

● External Affairs August 2005 Activity Report

Summary

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

Attachments

MWD State Legislative Matrix

Detailed Report

Media Services

Staff continued to coordinate informational activities with the Department of Water Resources concerning the state-ordered lowering of water levels at Lake Perris due to seismic issues. Metropolitan coordinated the response to news media interest in the placement of an aeration system in advance of drawdown measures.

News reports and editorials related to the Bay-Delta and CALFED matters demanded attention, with efforts aimed primarily to balance coverage of the scientific uncertainty and potential reasons regarding the sharp drop-off of pelagic species such as the Delta smelt. Working with a team that includes other state water contractors, staff contributed to several letters to editors that were submitted by various authors (to Los Angeles Times, Sacramento Bee and Stockton Record), and provided information to reporters about these species' loss of food sources.

Staff managed a variety of other news media inquiries, including the Board's approval of the 2005/06 City Makeover program, California Friendly homebuilding, the Perris Valley pipeline project, as well as a Canadian documentary crew's request to film the Arrowhead tunneling project and other Metropolitan facilities for a story about global warming.

Web site visits remained consistent in September with 24,550 unique visitors to Metropolitan's internet Web site, 8,060 to Bewaterwise.com, 28,350 to DVLake.com, 650 to the *People*.Interactive magazine, 2,200 to Aqueduct magazine, 716 to the Ethics area, 48 to the Water Quality Reports site and 535 to the Straight from the Tap site.

Education and Community Outreach

Metropolitan briefed the San Diego County Water Authority Water Action Committee and the city of Hemet planning department on the California Friendly programs and other rebates. In San Diego, Metropolitan staff highlighted current efforts with the Building Industry Association of San Diego and how to promote their participation in the new California Friendly water conservation programs. Staff also provided information on the latest media campaign for 2005/2006 – including the outreach activities targeted for greater San Diego communities. In Hemet, staff reviewed active model home and other incentive programs conducted in association with Eastern Municipal Water District.

Metropolitan coordinated and installed a display for the "Moving Water" traveling exhibit being showcased at the Old Courthouse Museum in Santa Ana. "Moving Waters" is a collaborative project with the humanities council for the seven states that comprise the Colorado River watershed. The exhibit continues through Oct. 3.

Staff provided training and workshops to 56 K-12 teachers from Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties; 20 member and retail agency education representatives during summer workshops on water quality and provided "Geography of Water" activities for middle school and high school students. Staff also trained 18 secondary teachers at the UC Irvine science teacher's summer institute and 13 K-12 teachers at the Compton Unified School District teacher staff development event.

Board Report (External Affairs August 2005 Activity Report)

Officials from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power toured Diamond Valley Lake during August, as did 42 students from Los Angeles area schools. A Metropolitan employee tour visited the Inland Feeder Project.

Business Outreach

Business Outreach held its first Connect@MET outreach event, which provides Metropolitan's directors an opportunity to present potential contracting opportunities at Metropolitan and the district's network partners to local and regional businesses. The event at Santa Fe Springs City Hall was hosted by Director Robert Apodaca and coordinated with Central Basin Municipal Water District. Speakers included state Assemblyman Ron Calderon (D-Covina), Bobbi Becker and Metropolitan's business outreach and conservation staff. Attendees also heard from a panel regarding access to representatives and capital from the Port of Long Beach, the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Small Business Development Corporation. Approximately 100 people attended the event.

A graduation ceremony was held for participants of Metropolitan's Inland Empire and Los Angeles "Strategies in Public Sector Contracting" classes. Attendees were given certificates by Chairman Wes Bannister and met with various project managers and buyers from Metropolitan.

During August, the Business Outreach Program networked and met with the following organizations: Southern California Minority Business Development Council, Cal Poly Pomona Department of General Services Business Expo, the National Association of Women in Construction – Inland Empire, Riverside Chamber of Commerce, Empire Business Development Association, National Institute of Government Purchasing National Conference, Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce, Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise Network, Filipino American Chamber of Commerce, the Premier Auto Group (a division of the Ford Motor Co.), San Diego Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Advisory Council, Women's Business Center of California in San Diego, African American Business Women (San Diego) of Vision Awards dinner, Lake Havasu City Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, American Indian Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, California Black Chamber of Commerce Business Expo and Vietnam Veterans of California.

Metropolitan also participated in community events or professional association activities with the following organizations: BIA of Southern California, Eco-Life Foundation, Pitzer College, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, The Chronicles Group, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, and WaterReuse Association.

Legislative Activities

Regional

Three Valleys Municipal Water District and Metropolitan hosted a Community Leaders Luncheon that included local, state and business leaders and Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (D-Norwalk). The congresswoman highlighted Congress' action on the Energy and Transportation bills, and discussed the latest on the Resources Committee's legislation and related water quality and supply issues. Joining the congresswoman were state Sen. Nell Soto and state Assembly member Gloria Negrete-McLeod. About 200 community leaders attended.

Arrangements were made for Tim Quinn's briefing of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership on the South Delta Improvements Program. Approximately 40 business and community leaders and legislative staff were in attendance.

