



● **Board of Directors**
Communications and Legislation Committee

December 8, 2009 Board Meeting

8-8

Subject

Approve Legislative Priorities for 2010

Description

Metropolitan staff has developed proposed federal and state legislative priorities for 2010, based on the Legislative Strategy for 2009 (Board Letter 8-9, dated December 9, 2008). These priorities for 2010, the second year of the two-year state and federal legislative sessions, support Metropolitan's mission and incorporate its overall conservation, sustainability and Delta objectives.

2010 Federal Legislative Priorities

Multi-State Hoover Power Contract

- Promote legislation to authorize a long-term contract for hydropower generated at Hoover Dam for the benefit of Arizona, Southern California, and Nevada water users who rely on that source of power to minimize costs to consumers of local public utilities.

Delta Policy Implementation

- Encourage coordination between federal and state agencies and support federal funding to advance the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan as well as near- and long-term actions to address water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration in the Delta.

Global Climate Change

- Support legislation authorizing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide grant funding to conduct research enabling water agencies to adapt to the ongoing impacts of global climate change.
- Support legislation authorizing EPA's WaterSense program and other federal incentive programs that promote Water Use Efficiency.
- Support legislation authorizing grant funding for energy efficiency, including programs to reduce greenhouse gases and develop alternative renewable resources. Additionally, support legislation that provides renewable credits for hydroelectric power, sustained distribution system reliability and efficiency, and helps contain escalating public power costs.

Colorado River Supply Initiatives

- Continue to support legislation through Congressional authorization and funding vehicles to develop and enhance efforts to help contain the Quagga mussel.
- Support reauthorization of and funding for the Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act for demonstration projects to augment river flows.
- Support initiatives to protect water quality in the Colorado River watershed, including ongoing remediation efforts for uranium and chromium contamination.

Chlorine Gas as a Disinfectant

- Continue to support legislation that accommodates local jurisdiction over the use or on-site storage of chlorine gas as a disinfectant.

Tax Credit Bond Financing

- Continue to support legislation to modify the U.S. Tax Code to facilitate the use of tax credit bond financing by water agencies to plan and build new local water supplies that meet the environmental criteria of the Title XVI-like water efficiency programs.

Appropriations Priorities include:

- Delta CALFED Levee Stability Program (Corps of Engineers)
- Environmental planning and other efforts related to an alternative Delta conveyance system (Bureau of Reclamation, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Expedite and enhance operation of the Desalination Plant in Yuma, Arizona (Bureau of Reclamation)
- Metropolitan Water District Area Regional Water Conservation Plan (Bureau of Reclamation)
- Additional funding for the Title XVI Program (Bureau of Reclamation).

State Legislative Priorities*Delta Legislation*

- Continue to monitor and support the implementation of the Delta Water Policy package to help ensure critical milestones are met in a timely manner, including the development of the Delta Plan as outlined in SBX7-1. Consider clarifying legislation as necessary.
- Encourage coordination between state and federal agencies and support state funding to advance the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan and near-term actions to address the coequal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration in the Delta.
- Continue to support interim measures and strategies that advance the coequal goals of the Delta Plan, including addressing various “stressors” in the Delta environment and advancing restoration projects that promote broad public benefits such as carbon sequestration.

In addition to the proposed legislative priorities for 2010, staff will continue to be engaged in and pursue state and federal legislation consistent with board-approved policies and positions. Any proposed new legislation that is not consistent with board-adopted policy will be presented to the Board for consideration.

Policy

Supports Metropolitan’s mission and overall conservation and sustainability objectives

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves continuing administrative activities, such as general policy and procedure making (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action is not subject to CEQA pursuant to Sections 15378(b)(2) and 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and approve the 2010 Legislative Priorities.

Fiscal Impact: None


Option #2

Take no action

Fiscal Impact: None

Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Linda Waade
Deputy General Manager, External Affairs

11/19/2009
Date



Jeffrey Nighlinger
General Manager

11/19/2009
Date