

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: First Year of Legislative Session
June 9, 2025

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 259 B. Rubio (D – Baldwin Park) Sponsors: California Special Districts Association, Three Valleys Municipal Water District	Amended in Assembly Local Government Committee on 4/21/2025. Senate Local Government Committee	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences. This bill eliminates the sunset on provisions added to the Brown Act by AB 2449, a bill that provided additional flexibility with Brown Act meeting procedures in the event of a board member’s physical absence in connection with a “just cause” or “emergency circumstances,” allowing those members to participate in the meeting remotely consistent with the process detailed in the bill.	Support Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	By removing the sunset on the Brown Act provisions, AB 259 preserves flexibility for Metropolitan and Member Agency board members to meet remotely and continue providing the public with essential services.
AB 532 R. Ransom (D – Stockton) Sponsor: California Municipal Utilities Association	Amended in Assembly Appropriations Committee on 5/23/2025. Assembly Floor	Water rate assistance program This bill seeks to revamp the State’s Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide water rate assistance to ratepayers of water systems with under 3,000 connections, or systems serving disadvantaged communities. The bill also would expressly allow urban retail water suppliers to establish a local low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program using voluntary contributions or other non-ratepayer funds.	Support Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	This bill would provide clarity in existing law to ensure that water agencies are able to establish local LIRA programs without fear of legal consequences given the provisions of Proposition 218. The bill would also establish a path to revamp the LIHWAP program to ensure statewide resources are provided for small and disadvantaged communities.

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AB 580 G. Wallis (R – Bermuda Dunes) Sponsor: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Amended in Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on 3/26/2025. Senate Rules Committee	Surface Mining: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California This bill removes the sunset date on Metropolitan’s ability to operate under a single Master Reclamation Plan for repairs using earth-moving activities under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act for the maintenance of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA).	Sponsor Based on December 2024 Board Action.	Ensuring Metropolitan can continue operating under a single Master Reclamation Plan will maintain environmental oversight without delays and prevent duplicative compliance.
AB 794 J. Gabriel (D – Encino) Sponsors: Clean Water Action, Environmental Working Group	Amended in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on 4/10/2025. Assembly Floor	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt an emergency regulation for water quality based on federal regulations in effect on January 19, 2025, regardless of whether the requirements were repealed or amended to be less stringent. The bill would prohibit an emergency regulation adopted pursuant to these provisions from implementing less stringent drinking water standards, as provided, and would authorize the regulation to include requirements that are more stringent than the requirements of the federal regulation. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2026, the SWRCB to adopt an emergency regulation and to initiate a primary drinking water standard for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).	Oppose Unless Amended Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	While AB 794 aims to protect public health, its approach circumvents the established regulatory process for setting Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Metropolitan’s Legislative Priorities and Principles call for using the best available science to protect public health and improve water quality when setting MCLs. The broad scope of this bill, which would allow the SWRCB to set through emergency action primary and secondary MCLs for any chemical with a federal MCL, sets a dangerous precedent and fails to align with well-established regulatory principles.

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AB 1146 D. Papan (D – San Mateo)	Amended in Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on 5/1/2025. Assembly Floor	Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses This bill adds language to the Water Code prohibiting the release of stored water from a reservoir in California if the release is done under false pretenses and would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to issue an interim relief order to prohibit such release of stored water. This bill would define “false pretenses” as a release of water from a reservoir in a manner that is knowingly and designedly under a false or fraudulent representation or assumption as to the purpose and intended use of the water.	Oppose Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	This bill would create uncertainty for both Metropolitan and the Member Agencies that own and operate reservoirs. The releases are often based on water supply needs, operational flexibility, and constraints, as well as scheduled and emergency maintenance and/or inspection. The bill’s definition of “false pretenses” is unclear and does not specify what would qualify as “false or fraudulent representation,” nor does it indicate how intent would be determined. Therefore, this definition would make it difficult to understand when a reservoir release could result in an interim relief order.

