

## **2015 Legislative Policy Guidelines**

### **Purpose**

The San Diego County Water Authority's legislative policy guidelines reflect policy positions adopted by the Board of Directors in 2014. The guidelines provide direction to staff and the legislative advocates when they evaluate proposed legislation that may affect the Water Authority, its member agencies, or regional water management and use. Legislation that meets, or fails to meet, the principles set forth in the guidelines may be supported or opposed accordingly. The guidelines permit staff and the Water Authority's legislative advocates to act in a timely fashion between Board meetings on issues that are clearly within the guidelines. Such actions are then reported to the Board during the next regular monthly Board meeting.

Legislation that does not meet the principles set forth in the guidelines or that has potentially complicated or varied implications will not be acted upon by staff or the legislative advocates in between Board meetings and will instead be presented to the Board directly for guidance in advance of any position being taken. Additionally, ideas for new legislation are presented to the Board for action when the Water Authority is seeking sponsorship of a bill.

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## **Bill Positions Considered by the Water Authority Board of Directors**

The following represent active bill positions that may be recommended by the Water Authority staff for consideration by the Water Authority's Board of Directors in providing guidance to the Water Authority staff and legislative advocates. Once adopted by the Board of Directors, the bill position will be communicated with the author of the legislation and may be communicated with other legislators, legislative staff, the Administration, member agencies, and the public. Advocacy strategies and activities will be directed toward implementation of the Board's policies through advancement of the Water Authority adopted bill position.

- **SUPPORT:** This position reflects the Water Authority's unconditional interests to see the legislation become law. Water Authority staff and legislative advocates will work for passage of the bill in its present form.
- **SUPPORT AND SEEK AMENDMENTS:** This position reflects the similar level of unconditional support for a bill as the SUPPORT position. However, this position connotes that the Water Authority would prefer specific amendments to be considered that would improve the measure. Water Authority staff and legislative advocates will communicate and advocate in support of the legislation even if amendments proffered by the Water Authority are not included in the measure.
- **SUPPORT IF AMENDED:** This is an affirmative position that connotes conditional support for a measure, but only if it is amended to incorporate specific amendments approved by the Water Authority Board. Water Authority staff and legislative advocates will not advocate in support of the legislation unless it is amended as requested by the Water Authority.
- **OPPOSE:** This position reflects the Water Authority's unconditional interests to defeat the legislation. Water Authority staff and legislative advocates will work for defeat of the measure in its present form, and will not pursue amendments to address the measure's shortcomings.
- **OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED:** This is a position that connotes conditional opposition to a measure, unless it is amended to incorporate specific amendments approved by the Water Authority Board. Water Authority staff and legislative advocates will actively work to defeat the legislation until and unless it is amended as requested by the Water Authority. If legislation is amended as requested by the Water Authority, the Water Authority staff and legislative advocates will cease working to defeat the legislation, but will not advocate in support of the measure unless further directed by the Water Authority Board.

All other bills that are of potential interest or concern to the Water Authority are monitored by the staff and legislative advocates, as reflected on the monthly bill matrix provided to the Board. If any of those measures are amended, they are reevaluated to determine if a formal position should be recommended for Board consideration.

## Imported Water Supply

The Water Authority relies on imported water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and from the Colorado River for a significant portion of its water supply. This section details the Water Authority's policies toward legislation that affects the imported water supply. Policies specifically relating to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are listed in the next section entitled "Bay-Delta."

The Water Authority supports funding and other incentives for ecosystem restoration and other improvements to the Colorado River that improve water supply and water supply reliability. The Water Authority also supports a robust and effective means of transferring water from one part of the state to another as needed, either year-by-year or longer term.

The Water Authority supports legislation that requires MWD to treat its member agencies equitably in proportion to their financial contributions. The Water Authority supports the repeal of preferential rights at MWD, and supports legislation requiring MWD to enter into contractual financial agreements with its member agencies, before it embarks on major capital investments, under which the member agencies would pay an equitable portion of MWD's fixed costs of capital development and operations regardless of the amount of water the member agencies purchase in any particular year.

The Water Authority opposes broad-based user fees and so-called "public goods charges" that are not tied to specific projects with identified costs that provide specific benefits. The Water Authority also opposes legislation that would transfer control of the State Water Project from the state to MWD, the State Water Contractors, the Central Valley Project Contractors, the State and Federal Water Contractors Authority, or to any entity comprised of MWD and other water contractors.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Provides for development of a comprehensive state water plan that balances California's competing water needs and results in a reliable and affordable supply of high-quality water for the San Diego region.
2. Supports implementation and funding of the California Colorado River Water Use Plan, including the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program.
3. Provides funding for Colorado River salinity control projects and other water quality management efforts.
4. Encourages and facilitates voluntary water transfers consistent with other Water Authority policies and agreements.
5. Provides appropriate protection or mitigation for the environment, groundwater basins, water-rights holders and third-party impacts within the district transferring water.

