



Board-Adopted Legislative Priorities 2025

Resilience in the Face of Natural Disasters, Climate Change & Weather Extremes

Metropolitan maintains and makes significant investments to safeguard a region-wide water supply and delivery system that is a cornerstone of Southern California's \$1.6 trillion economy. Natural disasters, climate change, and increasing weather extremes pose serious challenges to Metropolitan operations. The district supports policies and funding to ensure our water supply and delivery system is prepared for emergencies, resilient, and can respond and recover quickly.

Metropolitan Board Priorities

To help adapt to a changing climate, protect water resources, and partner with communities we serve, Metropolitan will work to support policies and funding for the following priorities:

- ▶ Continue support for imported water supply resiliency and reliability, including planning for the Delta Conveyance Project, Sites Reservoir Project, Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements), and the development of post-2026 Colorado River operating guidelines.
- ▶ Support reforms to the California Water Plan to establish long-term water supply targets and actions that support statewide development of new water supplies and resource management strategies to meet current and future water demands of the urban sector and agriculture, without compromising existing access to core supplies and while meeting applicable environmental protections.
- ▶ Conserve existing water supplies and adapt to climate change by supporting demand management and water use efficiency, long-term non-functional turf conversion, and a federal tax exemption for water conservation rebates.
- ▶ Support the development of water recycling projects, including Pure Water Southern California, to improve long-term supply reliability.
- ▶ Support funding for regional conveyance and water storage improvements to ensure the region's water supply is adequate and reliable for all member agencies.
- ▶ Protect drinking water quality and ensure access to safe and reliable drinking water, including upholding the polluter pays principle and supporting the ongoing cleanup of contaminated sites along the Colorado River.
- ▶ Support adaptive management for ecosystem restoration in the Bay-Delta and Colorado River watersheds that takes into consideration evolving climate conditions, risk analyses, and best available science.
- ▶ Improve water affordability, especially for disadvantaged communities, without burdening existing ratepayers.
- ▶ Support cost-effective transition to zero-emission fleets and equipment, while ensuring operational reliability and maintaining emergency response capabilities.

About Metropolitan

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative of 26 member agencies – cities and public water agencies – that serve nearly 19 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies and helps its members develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource management programs.

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Imported Water Supply

Metropolitan provides imported water supplies to its member agencies from two primary sources, the Colorado River via the Colorado Aqueduct and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta via the State Water Project.

The Colorado River

The Colorado River sustains people, farms, businesses, tribal nations, and wildlife across seven states and Mexico. In all, about 40 million people depend on water from the Colorado River. The Colorado River Aqueduct, a 242-mile system comprised of open canal, tunnels and siphons, carries Colorado River across the desert to the people of Southern California. Metropolitan works to protect the water quality of the river and ecosystems it sustains and supports continued funding for these efforts. The river's resources are governed by what is known as the "Law of the River" and constitutes a series of interstate compacts, statutes, Supreme Court rulings, a treaty with Mexico, and other contracts and regulatory guidelines. The main guidelines governing the operation of the river expire at the end of 2026, and Metropolitan is committed to negotiating a consensus plan for post-2026 Colorado River operations.



Aerial view of the Colorado River

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta & State Water Project

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is where California's two largest rivers meet, an area where saltwater from the Pacific mingles with freshwater from the rivers. The Delta is a 700-mile complex web of waterways, sloughs, canals, and islands. It also is the linchpin in the State Water Project (SWP), the system that supplies drinking water to more than 27 million Californians. On average, about 30 percent of Southern California's water comes from the SWP. Metropolitan works with state and federal agencies, as well as other SWP contractors, to find collaborative

balanced approaches to improve water supply reliability and restore ecosystems for the benefit of threatened and endangered species. Metropolitan supports planning for Delta Conveyance and Sites Reservoir Projects and the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Voluntary Agreements). In addition, strategies and funding are needed to mitigate the impacts of subsidence on the SWP and prevent future damage caused by unsustainable groundwater pumping.



Snow Geese on Webb Tract

Sustainability

Metropolitan strives to fulfill the needs of the current generation without compromising the needs of future generations in an environmentally and economically responsible way while maintaining local flexibility and local autonomy. The district supports policies and funding that encourage sustainable practices and environmental compliance, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate wildfire risk, and improve energy sustainability by implementing Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gases and reach carbon neutrality. Further, Metropolitan supports actions and the necessary funding to offset ratepayer impacts to reach carbon neutrality on the State Water Project by 2045.

Drinking Water Quality

Metropolitan supports policies to continue to provide high-quality reliable drinking water to Southern California in an economically responsible way that surpasses all federal and state drinking water regulations. Metropolitan supports additional funding to defray the costs of monitoring and remediation of drinking water contaminants, including a family of chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Additionally, Metropolitan supports application of the polluter pays principle to ensure that parties responsible for introducing contaminants in drinking water sources are held liable for cleanup, and not drinking water and wastewater facilities that subsequently store, transport, or treat the water.



