would also require ethics training for members of local governments' governing bodies and designated employees every two years. If agency does not adopt its own reimbursement rates then IRS rates will apply.</p>	<p>Support 07/13/2005</p>	<p>A reasonable, balanced and positive measure that will add transparency to the actions of all local governments, while maintaining local entities' ability to establish compensation and reimbursement policies that are appropriate for their circumstances and needs.</p>
<p>AB 1244 Wolk (D)</p>	<p>5/10/2005; Assembly Inactive File (TWO-YEAR BILL)</p>	<p>CALFED Bay-Delta Program - Clarifies the relationship of the California Bay-Delta Authority and its implementing agencies with the federal government with regard to the California Bay-Delta Program and to conform the state act to the federal act, requiring state agencies to cooperate with federal agencies to meet the goals of the program. Authorizes the Authority to enter into specified cooperative agreements to carry out the program. Authorizes the lead scientist to seek assistance from experts for scientific programs.</p>	<p>Watch 05/10/2005</p>	<p>In light of pending discussions on a long-term finance plan for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the pending fiscal/program review undertaken by the Schwarzenegger Administration, the bill was placed on the inactive file until next year to allow both efforts to proceed.</p>

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<p>AB 1245 Wolk (D)</p>	<p>4/21/2005; Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee</p>	<p>CALFED Bay-Delta Program - Relates to the California Bay-Delta Authority. Establishes the Environmental Water Account Fund for the benefit of the California Bay-Delta Environmental Water Account Program. Authorizes the money in the fund to be expended for the protection and recovery of fishery resources, the adjustment of the operations of the State Water Project, or the Central Valley Project, or the acquisition of water to supplement the water made available by regulation. Authorizes the acquiring or selling of water.</p>	<p>Support 04/21/2005</p>	<p>The EWA is critical to Metropolitan's water supply reliability and should continue to be supported and funded. In light of pending discussions on a long-term finance plan for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the pending fiscal/program review undertaken by the Schwarzenegger Administration, the author made the bill a two-year bill.</p>
<p>AB 1290 La Malfa (R)</p>	<p>ASSEMBLY (TWO-YEAR BILL)</p>	<p>Water Use Fees - Declares that it is the intent of the Legislature to finance programs that were formerly funded by the imposition of fees for a specified application, registration, petition, request, or proof of claim relating to water use, or a notice to extract groundwater by appropriating funds from the fund that remain available for that purpose.</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>This bill seeks to effectively and completely eliminate funding for the SWRCB's Division of Water Rights. It eliminates the SWRCB's ability to carry out its general regulatory responsibilities and would eliminate funds necessary to process water rights filings and to administer existing water rights.</p>
<p>AB 1341 Env Safety & Toxic Material Cmt</p>	<p>6/21/05; Senate Inactive File</p>	<p>Hazardous Waste: Major Appliance Disposal - Makes a technical, nonsubstantive change to existing law that requires a person who transports, delivers, or sells discarded major appliances to a scrap recycling facility to provide evidence that the person is a certified appliance recycler and that prohibits a scrap recycling facility from accepting a discarded major appliance from any person who is not a certified appliance recycler.</p>	<p>Watch 6/21/2005</p>	<p>Position based on Board-adopted policy principle.</p>
<p>AB 1354 Baca (D)</p>	<p>Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee (TWO-YEAR BILL)</p>	<p>Drinking Water: Perchlorate Levels - Requires the Department of Health Services to establish a maximum drinking water standard contaminant level for perchlorate of 6 parts per billion, to be phased in over a period of two years commencing January 1, 2006.</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Position based on Board-adopted policy principle. Metropolitan historically opposes legislation that seeks to set MCLs through legislation versus the regulatory process.</p>