6. Creates a water transfer clearinghouse that serves as a neutral information resource that focuses on the collection, assembly and dissemination of information on water transfers.
7. Streamlines the permitting and approval process for implementing transfers that will improve water management consistent with other Water Authority policies and agreements.
8. Encourages efficient use of existing facilities to advance voluntary transfers of water consistent with other Water Authority policies and agreements.
9. Provides that any water transfer between users within counties, watersheds or other areas of origin shall be deemed not to operate to the injury of any use of water with a point of diversion that is not located within the same hydrologic area as the transferor of the water.
10. Amends the Metropolitan Water District Act to change voting allocation on its Board of Directors based on a member agency's total financial contribution to MWD, and in a manner similar to the voting allocation method of the County Water Authority Act.
11. Provides an appropriate level of accountability and cost control over MWD spending.
12. Repeals Section 135 (Preferential Rights) of the Metropolitan Water District Act.
13. Requires MWD to refund or credit to its member agencies revenues collected from them that result in reserve balances greater than the maximum reserve levels established pursuant to state legislation.
14. Requires MWD to enter into take-or-pay contracts with its member agencies to assure MWD's long-term financial viability to pay for major capital investments, including the State Water Project, regardless of whether a member agency buys water from MWD in any particular year, before MWD commits to paying for its share of the costs of a Delta conveyance project.
15. Investigates and provides financial support to projects designed to mitigate potential negative impacts of climate change on water supply reliability.
16. Provides for the state to fund and implement Salton Sea mitigation and restoration solutions, consistent with its obligations under Chapters 611, 612, and 613 of the Statutes of 2003.
17. Revises the Quantification Settlement Agreement mitigation measures for the Salton Sea to limit the costs imposed on the funding parties to the amount committed in accordance with the QSA legislation.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Establishes a broad-based user fee that does not support a specific program activity; any fee must provide a clear nexus to the benefit the fee would provide.
2. Makes urban water supplies less reliable or substantially increases the cost of imported water without also improving the reliability and/or quality of the water.
3. Adversely affects water management efforts by granting property rights status for the right to use or receive water and requires compensation for federal actions that impact users of water from federal projects.
4. Revises the Central Valley Project Improvement Act to jeopardize the Act's environmental integrity, compromise State Water Project supply reliability and/or limit the ability of urban agencies to transfer and/or bank CVP water for use both within and outside the CVP service area.
5. Creates a water transfer clearinghouse that is anything other than a neutral information resource.
6. Increases regulatory or procedural impediments to water transfers at the local or state level.
7. Imposes additional mitigation costs or obligations for the Salton Sea on the non-state parties to the Quantification Settlement Agreement.
8. Transfers operational control of the State Water Project or any of its facilities to MWD, the State Water Project contractors, Central Valley Project contractors, the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency, any entity comprised of MWD or other water project contractors, or any other special interest group.

## Bay-Delta

Generally, the Water Authority has supported an implementable and affordable solution to the conflicts between water supply exports and Delta ecosystem protection. These long-standing Delta conflicts have made water supply less reliable. The Water Authority is also interested in ensuring that the solution to Delta conflicts be cost-effective, and that the water contractors who finance the solution be capable of financing and maintaining improvements to the Delta. The Water Authority supports Delta solution costs being shared equitably among beneficiaries of the improvements, and that MWD member agencies be required to make firm commitments to pay their share of MWD's State Water Project contract obligations.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Requires the Delta Stewardship Council or DWR to provide periodic analyses of the cost of proposed Delta improvements to the Legislature and the public.
2. Provides conveyance and storage facilities that are cost-effective for the San Diego region's ratepayers, improve the reliability and quality of the San Diego region's water supplies, and protect the Bay-Delta's ecosystem.
3. Requires water agencies and other entities that contract to pay the costs of improvements in the Delta to obtain take-or-pay contracts with their member agencies to pay the fixed costs of the improvements.
4. Implements a long-term, comprehensive solution for the Bay-Delta that:
  - a) Achieves the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and environmental restoration embodied in the 2009 Delta bill package.
  - b) Provides deliberative processes that are designed to ensure a meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders in order to reduce future conflicts and challenges to implementation of a Bay-Delta solution.
  - c) Provides regulatory certainty and predictable supplies to help meet California's water needs in the long-term.
  - d) Provides a Bay-Delta solution that acknowledges, integrates and supports the development of water resources at the local level including water use efficiency, seawater and brackish water desalination, groundwater storage and conjunctive use, and recycled water including direct and indirect potable reuse.
  - e) Improves the ability of water-users to divert water from the Delta during wet periods, when impacts on fish and ecosystem are lower and water quality is higher.
  - f) Develops a statewide water transfer market that will improve water management.
  - g) Improves coordination of Central Valley Project and State Water Project operations.
  - h) Restores the Bay-Delta ecosystem to a point where species listed under the state and federal Endangered Species Acts are no longer threatened or

endangered, taking into account all factors that have degraded Bay-Delta habitat and wildlife.

