



July 16, 2025

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
Senate President Pro Tem  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
Assembly Speaker  
1021 O Street, Suite 8330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Weiner  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Letter to Pro Tem McGuire, Speaker Rivas, and Budget Chairs Weiner and Gabriel in Support of Delta Conveyance Project Streamlining Proposal**

Dear Pro Tem McGuire, Speaker Rivas, and Budget Chairs Weiner and Gabriel:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) respectfully urges you to support Governor Newsom's proposal to streamline key components of the Delta Conveyance Project's (DCP) planning and design process – legislation that would ensure Metropolitan and participating water agencies have the information necessary to make a decision on whether to invest in the project. While this streamlining proposal did not move forward as part of the June budget package, there is still an opportunity to pass it this year. We believe it remains critical to do so. As deliberations continue, it is important to clarify Metropolitan's perspective and highlight why this streamlining effort is essential to a fair, responsible and timely decision-making process about an idea that has been in limbo for far too long.

The streamlining proposal does **not** authorize or initiate construction of the Delta Conveyance Project. Metropolitan's Board of Directors has not made a final decision regarding funding or support for the project's construction, and will not do so until 2027. The DCP remains in the planning and design phase. However, that process has been repeatedly delayed by ongoing legal and regulatory challenges – delays that threaten to prevent water agencies from reaching an informed decision about whether the project should move forward. The Governor's streamlining package is designed to fix this. By reducing obstructionist hurdles and red tape, it allows the planning process to continue and ensures that Metropolitan and other public water agencies have the opportunity to evaluate the project on its merits – based on clear data regarding potential benefits, costs, operational requirements, and environmental obligations.

Metropolitan is the nation's largest regional wholesale water provider, serving drinking water to 19 million people across Southern California through our 26 member agencies. We are charged with planning for a more volatile water future amid the growing risks of climate change, drought, earthquakes and ecosystem instability. That means carefully evaluating every potential tool available to support water reliability, affordability, and resilience—including the Delta Conveyance Project.

At this stage, critical questions remain unanswered. We need clarity on expected water deliveries, regulatory requirements, project design specifications, cost projections, and project financing and cost recovery. Without this information, our Board cannot responsibly determine whether the DCP is a prudent investment. Unfortunately, project opponents continue to exploit legal and regulatory hurdles to prevent this evaluation from taking place. The opponents are also casting the wrong impression that passage of the trailer bill triggers construction of the DCP. That is not true.

The fundamental question—whether the Delta Conveyance Project is the right solution—has not yet been answered. But the ability to *ask* that question must be protected. The Governor's proposal would ensure a fair, properly informed, and timely process so that agencies like Metropolitan can carry out their duties to the public.

We respectfully urge your support for the DCP streamlining package to enable an informed decision-making process for Metropolitan and our partners. If you have any questions regarding our position, please contact Jay Jefferson, II, Executive Legislative Representative, through email at [jjeffersonii@mwdh2o.com](mailto:jjeffersonii@mwdh2o.com) or via cell at (916) 538-4663.

Sincerely,



Adán Ortega, Jr.  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Metropolitan Water District



Deven Upadhyay  
General Manager  
Metropolitan Water District