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<p>AB 1453 Daucher (R)</p>	<p>3/30/2005; Assembly Judiciary Committee (TWO-YEAR BILL)</p>	<p>Superior Courts: Adjudication of Rights to Produce - Establishes nine water divisions in the superior courts of specified counties. Requires the presiding judge of the superior court of each specified county to assign a water judge to the water division to preside over actions that involve the adjudication of rights to produce groundwater. Provides for the transfer of groundwater actions to those court. Requires the presiding judge to consider the experience in groundwater adjudications of each candidate for assignment as a water judge.</p>	<p>Support in Concept 3/30/2005</p>	<p>Judges with a water law background would provide greater efficiency and expertise in adjudicating and improving the administration of groundwater cases.</p>
<p>AB 1466 Laird (D)</p>	<p>6/28/2005; Senate Appropriations Committee</p>	<p>Tamarisk Plant Control - Requires the Department of Water Resources to develop a program to control or eradicate tamarisks plants in the Colorado River watershed within California and establishes another program to control or eradicate tamarisk plants in the watershed generally.</p>	<p>Support 06/28/2005</p>	<p>Greater focus on control and eradication of tamarisk would likely benefit users of Colorado River water. Tamarisk removal would also have general environmental benefits given the plant has relatively little habitat value and crowds out native vegetation.</p>
<p>AB 1665 Laird (D)</p>	<p>6/28/2005; Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee</p>	<p>Flooding - Requires courts in cases involving allegations of inverse condemnation as a result of flooding to determine whether there was an unreasonable plan or policy adopted by a public agency that resulted in flood damage to the plaintiff, based on the consideration of specified factors. Requires any policy for residential or commercial insurance in a levee inundation zone to offer flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. Authorizes the State Reclamation Board to establish an environmental enhancement and mitigation bank for work on Project Levees. Requires DWR to update the existing state flood control plan and every local agency responsible for flood planning and protection for Project Levees to update their flood management plan every two years.</p>	<p>Watch 06/28/2005</p>	<p>DWR sponsored bill in response to the Paterno court decision.</p>

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<p>ACA 13 Harman (R)</p>	<p>4/21/2005; Assembly Local Government Committee</p>	<p>Local Government: Assessments and Fees or Charges - Proposes a Constitutional Amendment that excludes a fee or charge related to flood control, stormwater drainage or surface water drainage from restrictions on the imposition or increase of a property-related fee or charge by a city, county or special district.</p>	<p>Watch 4/21/2005</p>	<p>Would exclude any levy for flood control purposes from the Constitutional requirements of Proposition 218, including any levy imposed to finance capital costs or maintenance and operation expenses for flood control. If the Legislature and the voters approved this change to Proposition 218, it would make it easier for local flood control agencies to adopt assessments for flood control purposes since approvals would only be required from their respective boards.</p>
<p>SB 31 Florez (D)</p>	<p>Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee (TWO-YEAR BILL)</p>	<p>Water Fees - Revises provisions for making water rights filings with the State Water Resources Control Board. Changes the listing of applications subject to the board's schedule of fees. Denominates the fees as transaction fees. Limits the fees to processing costs. Requires adjustments of individual transaction fees. Requires the annual permit or license fees to be imposed based upon the number of acre-feet of water covered by the permit or license.</p>	<p>Oppose Unless Amended</p>	<p>This bill would not provide adequate funding for the SWRCB Division of Water Rights thus severely impacting the Division's ability to address misuse of water or environmental impacts. Also, the federal CVP's share of fees could be shifted to SWP contractors and other water users.</p>
<p>SB 113 Machado (D)</p>	<p>4/14/2005; Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee (TWO-YEAR BILL)</p>	<p>California Bay-Delta Authority Act - Relates to existing law which requires the California Bay-Delta Authority to review, approve, and make recommendations regarding certain annual program plans and project expenditures submitted by the implementing agencies based on prescribed criteria. Requires the Authority, in undertaking that review, approval or modification, to consider the extent to which those plans or expenditures are consistent with the beneficiary pays principle.</p>	<p>Oppose 04/14/2005</p>	<p>Seeks to define the CALFED concept of "beneficiary pays." Metropolitan is concerned that the measure's definitions of public and private benefits and its general descriptions of what types of projects would and would not be eligible for public funding would effectively create a burden of proof for using public funds for such purposes as water use efficiency projects. In light of pending discussions on a long-term finance plan for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the pending fiscal/program review undertaken by the Schwarzenegger Administration, the bill was made a two-year bill.</p>