- i) Ensures a meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders and that ecosystem restoration issues are addressed in an open and transparent process.
  - j) Provides a Bay-Delta solution and facilities that are cost-effective when compared with other water supply development options for meeting Southern California's water needs.
  - k) Identifies the total cost of any Bay-Delta solution before financing and funding decisions are made, which must include the cost of facilities, mitigation and required or negotiated ecosystem restoration.
  - l) Allocates costs of the Bay-Delta solution to stakeholders in proportion to benefits they receive.
  - m) Requires a firm commitment and funding stream by all parties to pay for the proportional benefits they will receive from a Bay-Delta solution, through take-or-pay contracts or the legal equivalent.
  - n) Conditions financial support on provisions allowing access to any water conveyance or storage facilities that are included in the Bay-Delta solution.
  - o) Uses public funds to support specific projects and actions with identified costs that protect and restore the environment and provide broad-based public benefits.
  - p) Provides "right-sized" facilities to match firm commitments to pay for the Bay-Delta solution.
  - q) Provides SWP contractors and their member agencies access to all SWP facilities to facilitate water transfers.
  - r) Continues state ownership and operation of the SWP as a public resource.
  - s) Improves efficiency and transparency of all SWP operations.
5. Authorizes and appropriates the federal share of funding for the long-term Bay-Delta solution.
  6. Provides the ongoing state share of funding for the long-term Bay-Delta solution.
  7. Provides state funding for aquatic toxicity monitoring in the Bay-Delta. Such legislation should not place a surcharge on water supply exports nor should it substantively reduce funding for other measures that protect the environment and public health.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Imposes water user fees to fund ecosystem restoration and other public purpose, non-water-supply improvements in the Delta that benefit the public at large.
2. Transfers operational control of the SWP or any of its facilities to MWD, the State Water Project Contractors, Central Valley Project Contractors, the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency, any entity comprised of MWD or other water project contractors, or any other special interest group.



## Local Water Resources

In recent years, the Water Authority and its member agencies have made great progress in diversifying and improving the reliability of the region's water supply and developing local water resources to reduce reliance on increasingly unreliable imported water supplies. This section details the Water Authority's policies toward legislation that affects local water resources.

Generally, the Water Authority supports state and federal legislation that provides funding for the development of local water supplies. The Water Authority supports legislation that funds, promotes, or facilitates the development of groundwater, recycling, and seawater desalination facilities. The Water Authority supports legislation that provides local agencies with regulatory flexibility with respect to local water supplies that may raise water quality concerns, such as recycled water, potable reuse, graywater, and storm water runoff.

The Water Authority supports legislation that provides local decision-making authority for potable reuse, stormwater, conservation, recycling, seawater desalination, and other alternative sources of water. The Water Authority has been very active in shaping state laws that promote water conservation, both indoor and landscape.

The Water Authority generally opposes legislation that imposes unreasonable regulations on local water supplies, or that interferes with the authority of local agencies to regulate the discharge of contaminants into local water sources. The Water Authority opposes legislation that restricts the ability of local water agencies to capture and manage stormwater runoff, or diminishes the water rights of downstream water users through the capture or management of stormwater runoff upstream.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Provides funding or other incentives for conservation, peak management programs, water recycling, potable reuse, groundwater recovery and recharge, surface water development and management projects, including reservoir management, source water protection and watershed planning studies and facilities that sustain long-term reliable water resources.
2. Provides funding for seawater and brackish groundwater desalination studies and facilities, including concentrate disposal facilities.
3. Recognizes and supports the development of seawater desalination as a critical new water supply for the state and especially San Diego County.
4. Recognizes and supports the development of potable reuse as a critical new water supply for the State and especially San Diego County.
5. Encourages seawater desalination facilities to co-locate with existing coastal power stations.

