

● External Affairs March 2006 Activity Report

Summary

In March, the press office received about 30 calls and issued one press release, about the general manager's executive team selection. The education unit conducted eight inspection trips reaching up to 320 community members, provided in-service training to 43 teachers and DVL field trips for 425 students. There were more than 20 presentations to the public or legislative offices by staff from across the group. The district's Web sites received 68,124 hits during the same time.

Attachments

MWD State Legislative Matrix

Detailed Report

Initiatives

Bay-Delta

Legislators are considering flood control-related legislation, including a measure by Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Chair Lois Wolk (D-Vacaville) to require proof of flood protection adequacy as a condition of approval of land development. Assemblyman Dave Jones (D-Sacramento) is pursuing legislation to mandate flood insurance for homeowners living in floodplains with less than 200-year protection. Jones has also introduced AB 2208, which seeks to impose a fee on water users to fund Delta levee improvements. Legislative staff will monitor and inform the Board on the status of these bills.

Education Outreach

Directors Tim Brick and Willard Murray joined education staff in accompanying three college students to the World Water Forum IV in Mexico City, March 16-19. The students, from University of California, Riverside, Pasadena City College and Cal Poly Pomona, shared their projects on rooftop rain harvesting, biofiltration of grey water and water-efficient landscape irrigation with hundreds of attendees from around the world.

The "Water is Life" Calendar Student Art Exhibit moves to Western Municipal Water District, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, and the City of Chino Hills (Inland Empire Utilities Agency) in April.

Director Steven Veres hosted a local cable program in San Fernando about Solar Cup 2006. Solar Cup staff joined a San Fernando High School teacher as guests on the March 7 program.

In other Solar Cup activities, participant banners were presented at several sponsoring agency board meetings, including at Three Valleys MWD, in honor of Claremont and San Dimas high schools; and at Three Valleys' sub-agencies Rowland Water District, in honor of Nogales High School, and Walnut Valley Water District, in honor of the Santana, Diamond Bar and Diamond Ranch high school teams. The banner presentations build excitement for the annual event and can become a source of school and community pride for sponsors and students alike.

Business and Community Outreach

Director John Mylne, Western Municipal Water District and Metropolitan hosted a Connect-2-Met training class and business networking session March 23 at the Mills Treatment Plant. The class provides an overview and training on how small businesses can access government contracts. Other agencies participating in the program included the County of Riverside, Inland Empire Small Business Development Center, Internal Revenue Service, and Small Business Administration.

California Friendly™

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation presented Metropolitan with the 2005 Regional Director's Water Conservation Field Services Program Award for its California Friendly Landscape program, the City Makeover program and the artificial turf program.

Date of Report: April 4, 2006

Board Report (External Affairs March 2006 Activity Report)

More than 75 community leaders attended a reception honoring the winners of the 2005 City Makeover grants, held at Metropolitan on March 13. Attendees were able to browse through informational booths about each grant recipient. Representatives from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation attended.

Metropolitan staff conducted a March 29 workgroup to kick off the California Friendly plant selection and labeling program with representatives from Monrovia Nurseries, Armstrong Garden Centers, Village Nurseries, EDAW planning and design, a garden columnist for the Orange County Register, and others from academia and the green industry.

Metropolitan and Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) promoted conservation programs and incentives to the Home Building Council of Southern California, highlighting current outreach efforts with the Building Industry Association of Southern California and the San Diego County Chapter. The discussion included how home builders and developers can advocate their participation in the new "California Friendly" programs within their companies and to new homebuyers. WMWD spoke about the importance of a healthy Bay-Delta and local conservation programs in keeping a reliable supply of water for the region's current and future residents.

Metropolitan, in coordination with the San Diego County Water Authority, the Building Industry Association of San Diego and the San Diego Council of Governments coordinated a one-day inspection trip to Diamond Valley Lake for elected officials from San Diego County. Included in the tour was a stop at the Skinner Filtration plant and California Friendly landscape projects in western Riverside County, where participants toured KBHome and Shea Homes projects featuring the conservation strategy.

Legislative Outreach

While the Legislature is in session, detailed information about pending legislation is included in a Legislative Matrix, with any changes since the previous month's meeting highlighted in gray.

Washington

Directors Larry Dick, Brick, Anthony Fellow, Carol Kwan, George Loveland and Glen Peterson attended the Association of California Water Agencies' federal affairs seminar in Washington, D.C., February 28 to March 3. Directors Brick and Fellow met with Congressman Earl Blumenauer of Oregon, as a follow-up to the Congressman's address to the World Water Forum "preparatory conference" held here last month.

Metropolitan submitted appropriation requests for fiscal year 2007 to Senators Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Congressman John Doolittle (R-Auburn). Comment letters were also submitted to both the House and Senate Appropriation Subcommittees on Energy and Water Development and related agencies, the Subcommittees on Interior, Environment and related agencies and the Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies.

