

# Express support for H.R. 2664 (Napolitano, D-CA) - Reauthorization of Water Desalination Act of 2011

Communications and Legislation Committee October 11th, 2011 Item 8-7

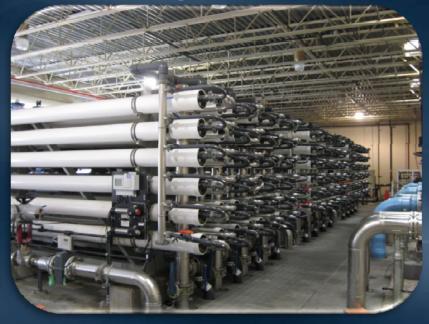
# H.R. 2664: Summary

- Introduced in July
- Reauthorizes funding for desalination research
  - Identifies brackish groundwater research activities
- Implemented by Department of Interior
  - Bureau of Reclamation

### **Brackish Groundwater Desalination**

- Service Area: ~100,000 AF in 2010
- MWD incentives: up to \$250 per AF
- Groundwater basin benefits
- Implementation barriers
  - Brine disposal
  - Energy use
  - Cost

**Arlington Desalter** 



#### Water Desalination Act of 1996

- Desalination research funding mechanism
  - Conduct studies and demonstration projects
  - > 130 projects, 38 in California
  - Operate research facilities
- 2004: Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research facility



# Analysis

- Reauthorizes 1996 Desalination Act funding
- \$35 million over the next five years
  - \$5 million/yr: research and studies
  - \$2 million/yr: demonstration projects and facilities
- Adds brackish groundwater research activities
  - Renewable energy and desalination integration
  - Desalination process improvement
  - Brine reduction and disposal
  - Partnerships
  - Public outreach

#### Benefits

- Provides funding for desalination research
  - Supports national research facilities
  - Targets implementation barriers
- Short-term: funding opportunities for studies and demonstration projects
- Long-term: potential advancements leading to lower-cost desalination

#### **Slant Well Intake**



## **Options and Recommendation**

- Option #1: Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize the General Manager to express Metropolitan's support for H.R. 2664
- Option #2: Take no position on H.R. 2664 at this time
- Staff recommendation: Option 1