6. Preserves and protects potential seawater desalination sites and existing coastal facilities including intake and discharge infrastructure that could be used or reused by a seawater desalination facility.
7. Ensures that desalination intake and discharge regulations are science-based, considering site-specific conditions and recognizing that not all technologies or mitigation strategies are feasible or cost-effective at every site.
8. Authorizes and facilitates expanded use of local water resources including water recycling, potable reuse, graywater, and rainwater harvesting (e.g., cisterns and rain barrels), and brackish groundwater.
9. Facilitates and encourages the use of rainwater-capture systems (e.g. rain barrels and cisterns) and alternative water sources (e.g. air conditioner condensate) for use in irrigation.
10. Authorizes local governmental agencies to regulate the discharge of contaminants to the sewer collection system that may adversely affect water recycling and reuse.
11. Encourages dual plumbing in all new development to enable utilization of recycled water when available.
12. Encourages the use of recycled water in commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential settings.
13. Provides financial incentives to assist in the disposal of concentrate, sludge, and other byproducts created in the water treatment process.
14. Ensures the Water Authority and its member agencies receive the dry-year water supply benefits of its investment in local water supply sources.
15. Provides for the interchangeability of funding for groundwater and surface water enhancements to best fit the hydrogeologic attributes of a particular region.
16. Provides for watershed planning, watershed signage, and actions to protect source water - including reservoirs - such as land acquisition around reservoirs, limited land use, and increased buffer areas.
17. Promotes uniform regulatory interpretation of state recycled water system standards.
18. Supports beneficial revisions to Appendix J of the California Plumbing Code that address recycled water systems.
19. Authorizes, promotes, and provides incentives for potable reuse projects.
20. Streamlines regulatory processes and requirements to encourage and support

the development of potable reuse as a municipal water supply.

21. Treats purified recycled water as a source of water supply, and not as a waste.
22. Provides funding for potable reuse demonstration projects and studies.
23. Ensures that decision-making with regard to stormwater management and recapture is kept at the local or regional level through local water agencies, stormwater districts, cities, counties, and regional water management groups.
24. Recognizes that stormwater management and recapture are important tools in a diversified water portfolio that can help to achieve improved water quality in local surface and groundwater supplies, augment surface and groundwater supplies for local water agencies, and promote landscape conservation from a water runoff perspective.
25. Promotes and encourages the use of stormwater management to reduce pollutant loading, increase local municipal water supplies, and improve water quality through low-impact development and watershed-based stormwater treatment systems.
26. Provides incentives for the local or regional use of stormwater management, nutrient management, and recapture.
27. Reduces or removes regulatory hurdles that hinder the use of stormwater management and recapture.
28. Encourages land use practices that promote efficient landscape design, groundwater recharge, and reduce runoff of pollutants into local water supplies.
29. Preserves the local water agency's ability to establish local priorities for water resources planning decisions.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Limits the ability of local governmental agencies to regulate the discharge of contaminants to the sewer collection system that may adversely affect water recycling and reuse.
2. Establishes unreasonable regulatory requirements or fees relative to the safe use of recycled water.
3. Contributes to the degradation of source water quality around reservoirs and groundwater basins.
4. Restricts the ability of the Water Authority or its member agencies to manage, store, or distribute water supplies through actions to manage or recapture stormwater.

5. Diminishes the water rights or legal historical uses of downstream water users through actions to manage or recapture stormwater.
6. Limits the local water agency's ability to establish local priorities for water resources planning decisions.

## **Water Facilities/Facility Improvement**

The construction, maintenance, and operation of water facilities is an essential activity of the Water Authority. This section details the Water Authority's policies toward legislation that affects water facilities and facility improvement.

Generally, the Water Authority supports legislation that provides state and federal funding for water storage, watershed protection, treatment and delivery facilities, groundwater recharge, canal lining, and other water infrastructure development, security, maintenance, and rehabilitation. The Water Authority also supports legislation that prevents the spread of dreissenid mussels and other non-native aquatic species. The Water Authority supports the protection of habitats and cultural resources connected with water facilities or water facility improvements.

The Water Authority generally opposes legislation that restricts local control and discretion over water facilities and facility operations. The Water Authority also generally opposes legislation that shifts the risks of legal liability from contractors to public agencies. The Water Authority opposes legislation that restricts the Water Authority from using its own employees on construction projects, and legislation that interferes with public agencies' ability to respond to emergencies that would disrupt water service.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Funds or otherwise facilitates construction and/or maintenance of public water storage, watershed areas, and treatment and delivery facilities and facilitates maintenance and/or enhancement of groundwater recharge spreading areas and groundwater basin rehabilitation that benefit San Diego County.
2. Funds or otherwise facilitates the operation and maintenance of canal lining projects that enhance water supplies.
3. Provides funding for water infrastructure development, infrastructure security, and infrastructure rehabilitation and replacement projects that benefit San Diego County.
4. Funds enhancements to water treatment, recycling, and potable reuse facilities to meet increased regulations.
5. Funds improvements to water treatment facilities that allow greater use of State Water Project water.
6. Provides funding for the preservation of cultural resources affected by construction or operation of water conveyance and storage facilities.
7. Provides funding for habitat preservation programs that address impacts resulting from construction or operation of water system facilities.
8. Recognizes water agencies as emergency responders in the event of a sudden,