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<p>SB 187 Soto (D)</p>	<p>6/22/2005; Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee</p>	<p>Drinking Water: Contaminants - Requires OEHHA to revise the perchlorate PHG if 1) "any risk assessment conducted by any state agency in the United States after April 1, 2005" concludes that perchlorate exposure below 6 ppb is a risk to pregnant women, fetuses, infants or other vulnerable sub-populations; or 2) any state agency in the U.S. establishes an MCL lower than 6 ppb. Also requires DHS to revise the perchlorate MCL if the PHG is revised.</p>	<p>Oppose 06/22/2005</p>	<p>Position based on Board-adopted policy principle. Establishes a dangerous precedent in that it gives deference to regulatory agencies outside California. Undercuts OEHHA's authority, requires OEHHA to revise the PHG independent of the quality of the risk assessment conducted by another agency and fails to recognize that a margin of safety is already built into the current PHG.</p>
<p>SB 274 Romero (D)</p>	<p>7/12/2005; Assembly Third Reading File</p>	<p>Incompatible Offices: Elected and Appointed Positions - Provides that service on an appointed or elected governmental board, commission, committee, or other body shall be deemed to be inconsistent, incompatible, in conflict with, or inimical to the duties of service on another elected or appointed governmental board, commission, committee, or other body, if the service in the offices satisfies this common law test for incompatibility. Requires an elected or appointed member of one of two local bodies to resign prior to accepting the second position.</p>	<p>Watch 07/12/2005</p>	<p>Excludes specific offices permitted by statute, and is broader than existing common law in that it includes public policy concerns, as well as actual significant clashes of duties, as criteria for finding incompatible offices.</p>
<p>SB 350 Machado (D)</p>	<p>7/5/2005; Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee</p>	<p>San Joaquin River Restoration and Water Management - Sponsored by the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Central/South Delta Water Agencies, this bill would establish the San Joaquin River Fund to provide grants for "restoration of streamflows and native anadromous fish populations" or "acquisition of cost-effective replacement water supplies and related actions." Appropriates \$9.16 million from Proposition 13 (proceeds from a grant previously awarded to but reverted from the Friant Water Users Authority) and directs the Secretary of Resources to expend funds in roughly equal amounts for grants for restoration and water supply projects.</p>	<p>Watch 7/5/2005</p>	<p>Friant and NRDC have been in an intense court conflict over San Joaquin River restoration since 1988. Metropolitan has an interest in actions taken on the San Joaquin River because such actions could improve source water quality and, potentially, improve the regulatory environment for SWP operations by helping to increase fish populations.</p>

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<p>SB 376 Soto (D)</p>	<p>5/11/2005; Assembly Third Reading File</p>	<p>Three Valleys Municipal Water District: Standby Charge - Authorizes the Three Valleys Municipal Water District, by resolution, to adopt an assessment with a schedule of annual adjustments, and to adjust the amount of an assessment in a specified manner, if certain conditions are met, including a prescribed maximum assessment amount and prescribed notice and hearing requirements. States that, for the purposes of certain constitutional provisions, the district has not increased an assessment if the district adjusts an assessment in a specified manner.</p>	<p>Support 5/11/2005</p>	<p>A fair and reasonable approach that would allow TVMWD to increase the amount of its property assessment in precisely the same manner that Proposition 218 already permits public agencies to increase their taxes, fees and charges.</p>
<p>SB 393 Ortiz (D)</p>	<p>5/10/2005; Senate Appropriations Committee (HELD BY COMMITTEE)</p>	<p>Special Districts - Requires audits of special purpose districts to be performed in accordance with government auditing standards for financial audits. Requires the governing boards of special districts to conduct legal and ethics orientation sessions that governing board members would be required to attend, if they choose to receive compensation for their activities. Specifies whistle-blower protections for members who make protected disclosures of improper governmental activities.</p>	<p>Oppose 05/10/2005</p>	<p>This bill unfairly singles out special districts and the travel reimbursement restrictions that remain in the measure are too inflexible and may not allow for necessary travel.</p>
<p>SB 429 Florez (D)</p>	<p>7/7/2005; Assembly Appropriations Committee</p>	<p>Recreational Bathing: Sanitation - Requires the Department of Health Services to convene a public advisory group to advise the department on the development of minimum standards for sanitation of high-use or priority freshwater bathing areas. Requires the department to purpose to the Legislature minimum sanitation standards for the recreational use of the public freshwater bathing areas.</p>	<p>Watch 5/27/2005</p>	<p>While Metropolitan exercises strict control of it's drinking water reservoirs and is subject to both local and State regulatory authority, water obtained through its State Water Project contract is subject to the conditions and concerns addressed in SB 429. Lake Perris in Riverside County has long-standing water quality concerns from its shoreline bathing beaches and the degraded microbiological quality of State Project Water.</p>

