

● External Affairs February 2006 Activity Report

Summary

In February, the Skinner shutdown and selection of Jeffrey Kightlinger as Metropolitan's 13th general manager drove much of the media coverage. The press office handled about two press calls each day on these topics, as well as Bay-Delta matters, water supply, conservation, California Friendly™ homes, water quality, and Solar Cup (40 calls total), and issued two press releases (Kightlinger and Perris Valley pipeline construction). The education unit conducted five inspection trips reaching up to 200 community members, provided in-service training to 35 teachers and DVL field trips for 411 students. More than 350 notices were distributed to residents affected by the Sepulveda Feeder shutdown, among many concurrent outreach efforts associated with shutdowns. The District's Web sites received 72,160 visitors during the same time.

Attachments

MWD State Legislative Matrix

Detailed Report

Bay Delta

The *Sacramento Bee* published a letter signed by Debra Man in its Feb. 11 edition, highlighting the work Metropolitan and its member agencies have done to reduce the Southern California's dependence on Delta supplies.

In coordination with other State Water Contractors representatives and Metropolitan member agencies, Kathy Cole conducted several meetings with key legislative staff to gain support for release of the Department of Water Resources' South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP) Environmental Impact Report. The report pertains to DWR's plan to improve water quality. The public comment period for the SDIP ended Feb. 7, and a joint letter signed by 26 state legislators in support of the SDIP was forwarded to DWR by the offices of Sen. Bob Margett (R-Arcadia).

Education Outreach

Directors Fellow, Brick, Morris and Willard Murray joined almost 250 students, government, environment, and community officials in a Feb. 10 preparatory conference for the United Nations' World Water Forum IV. The event was designed to create ideas, initiatives and momentum for the upcoming forum in Mexico City in March, and to highlight all 11 college team projects from MWD's World Water Forum College Grant Program. Highlights included speeches by Vanessa Tobin, UNICEF Chief of Water, Environment and Sanitation; and U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon), author of the Sen. Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act. Also in attendance were Mary Nichols, LADWP Board President; J. Michael Read, President, Water Environment Federation; and Bob Johnson, Lower Colorado River Regional Director of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

During February, the "Water is Life" Calendar Student Art Exhibit was at the Otay Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Cucamonga Valley Water District and Calleguas MWD. In March, the exhibit will be at City of Anaheim Public Utilities Department, Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD, and the Helix Water District.

Work continues on Solar Cup 2006. In February, 200 students, teachers and parents attended a technical workshop at Union Station during which they learned about event rules, solar panels, electrical and visual display criteria and Solar Sunspot guidelines. There was also a hands-on wiring session to assist students.

Community Outreach

The press office coordinated with San Diego County Water Authority and local north county agencies on a media strategy that called on local residents, farmers, businesses to reduce water use in response to unseasonably warm

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temperatures and windy conditions during a shutdown of the Skinner Treatment Plant. Media planning and water-saving calls to residents and business owners were vital in enabling agencies to withstand the shutdown.

External Affairs coordinated with Water System Operations, the Riverside County Office of Emergency Services and the National Weather Service on emergency response planning for Diamond Valley Lake. Metropolitan will conduct a tour of DVL for the NWS on March 14.

Metropolitan and Western MWD collaborated on a presentation to the Riverside Chamber of Commerce and March Joint Powers Authority on the Perris Valley Pipeline project. A press release was issued in February regarding an open house about the project and traffic impacts.

External Affairs, in collaboration with Water System Operation and Engineering, met with public works staff from Alhambra, Diamond Bar and Los Angeles on the Cross-Connection Program work sites within their respective cities.

California Friendly™

Metropolitan conducted consumer research among Southern California homeowners about water usage, awareness of outreach efforts, effectiveness of the California Friendly™ brand and barriers to water use reduction. This included a phone survey of 500 Southern California homeowners with automatic sprinkler systems and personal intercept surveys at garden centers.

Legislative Outreach

Regional

Metropolitan joined Southern California Edison, the Gas Company, the Economic Alliance and the cities of Burbank and Los Angeles to form the San Fernando Valley Utilities Alliance. The coalition's mission is to pool resources and collaborate on regional outreach efforts which will educate businesses and residents on key issues and programs affecting the water, electric and gas industries. The alliance will conduct its first workshop on energy and water efficiency on March 24.

Director Larry Dick spoke to more than 300 Long Beach business owners at the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's 2006 "California Visionary" Luncheon, which also included Secretary of State Bruce McPherson. Director Dick spoke on the need for a healthy Bay-Delta and local conservation programs. He also highlighted Metropolitan's continued support of non-profit groups that share Metropolitan's environmental goals in the City of Long Beach, including Aquarium of the Pacific.