unexpected occurrence that poses a clear and imminent danger, requiring immediate action to prevent and mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property or essential public services due to natural disasters (e.g., wildfires, earthquakes), power outages as well as terrorist and other criminal activities.

9. Provides funding for projects that enhance security against terrorist acts or other criminal threats to water operations, facilities, or supplies.
10. Provides funding for the control, prevention, or eradication of non-indigenous aquatic species, including dreissenid mussels.
11. Authorizes state and federal wildlife agencies to provide assistance to local water agencies in the control, prevention, and eradication of non-indigenous aquatic species, including dreissenid mussels.
12. Exempts owners and operators of water supply facilities from criminal and civil liabilities associated with dreissenid mussel infestations if due diligence requirements are being met.
13. Provides incentives that encourage the optimization, expansion, and cooperative use of existing surface reservoirs.
14. Provides funding for projects that improve the security of the facilities and operations of the Water Authority and its member agencies.
15. Provides funding to water agencies for the voluntary retrofit of facilities for on-site generation of chlorine.
16. Requires mandatory inspections of boats for evidence of potential dreissenid mussel infestation before allowing boat launching in reservoirs.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Imposes or mandates recreational activities on drinking water reservoirs and reservoir property where such activities have been determined to be inappropriate by the reservoirs' owners and operators.
2. Impairs the Water Authority's and/or its member agencies' ability to provide and operate the necessary facilities for a safe, reliable, and operationally flexible water system.
3. Limits the Water Authority's and/or its member agencies' sole jurisdiction over the planning, design, routing, approval, construction, operation, or maintenance of water facilities.
4. Shifts the risks of indemnity for damages and defense of claims from contractors to the Water Authority and/or its member agencies.

5. Impairs the Water Authority's and/or its member agencies' ability to execute construction projects using its own employees.
6. Restricts the Water Authority's and/or its member agencies' ability to respond swiftly and decisively to an emergency that threatens to disrupt water deliveries or restricts the draining of pipelines or other facilities in emergencies or for repairs or preventive maintenance.
7. Authorizes state and federal wildlife agencies to control, prevent, or eradicate invasive species in a way that excessively interferes with the operations or water supplies of local water agencies.

## Water Use Efficiency

The Water Authority has been a statewide leader in sponsoring legislation to improve water use efficiency. The Water Authority championed statewide requirements for ultra-low-flow toilets, high-efficiency clothes washers, water meters, and sponsored legislation that created a statewide task force on outdoor landscape water use efficiency. The Water Authority urged the San Diego delegation to the state Legislature to vote for SBX7-7, which established a statewide goal of a 20 percent reduction in per capita water use by 2020. In 2014, the Water Authority sponsored AB 2067 – which was signed into law – that simplifies the Urban Water Management Planning Act’s reporting requirements for demand management measures.

The Water Authority generally supports water saving measures, such as graywater use, rainwater capture, submetering, plumbing retrofits, and others. The Water Authority has supported implementation and coordination of Best Management Practices as defined by the California Urban Water Conservation Council and Demand Management Measures under the Urban Water Management Planning Act.

The Water Authority generally opposes statewide requirements for conservation-based water rates that override the rate-setting authority of local agencies. The Water Authority also opposes the promulgation of conservation practices or standards that override the authority of local agencies.

It shall be the Water Authority’s policy to support legislation that:

1. Furthers the statewide goal of a 20 percent reduction in per capita water use by 2020 as set forth in SBX7-7, enacted in November 2009.
2. Promotes statewide implementation of foundational Best Management Practices (BMPs) as defined by the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) and Demand Management Measures (DMMs) as defined in the Urban Water Management Planning Act.
3. Provides loans and grants to fund incentives for water efficient devices, practices, and demonstration projects and studies.
4. Ensures accurate and meaningful reporting of implementation of water conservation measures.
5. Encourages implementation of effective water management practices for urban landscape and agricultural irrigation.
6. Designates the CUWCC or other entity representing stakeholder interests as being responsible for developing a framework for determining water agency compliance with water conservation BMPs. This framework should promote water agency incentives for BMP compliance and avoid prescriptive regulations.
7. Encourages the use of graywater where it complies with local guidelines and



regulations and is cost-effective.