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<p>SB 543 Margett (R)</p>	<p>7/11/2005; Assembly Appropriations Committee</p>	<p>State Water Project - Establishes a permit program for encroachments on State Water Project rights-of-way. Makes any person who makes an alteration, improvement, encroachment, or excavation within the right-of-way acquired for the State Water Resources Development System, without a permit, guilty of a misdemeanor. Provides for civil penalties. Makes it unlawful for any person to drain water or permit water to be drained from a person's lands on to the right-of-way or to obstruct any watercourse or to store or distribute water.</p>	<p>Support If Amended 7/11/2005</p>	<p>The measure is well intended as Metropolitan supports the basic goal of granting DWR the necessary authority to approve and, where necessary, remove encroachments on SWP lands. However, the bill currently poses significant problems for Metropolitan and other State Water Contractors (SWC). Metropolitan is requesting amendments to recognize the unique relationship of the SWC to the SWP and will ensure that the contractors are not subject to unnecessary and burdensome permit requirements to conduct vital operations on or around SWP property.</p>
<p>SB 820 Kuehl (D)</p>	<p>6/21/2005; Assembly Appropriations Committee</p>	<p>Water - Amends disclosure requirements for certain information pertaining to water use and planning. Expands the base of information with agricultural and urban water use to improve the state's ability to plan for continued future growth and development. Does not impose any regulation or change to existing groundwater rights law but improves public access to information concerning California's ground and surface water resources.</p>	<p>Support 06/21/2005</p>	<p>This bill promotes better planning by state and local planning agencies and will provide a heightened level of reliability and certainty to existing and future customers of state, regional and local water purveyors. Recent amendments to the bill clarify provisions regarding energy consumption and the public process requirements for the California Water Plan and Urban Water Management Plans.</p>
<p>SB 866 Kehoe (D)</p>	<p>4/19/2005; Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee (TWO-YEAR BILL)</p>	<p>Water Use Measurement Information - Requires the Department of Water Resources to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report with regard to various matters concerning water use measurement information. Requires the department to conduct a study to determine the cost-effectiveness of more accurate farm-gate measurement and report to the Legislature. Requires the department to develop and implement jointly with the Department of Health Services the use of a coordinated water use reporting database.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Creates a single point of information for agricultural and urban water uses and would help Metropolitan develop better water supply strategies and help determine the effectiveness of existing water measurement practices in the state. In light of pending discussions on a long-term finance plan for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the pending fiscal/program review undertaken by the Schwarzenegger Administration, the bill was made a two-year bill.</p>
<p>SB 977 Ashburn (R)</p>	<p>Senate Environmental Quality Committee (TWO-YEAR BILL)</p>	<p>Hazardous Substances: Perchlorate - Contains provisions governing perchlorate contamination prevention, defines ""perchlorate"" to mean all perchlorate-containing compounds, and ""perchlorate material"" to mean perchlorate and all perchlorate-containing waste. Specifies that ""perchlorate"" does not include perchlorate located in unused military munitions.</p>	<p>Watch</p>	<p>Position based on Board-adopted policy principle.</p>

MWD State Legislative Matrix

<p>SB 978 Ashburn (R)</p>	<p>Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee (TWO-YEAR BILL)</p>	<p>Water Use: Military Land and Housing Areas - Requires an urban water supplier to install water meters on all municipal and industrial water service connections that are located in its service area. Requires an urban water supplier to charge each customer that has a service connection for which a water meter has been installed, based on the actual volume of deliveries, as measured by a water meter.</p>	<p>Oppose Unless Amended</p>	<p>Position based on Board-adopted policy principle. To the extent that Metropolitan's water serves military bases, this bill impedes efforts to implement water-use efficiency across all classes of customers in an equitable manner.</p>
<p>SB 1067 Kehoe (D)</p>	<p>7/5/2005; Assembly Second Reading File</p>	<p>Drinking Water - Requires the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to adopt a public health goal for total trihalomethanes and total haloacetic acids. Requires the Department of Health Services to adopt regulations to ensure any public water system that has levels of those substances that pose a potential risk to public health to notify its customers of the public health risks, including any risks to pregnant women. Sets forth notices to be included in a consumer confidence report regarding those contaminants.</p>	<p>Oppose Unless amended 07/5/2005</p>	<p>Position based on Board-adopted policy principle. The bill requires OEHHA to establish PHGs by a specific deadline. Metropolitan generally opposes such deadlines because they may unnecessarily compromise the scientific or regulatory process. This bill preempts a critical part of the scientific process by effectively requiring OEHHA to develop a PHG for TTHMs and HAA5 based on development and reproductive efforts which may prematurely assume that specific levels can be determined based on available science.</p>
<p>SB 1081 Ducheny (D)</p>	<p>7/5/2005; Assembly Appropriations Committee</p>	<p>Salton Sea Restoration - States the intent of the Legislature that certain bond moneys appropriated to the Wildlife Conservation Board, be used exclusively for the purpose of restoration of the Salton Sea and related activities. Requires the board to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report regarding a specified land purchase. Requires the Department of Water Resources to seek to enter into a memorandum of understanding with specified entities to establish a coordinated plan for the restoration of the Salton Sea.</p>	<p>Watch 07/05/2005</p>	<p>Recent amendment incorporates text that preserves the integrity of existing Colorado River water entitlements and contracts of California parties, the QSA and Section 2081.7 of the Fish and Game Code.</p>