Sacramento

(Note: The Legislature was scheduled to recess on Sept. 9. Several bills concerning Metropolitan and its member agencies were still active at the time of this report)

SB 820 by Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee Chair Sheila Kuehl – a bill which seeks to develop better reporting of water use and improved water planning – was amended to address many, but not all, of the concerns raised primarily by agricultural water users.

Board Report (External Affairs August 2005 Activity Report)

Staff continued work to support AB 1234. The local government “sunshine” measure would affect cities, counties, special districts and school districts and 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 are readily accessible.

AB 672 (Klehs, D-Hayward)) seeks to require governmental entities that own reservoirs with a capacity of 3,500 acre-feet or greater, as specified, to prepare a recreation plan for their facilities. Changes in the bill were made after Metropolitan and several member agencies stated that providing recreation at certain facilities was infeasible due to security, water quality and cost concerns. The measure was before the full Assembly.

At the governor’s request, the Little Hoover Commission initiated hearings to examine the governance of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the California Bay-Delta Authority. Metropolitan staff has been working to respond to Commission requests for feedback from stakeholders and plans to participate in the Commission’s September hearing regarding overall concerns about the state of program progress, the analysis now under way to assess performance and concerns that have been raised about governance. Staff also contributed to presentations made to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee regarding state agencies’ response to the pelagic fish decline in the Delta.

Washington D.C.

H.R. 6, the Energy Bill signed by the President, represents an important victory for the nation’s water users after congressional leaders dropped from the measure a controversial liability exemption for the producers of MTBE. Elimination of that provision ensured that contamination cleanup costs would be the responsibility of polluters and not water providers.

The Transportation Highway Bill passed with a provision authored by Rep. Gary Miller (R-Mission Viejo) that authorized nearly \$18 million in federal funding to study the feasibility of a multi-use tunnel project that would link western Riverside County to Southern Orange County through a tunnel under the Cleveland National Forest. Rep. Ken Calvert (R-Corona) and then-Rep. Christopher Cox (R-Newport Beach) provided earmarks in the bill to ensure the money was there. This tunnel could be used for transportation and water conveyance.

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 and the ongoing clean-up effort now under way with the Department of Energy to remove uranium mine tailings from 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)		8/15/2005; Senate Appropriations Committee	Water Recycling - Seeks to: 1) create incentives in the State Water Resources Control Board's annual fee structure for publicly-owned treatment works; 2) require recycled water producers to provide the state Departments of Transportation and General Services with specified information regarding future availability of recycled water for landscaping 3) require the Department of Water Resources to develop building code standards for recycled water systems; and 4) remove "skull and crossbones" symbol for recycled water.	Support 8/15/2005	As initially introduced, this bill included several additional provisions to improve local agencies' abilities to increase delivery of recycled water. The bill has been pared down to include only non-controversial items. However, it has been made a two-year bill and is intended to serve as a vehicle should the WaterReuse Associate reach consensus on additional provisions.
AB 492 Baca (D)		5/26/2005; Senate Inactive 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)		7/14/2005; Senate Second Reading File	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 Third Reading File</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 7/14/2005</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>8/22/2005; 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 8/22/2005</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. The measure is currently on the Senate floor.</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 Environmental Safety & Toxic Material Cmte</p>	<p>6/21/05; Senate Third Reading 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>8/15/2005; 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 8/15/2005</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>8/15/2005; Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee</p>	<p>Flooding - Renames the Reclamation Board the Central Valley Flood Management Board. Also requires DWR to develop a schedule for mapping flood risk areas in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River drainage areas and directs DWR to prepare a report describing a flood control plan. Further requires each local agency responsible for project flood works O&M to annually submit specified information to the new Board. Counties must identify every parcel of land located in a levee failure inundation zone and provide landowner notice of the flood hazard. Further requires a flood control system status report by 1/1/11 and requires Board to prepare levee failure inundation maps.</p>	<p>Watch 08/15/2005</p>	<p>DWR sponsored bill in response to the Paterno court decision.</p>
<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>

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<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 4/14/2005</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>
<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 6/22/2005</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>

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<p>SB 274 Romero (D)</p>	<p>7/12/2005; Senate Unfinished Business</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 7/12/2005</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>
<p>SB 376 Soto (D)</p>	<p>5/11/2005; To Governor</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>

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<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 5/10/2005</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>
<p>SB 543 Margett (R)</p>	<p>8/15/2005; Assembly Consent Calendar - Second Legislative Day</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 8/15/2005</p>	<p>The measure grants DWR the necessary authority to approve and, where necessary, remove encroachments on SWP lands. The bill formerly included significant problems for Metropolitan and other State Water Contractors (SWC). However, as requested by MWD and the State Water Contractors, the August 15 version of the bill includes the requirement that DWR issue a general permit for routine operations of state water contractors. This will ensure that contractors will not be subject to burdensome permitting processes. Consequently, Metropolitan is now in full support of the bill.</p>

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<p>SB 820 Kuehl (D)</p>	<p>8/15/2005; 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 8/15/2005</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>
<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>

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<p>SB 1067 Kehoe (D)</p>	<p>7/5/2005; Assembly Third 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 7/5/2005</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 7/05/2005</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>