8. Establishes standards for the utilization of high-efficiency commercial coin-operated and residential clothes washers.
9. Requires submetering connections to be built in new construction of multiple unit commercial or residential buildings.
10. Encourages plumbing fixture retrofit upon real property resale.
11. Encourages stakeholders to investigate and develop statewide landscape water conservation standards and regulations.
12. Supports recommendations of the AB 2717 Landscape Taskforce.
13. Restricts Property Owner Associations from forbidding the use of California native plants, other low water use plants, or artificial turf in well-maintained landscapes.
14. Restricts Property Owner Associations from forbidding retrofits of multiple unit facilities for the purpose of submetering, if feasible.
15. Ensures plumbing codes and standards that facilitate the installation and/or retrofit of water efficient devices.
16. Provides incentives, funding, and other assistance where needed to facilitate market transformation and gain wider implementation of water-efficient indoor and outdoor technologies and practices.
17. Provides incentives, funding, and assistance to water agencies so that they can comply with AB 1420 (2007) requirements and meet the water demand management measure requirements in the Urban Water Management Planning Act.
18. Encourages reasonable tracking of water use and improved efficiency in the Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) sector.
19. Provides incentives, funding, and other assistance to facilitate water use efficiency partnerships with the energy efficiency sector.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Repeals cost-effective efficiency standards for water-using devices.
2. Prescribes statewide mandatory urban water conservation management practices that override the authority of the boards of directors of local water agencies to adopt management practices that are most appropriate for the specific needs of their water agencies.

3. Prescribes mandatory conservation-based rate structures that override the authority of the boards of directors of local water agencies to set rate structures according to the specific needs of the water agencies.
4. Mandates regulation of the CII Sector in a manner that is discriminatory, or sets unachievable Best Management Practices or compliance targets.
5. Mandates that water agencies include an embedded energy calculation for their water supply sources in the Urban Water Management Plan or any other water resource planning or master planning document.

## **Biological and Habitat Preservation**

The Water Authority generally supports the preservation of biological and habitat values through comprehensive approaches that provide the necessary regulatory certainty for long lead time water supply projects. The Water Authority also believes that water storage and conveyance facilities provide inherent long-term habitat values that should be recognized in the regulatory process.

The Water Authority supports regulatory exemption of emergency activities when the emergency threatens the continued delivery of safe and clean water. The Water Authority also supports efforts to provide state and federal funding for habitat conservation efforts in San Diego County, on the Salton Sea, Colorado River, and at the Bay-Delta.

The Water Authority generally opposes regulations that reduce or limit the use of existing water rights or supplies, restrict the development of future water supplies, or interfere with the operation, maintenance, or repair of existing water conveyance and storage facilities.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Supports development of comprehensive multi-species habitat conservation plans that anticipate and mitigate project development impacts while preserving representative ecosystems, rather than individual species.
2. Exempts operation, maintenance, and repair of water system facilities from endangered species and other habitat conservation regulations because they provide beneficial cyclical habitat values to declining species and foster biological diversity in California.
3. Provides environmental regulatory certainty for implementation of existing and proposed long-term water supply programs.
4. Authorizes federal and state funding to develop and implement regional or subregional conservation programs, including but not limited to property acquisition, revegetation programs, and watershed plans.
5. Incorporates an emergency exemption for "take" of a listed species listed under the state or federal Endangered Species Acts when necessary to mitigate or prevent loss of or damage to life, health, property, or essential public services.
6. Encourages species listings, critical habitat designation, and recovery plans developed pursuant to the state or federal Endangered Species Acts to be consistent with existing interstate compacts, tribal treaties, and other state and federal agreements.
7. Provides state and/or federal funding for the restoration of the Salton Sea.

8. Provides federal and/or state funding to implement actions that address the ecological and water supply management issues of the Lower Colorado River from Lee's Ferry to the southerly international border with Mexico.
9. Provides federal and/or state funding to implement actions that address the ecological and water supply management issues of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.
10. Facilitates implementation of the Conserved Water Transfer Agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District and other Quantification Settlement Agreement programs with impacts or potential impacts to species and habitat along the lower Colorado River and at the Salton Sea.
11. Consolidates wetlands regulations to alleviate multi-agency jurisdiction over the same environmental resource.
12. Designates feral pigs as a noxious invasive animal species in the San Diego region, or authorizes actions, including eradication, to protect the region's waters and natural landscapes from damage by feral pigs.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Provides for after-the-fact reduction in quantity or quality of a public water supply due to new restrictions on the operation or use of water supply facilities unless funding for alternate sources of water is provided.
2. Imposes endangered species or habitat conservation requirements that restrict the operation, maintenance, or repair of public water supply, conveyance, treatment, or storage facilities.
3. Imposes a "utility user fee" or "surcharge" on water for the purposes of financing open space/habitat preservation, restoration, or creation.