Metropolitan hosted the Southern California Water Dialogue on Feb. 22. Approximately 40 people discussed the controversy over lining the All-American Canal, which is the subject of litigation involving the San Diego County Water Authority and three plaintiffs. Jeff Kightlinger was introduced and provided an overview of the Colorado River Basin states' proposal for managing shortage conditions, as well as a brief sketch of his priorities as Metropolitan's new general manager.

At the request of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, Metropolitan organized a one-day San Gabriel Valley water issues workshop and facility inspection trip for about 30 participants. Participating agencies included the general managers from Upper San Gabriel and Three Valleys Municipal water districts as well as representatives from the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority and Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster.

As part of its continued responsibilities on community aspects associated with the Palo Verde Land Management, Crop Rotation, and Water Supply Program, staff conducted a one-day Colorado River facilities inspection and community stakeholders visit for Director Randy Record, Chairman of the Colorado River Oversight Committee.

Sacramento

Funding for California's infrastructure continues to be a top priority in the state Capitol. In response to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed \$68 billion, 10-year infrastructure financing plan, Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata (D-Hayward) continues to promote SB 1024 – a \$14 billion plan focused on transportation and flood control - which was introduced last year. More recently, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez (D-Los

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Angeles) outlined his priorities for a \$35 billion bond plan that would provide \$10.8 billion for schools and state colleges, approximately \$16 billion for transportation and \$5 billion for flood control, clean water projects, parks and habitat preservation. Metropolitan staff continues to monitor infrastructure-related developments and will work to develop information for the March 7 board workshop on infrastructure financing policy principles.

Washington DC

The President released his FY 07 budget on Feb. 6. It included \$38.6 million for various CalFed programs, \$17 million for the Lower Colorado River Operations Programs, \$10 million for Title XVI Water Reclamation Reuse, \$7.2 million for water conservation; \$22.8 million for Moab uranium clean up; \$19.5 million for the Colorado Salinity Control Program; and \$2.5 million for Colorado River Front Work and Levee System.

It is expected that Sen. Dianne Feinstein is no longer intending to introduce national perchlorate cleanup legislation and instead will be introducing legislation just for California perchlorate cleanup.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Jerry Lewis (R-CA) has indicated that he will propose legislative process reforms to limit so-called earmarks for special funding of projects in appropriations bills and to add disclosure requirements meant to shine light on why projects are necessary. While the plan would sharply limit the number of projects each member can request per appropriations subcommittee, Lewis has not revealed specifically how many each member would be allowed. Criteria would also be established for all projects and require accountability and transparency by lawmakers.

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) | 8/30/2005; Senate Inactive File | 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) | 9/2/2005; VETOED | 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; VETOED</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; CHAPTERED</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.</p> |
| <p>AB 1244 Wolk (D)</p> | <p>1/19/2006; Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee (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 01/19/2006</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 an important element of Metropolitan's water supply reliability. 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>8/22/05; Senate Appropriations Committee</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 (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> |
| <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> |

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| <p>AB 1466 Laird (D)</p> | <p>8/15/2005; VETOED</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>9/8/2005; 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>AB 1721 Pavley (D)</p> | <p>9/6/2005; CHAPTER 581</p> | <p>Environmental Education - Provides that if the State Board of Education determines that the education principles for the environment are not appropriate for inclusion in the textbook adoption criteria, the board would be required to collaborate with the Office of Education and the Environment to make the changes necessary to ensure that the principles are included in the textbook adoption criteria.</p> | <p>Support 9/6/2005</p> | <p>This is a technical clean-up to a bill Metropolitan supported in a previous legislative session. [AB 1548 (Pavley)]</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>ACR 84 Walters (R)</p> | <p>Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee</p> | <p>Ocean Water Desalination - Memorializes the Legislature's support of the development of ocean water desalination, where economically and environmentally appropriate, as an element of a balanced water supply portfolio to increase available water supply, to meet current and future water demands, and to reduce the level of dependence on imported water supplies.</p> | <p>Support</p> | <p>This resolution is for support of future seawater desalination projects. It could facilitate development of seawater desalination projects by Metropolitan or our member agencies to meet the IRP Update targets for desalination.</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 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; CHAPTER 254</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; CHAPTER 210</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 (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; VETOED</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 its 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; CHAPTER 263</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>9/2/2005; VETOED</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 (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 (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; VETOED</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>8/31/2005; CHAPTERED</p> | <p>Maywood Riverfront Park Grant - Prior version of the bill contained legislative intent language to urge 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. Currently the bill appropriates funds from the River Protection Subaccount to the Secretary of the Resources Agency for the Maywood Riverfront Park grant.</p> | <p>Watch 7/05/2005</p> | <p>Previous version of the bill preserved 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> |