Pure Water Southern California demonstration facility



Testing water quality at a satellite laboratory facility

Regional Water Resource Development

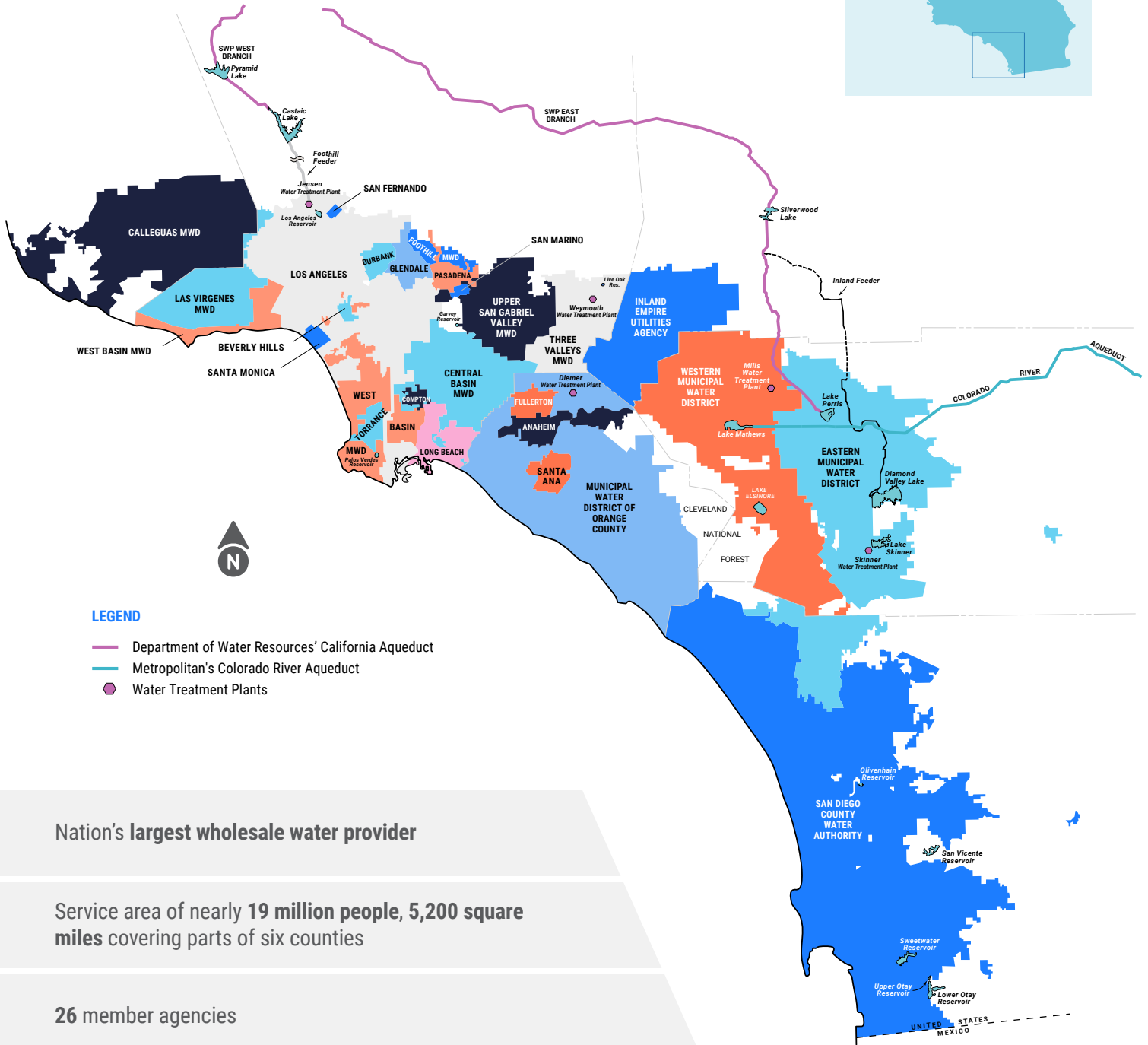
Metropolitan, in partnership with its member agencies, promotes local resource development and water conservation measures to ensure water supply reliability and resiliency for Southern California's communities, families, and businesses.

Recycled Water




Metropolitan's investments in local recycled water projects have produced more than 3 million acre-feet of recycled water for the region since 1982. Metropolitan, in partnership with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, operates the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center, a state-of-the-art demonstration plant. This facility is testing technology needed for a full-scale regional recycled water plant that, once built, would be capable of producing up to 150 million gallons daily, enough to serve 500,000 homes. Metropolitan supports administrative and/or legislative actions to initiate, expedite, and secure funding for this and other recycled water projects.

Water Conservation

Metropolitan supports the establishment of programs and incentives to promote long-term water use efficiency. Metropolitan and its 26 member agencies' long-standing commitment to conservation has resulted in a 45% reduction in per capita potable water use over since 1990. To adapt to declining supplies from the Colorado River, Metropolitan has signed a memorandum of understanding with other urban agencies across the West to reduce non-functional turf (grass that is not used for recreation or other purposes) by 30%. Metropolitan supports tax exemptions for water conservation or efficiency incentives including long-term turf conversion, local stormwater capture (e.g., rain barrels, cisterns), and other measures to reduce consumption of water or enhance the absorption and infiltration capacity of the landscape.



LEGEND

-  Department of Water Resources' California Aqueduct
-  Metropolitan's Colorado River Aqueduct
-  Water Treatment Plants

Nation's largest wholesale water provider

Service area of nearly 19 million people, 5,200 square miles covering parts of six counties

26 member agencies

Supports \$1.6 trillion regional economy (ranked 11th in the world)