## **Fiscal Policy and Water Rates**

The Water Authority generally supports legislation that improves the Water Authority's ability to obtain cost-effective financing for the construction, operation, and maintenance of public facilities. The Water Authority supports legislation that is consistent with the Board's policy principles adopted in 2006, regarding user fees and statewide water infrastructure funds. The Water Authority supports legislation that promotes local control over water rates.

The Water Authority generally opposes unfunded federal or state mandates that are not accompanied by subventions. The Water Authority opposes legislation that reallocates the Water Authority's revenues or reserves to statewide purposes. The Water Authority opposes imposition by the state of a "public goods charge," or excise tax on water for statewide purposes. The Water Authority opposes state-imposed user fees on water imposed by the state unless the fee is restricted to paying for specific projects and programs with identified costs and clearly identified benefits. The Water Authority opposes the imposition of a state water user fee to pay the interest or principal on a statewide water bond. The Water Authority opposes legislation that would interfere with public agencies' ability to set their own rates and manage their own finances.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Requires the federal and state governments to provide subvention to reimburse local governments for all mandated costs or regulatory actions.
2. Provides the Water Authority and its member agencies with additional forms of cost-effective financing for public facilities, including the federal Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).
3. Provides the Water Authority and its member agencies with grant funding for public facilities.
4. Is consistent with the policy principles adopted by the Board of Directors on February 23, 2006, regarding a proposed Water Resources Investment Fund.
5. Maintains the authority of water agencies to establish water rates locally, consistent with cost-of-service requirements of the law.
6. Maximizes the ability of water agencies to design rate structures to meet local water supply goals and that conform to cost-of-service requirements of the law.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Imposes mandated costs or regulatory constraints on local governments without providing subventions to reimburse local governments for such costs.
2. Is inconsistent with the Water Authority's and its member agencies' current investment policies and practices.

3. Makes any unilateral reallocation of Water Authority or its member agencies' revenues by the state unless the state takes compensatory measures to restore those funds.
4. Impairs the Water Authority's or its member agencies' ability to provide reasonable service at reasonable costs to member agencies or to charge all member agencies the same rate for each class of service consistent with cost-of-service requirements of the law.
5. Pre-empts the Water Authority's or its member agencies' ability to impose or change rates, charges, fees, or assessments.
6. Impairs the Water Authority's or its member agencies' ability to maintain reasonable reserve funds and obtain and retain reasonable rates of return on its reserve accounts.
7. Imposes additional administrative requirements and/or restricts the Water Authority's or its member agencies' ability to finance public facilities through the issuance of long-term debt.
8. Reduces the Water Authority's or its member agencies' revenues without giving the Water Authority and its member agencies a commensurate public benefit that is clearly identifiable and separate from a general statewide benefit.
9. Restructures the Water Authority's or its member agencies' responsibilities without also providing the commensurate restructuring of revenues.
10. Requires the expenditure of Water Authority or member agency funds to accomplish federal water supply commitments such as may be required in national treaties.
11. Weakens the protections afforded the Water Authority or its member agencies under California's Proposition 1A (November 2, 2004).
12. Mandates a specific rate structure for retail water agencies.
13. Imposes a water user fee on water agencies or water users that does not provide a commensurate and directly linked benefit in the local area or region from which the water user fee is collected.
14. Imposes a water user fee for statewide projects or programs, for which the projects or programs are not clearly defined, the beneficiaries identified, and the reasonable costs identified.
15. Imposes a water user fee in order to create a state fund that can be used to finance undefined future projects and programs.

16. Allows the state to retain more than five percent of water user fees for administrative costs.
17. Does not restrict the use of water user fees to only the specific purposes for which they are imposed, without any possibility of diversion to meet other fiscal needs of the state.
18. Imposes a “public goods charge” on public water agencies or their ratepayers.
19. Imposes a fee on water users to repay the principal and interest on a statewide general obligation bond.
20. Interferes with the responsibility of a region, operating under an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, for setting priorities and generating projects to be paid from any IRWM accounts and grants.
21. Interferes with the control exercised by the San Diego funding subregion over the use and expenditure of any water user fee revenues that may be dedicated to the region.
22. Reduces or eliminates the tax-exempt status on municipal financings.

