



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

*Office of the Interim General Manager*

September 16, 2024

The Honorable Senator Ron Wyden, Chair  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator James E. Risch, Ranking Member  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for the Lower Colorado River Multispecies Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024, S. 5012

Dear Chair Wyden and Ranking Member Risch:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California supports the Lower Colorado River Multispecies Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024, S. 5012, and appreciates you holding a hearing on the bill. Metropolitan is the largest wholesale drinking water provider in the nation. Our 26 member agencies, either directly or through their sub-agencies, provide water to the nearly 19 million people living in Southern California.

Metropolitan is a proud participant in the Lower Colorado River Multispecies Conservation Program (LCR MSCP), an incredibly successful collaboration between the federal government, states, and other stakeholders to create habitat for 28 native species. This innovative program addresses the needs of threatened and endangered species and provides reliability for water deliveries and hydropower production. The Lower Colorado River Multispecies Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024, S. 5012, will allow the Bureau of Reclamation to hold the non-federal funds for the LCR MSCP in an interest-bearing account. The interest collected will be reinvested in LCR MSCP projects, contributing to the continued success of this program and helping offset the impact of inflation.

Thank you for holding a hearing on this bill. Metropolitan supports S.5012 and encourages Congress to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deven Upadhyay", written over a white background.

Deven Upadhyay  
Interim General Manager

cc: Senator Alex Padilla  
Senator Laphonza Butler