Sacramento

During much of March, Sacramento was largely focused on efforts to craft a wide-ranging infrastructure bond measure for the June 2006 statewide ballot. No bonds were approved for the June ballot, but Governor Schwarzenegger has stated his confidence that a measure will appear on the November 2006 ballot.

Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee Chair Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) has introduced SB 1640, a bill whose provisions are identical to those included in the final version of SB 820 – with the exception of the groundwater provisions that triggered the Governor's veto of SB 820 last year. The Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee staff intends to work on alternative means of improving groundwater monitoring and use information.

The City of Long Beach is sponsoring SB 1242 (Lowenthal, D-Long Beach), which seeks to streamline Urban Water Management Plans. Metropolitan staff continues to work with Long Beach and other member agencies to discuss the bill's current and potential language and workgroup members will be meeting with Department of Water Resources staff to discuss potential administrative solutions to water agencies' concerns.

Metropolitan collaborated with the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Contractors to ensure introduction by Senator Bob Margett (R-Monrovia) of SB 1506, a measure that will exempt State Water Project

Board Report (External Affairs March 2006 Activity Report)

energy-related contracts from requirements that currently restrict the Department of Water Resources from effectively managing the energy resources and needs of the State Water Project.

On March 23, ACWA sponsored a presentation on California drinking water quality history, standard-setting processes and related perspectives. This event - coordinated in large part by Metropolitan staff - included presentations by the Department of Health Services, the Office of Statewide Health Hazard Assessment, ACWA, Clean Water Action and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation. The event was held in the State Capitol and audience members included legislative staff, Administration staff, Metropolitan legislative coordinators and others.

Regional

Metropolitan Executive Program Manager Bill Hasencamp provided the keynote address at the 49th annual Palo Verde Valley Economic Outlook Conference in Blythe. Hasencamp provided an update on the status of Colorado River issues, including storage, proposed shortage guidelines and coordinated reservoir operations. More than 250 people attended, including Riverside County 4th District Supervisor Roy Wilson, and legislative representatives from the office of Congresswoman Mary Bono (R-Palm Springs), state Senator Denise Ducheny (D-San Diego) and Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia (R-El Centro).

Staff accompanied members of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the Orange County Business Council to Sacramento to meet with legislators about several key issues impacting business, including water. As part of the legislative activities, Metropolitan hosted a dinner for the business council and the Orange County legislative delegation, with Director Dick and Interim Deputy General Manager Kathy Cole attending.

Metropolitan General Manager Jeff Kightlinger spoke about Southern California's water reliability at a Community Leaders Breakfast Briefing in Irvine on March 17 and at an issues briefing sponsored by Orange County Supervisor James Silva on March 20. Assemblyman Chuck DeVore (R-Newport Beach) provided a legislative update at the breakfast meeting and Silva pledged to support consensus efforts in water issues at the briefing he sponsored.

Metropolitan and other members of the San Fernando Valley Utilities Alliance conducted a workshop for more than 200 business leaders. Guest speakers included Terry Tamminen, the Governor's Cabinet Secretary for Natural Resources, and Metropolitan Director Nancy Sutley, who explained Metropolitan programs and rebates that will help business owners reduce their energy and water consumption.

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 984 Laird (D)	1/4/2006; Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee	Tamarisk Plant Control - Authorizes a plan to control or eradicate tamarisk plants in the Colorado River Watershed. Requires collaboration with affected water agencies and other affected entities.	Support 1/4/2006	Position based on historical practice. The bill provides State support for removal of invasive species from the Colorado River watershed, which supports both environmental and water conservation goals that are supported by Metropolitan.
AB 1244 Wolk (D)	1/19/2006; Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee (TWO-YEAR BILL)	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.	Watch 01/19/2006	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.

MWD State Legislative Matrix

<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 Environmental Quality 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 (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>

MWD State Legislative Matrix

<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 2396 Calderon (D)</p>	<p>ASSEMBLY</p>	<p>Metropolitan Water Districts - Relates to the Metropolitan Water District Act. Amends the act to change the composition of the board of directors and to provide for the direct election of members of the board by voters residing in the service area of the district.</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Position based on historical practice.</p>
<p>AB 2397 Calderon (D)</p>	<p>ASSEMBLY</p>	<p>Metropolitan Water Districts: Service Contracts - Relates to the Metropolitan Water District Act. Prohibits a district from entering into a contract for permanent or temporary services, skilled or unskilled, if such services are of a kind that persons selected through its civil service system could perform adequately and competently.</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Position based on historical practice.</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>

MWD State Legislative Matrix

<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 (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>

MWD State Legislative Matrix

<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 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 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 (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 (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>
-------------------------------	---------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------------	---