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AB 1319 N. Schultz (D – Burbank)	Amended in Assembly Appropriations Committee on 5/23/2025. Assembly Floor	<p>Protected species: California Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>This bill would amend the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) to authorize the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to adopt an emergency regulation that adds a federally listed species that is native to California to the list of endangered or threatened species on an emergency basis if it finds, in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), that a federal action that occurs after January 19, 2025, results in a decrease in protection for that species and listing under CESA could provide protection for that species.</p> <p>If the Commission lists a species by emergency regulation, CDFW would be required to promptly commence a status review, and the Commission would be required to determine whether to list the federally listed species beyond the duration of the emergency.</p> <p>This bill would provide that in authorizing the take of any species listed during the emergency regulation, the Commission or CDFW may apply the protections provided by federal terms of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) unless the Commission or CDFW determines that those protections do meet CESA standards.</p>	<p>Oppose Unless Amended</p> <p>Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.</p>	<p>This bill could have profound impacts on Metropolitan’s activities and its State Water Project and Colorado River imported supplies. The time and cost to get CESA permits after emergency listings would be high, and while permit applications are pending, opponents could litigate to halt or modify projects, including ongoing operations of the State Water Project and Colorado River water deliveries and power production.</p> <p>Metropolitan is seeking amendments to limit the applicability of this bill to species that are federally delisted. The proposed amendments also add a permit shield from liability for project proponents seeking an incidental take authorization, or who are complying with an existing federal take authorization. This immunizes a good-faith actor from civil or criminal liability under CESA so long as it complies with its federal take authorization and is pursuing a state take authorization.</p>

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SB 31 J. McNerney (D – Stockton) Sponsor: WateReuse California	Amended in Senate Appropriations Committee on 5/12/2025. Senate Floor	Water quality: recycled water SB 31 aims to enhance California’s water sustainability by increasing the use of recycled water in non-potable applications. This bill modernizes outdated regulations and expands the permissible uses of recycled water to reduce dependence on potable sources. The bill would make updates to Title 22 of the Code of Regulations to expand the use of recycled water in parks, schools, and food handling and processing facilities.	Support Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	Supporting the use of recycled water in non-potable applications such as irrigation, decorative water features, and industrial processes reduces the demand for potable water while enhancing drought resilience.
SB 72 A. Caballero (D – Merced) Sponsor: California Municipal Utilities Association	Amended in Senate Appropriations Committee on 4/10/2025. Senate Floor	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets This measure would revise the California Water Plan to require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update the California Water Plan by December 31, 2028, and every five years after, to include a long-term water supply target for 2050 and discussion on the development of specified water supply sources to meet demand.	Support Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	The intent of this bill is to help modernize California’s water management practices and provide long-term reliable supplies in response to the current climate challenges. Metropolitan supported a similar version of this bill in 2024, SB 366 (Caballero), which passed the Legislature and was vetoed by the Governor.
SB 394 B. Allen (D – Santa Monica) Sponsor: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Introduced Assembly Desk	Water theft: fire hydrants SB 394 would allow a local agency that provides water service the ability to increase fines and penalties for water theft from fire hydrants. The bill also adds tampering with a fire hydrant, fire hydrant meter, or fire detector check, or the unauthorized diversion of water from a fire hydrant to the list of acts for which a utility may bring a civil cause of action.	Support Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	Metropolitan Member Agencies and subagencies that provide local water services could adopt ordinances with enhanced penalties for water theft from a fire hydrant.

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SB 454 J. McNerney (D – Stockton) Sponsor: Association of California Water Agencies	Amended in Senate Appropriations Committee on 5/23/2025. Assembly Desk	State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program SB 454 would establish a PFAS Mitigation Fund to address PFAS contamination in California's drinking water and wastewater systems. Administered by the SWRCB, the fund will provide financial support through grants, loans, and contracts to water suppliers and wastewater operators to cover or reduce treatment and disposal costs, ensuring safe and clean water across the state with a focus on disadvantaged communities.	Support Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	The proposed bill would be highly beneficial to Metropolitan, its Member Agencies, and other water and wastewater agencies currently grappling with increased PFAS-related regulations and source contamination issues. By allowing for grants, loans, and contracts through the PFAS Mitigation Fund, and the provision of assistance services, the bill provides much-needed financial relief and assistance to support treatment and mitigation efforts.
SB 601 B. Allen (D – Santa Monica) Sponsors: California Coastkeeper Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife	Amended in Senate Appropriations Committee on 5/23/2025. Senate Floor	Water: waste discharge The intent of this bill is to restore Clean Water Act protections in California that were removed per the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2023 Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision. However, the bill goes beyond restoring statute and includes several provisions that expand regulatory requirements without the benefit of scientific analysis.	Oppose Based on 2025 Legislative Policies and Principles.	Currently, AB 601 poses risks to Metropolitan and its member agencies by: adopting EPA’s drinking water standards for PFAS/PFOS, bypassing the state rulemaking process; increasing costs of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) permits for discharges of water when dewatering or operating water supply infrastructure, potentially requiring all such water to be recycled regardless of cost to comply; exposing Metropolitan and its Member Agencies to citizen suits in state court, and, for certain nexus waters, both state and federal court; and creating uncertainty in discharge permitting as the bill’s ambiguous provisions and implications are likely to be litigated.