## **Right of Way and Property**

The Water Authority generally supports legislation that improves its ability to maintain and protect its property, rights of way, easements, pipelines, and other facilities. The Water Authority generally opposes legislation that interferes with or increases the cost of obtaining, maintaining, and protecting property and rights of way.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Improves the Water Authority's and its member agencies' efforts to maintain and protect its property, rights of way, easements, pipelines, and related facilities and minimizes liability to the Water Authority.
2. Protects the Water Authority's and its member agencies' properties from restrictions when surrounding properties are incorporated into preservation areas.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Impairs the Water Authority's or its member agencies' efforts to acquire property or property interests required for essential capital improvement projects.
2. Increases the cost of property and right of way acquisition.
3. Restricts the Water Authority's or its member agencies' use of public rights of way or increases the cost of using public rights of way.
4. Restricts the transfer of property acquired for purposes of environmental mitigation or environmental mitigation credits to other public or private entities for long-term management.



## Energy

Electricity for moving water is a major cost to the Water Authority. Generally, the Water Authority supports legislation that helps to lower the cost of electricity. The Water Authority has some capacity to generate electricity, so it supports legislation that helps it to utilize or market the electricity it produces. The Water Authority also supports actions related to energy creation that will reduce the overall cost of water. The Water Authority's goal is to ensure that existing and planned facilities are built and operated in a manner that is environmentally sensitive, reliable, and energy efficient. This section outlines the Water Authority's policies toward legislation that affects renewable energy, energy consumption, and efficiency and conservation related to existing or planned facilities.

The Water Authority generally supports legislation that will facilitate the development of renewable and alternative energy sources. The Water Authority also supports legislation that will provide funding for projects to increase energy efficiency, reliability, and reduce peak demands.

The Water Authority generally opposes legislation that would increase the cost of its power supply. The Water Authority also opposes legislation that would interfere with its ability to produce electricity, or to buy or sell electrical power or natural gas.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Provides opportunities for reduced energy rates under tariff schedules for the Water Authority and its member agencies.
2. Provides greater flexibility in the utilization of Water Authority and its member agencies' facilities for generation and acquisition of electrical power.
3. Provides the Water Authority and its member agencies with greater flexibility in the permitting, construction, and operation of its existing and potential in-line hydroelectric and off-stream pumped-storage projects.
4. Provides protection to water agencies in San Diego County from energy rate increases and provides rate relief for member agencies.
5. Makes SWP power available for all water projects.
6. Promotes the classification of electricity generated by in-line hydroelectric and off-stream pumped storage facilities as a clean, environmentally sound, and renewable energy resource.
7. Provides funding, including state and federal grants, for in-line hydro-electric, solar, wind, biogas cogeneration, and off-stream pumped storage facilities as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

8. Promotes the expansion of pumped storage facilities to provide a clean and environmentally sound energy resource.
9. Promotes the expansion of in-line hydroelectric energy recovery systems at treatment facility discharge systems.
10. Promotes funding for use of renewable energy in the operation of water agency facilities in San Diego County.
11. Prohibits investor-owned utilities from implementing rate changes that undercut the financial viability of renewable energy facilities obligated under long-term Power Purchase Agreements.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Adversely affects the cost of energy needed to operate MWD's facilities, State Water Project facilities, or the facilities of the Water Authority and its member agencies.
2. Adversely affects the ability of the Water Authority or its member agencies to own, operate, and/or construct work for supplying its member public agencies, or its own facilities with natural gas and electricity.
3. Impedes the Water Authority's or its members agencies' ability to contract for the purchase of gas and electricity from the United States, the State of California, and any other public agency or private entity and sell the gas and electricity to any public agency or private entity engaged in retail sales of electricity and gas.
4. Reduces the Water Authority or its member agencies' ability to maintain high operational efficiency at all times.
5. Restricts the Water Authority or its member agencies' ability to expand or improve infrastructure or facilities.
6. Restricts or caps future energy demands needed for possible expansion of recycled water, potable reuse, and desalination projects.
7. Adversely affects the Water Authority or its member agencies' ability to expand cogeneration or polygeneration at planned or existing facilities.
8. Inhibits the scientific advancement of energy and water efficient/conserving technologies that may be implemented at Water Authority and member agency facilities.
9. Prevents the Water Authority and its member agencies from enhancing energy reliability and independence for their facilities.

10. Imposes greenhouse gas reduction obligations on a public water agency for electricity purchased or produced for the sole purpose of operating its system.
11. Does not count or credit qualified renewable energy projects toward accomplishment and satisfaction of the California Renewables Portfolio Standard objectives.

## **Local Autonomy**

The Water Authority generally opposes legislation that interferes with the Water Authority's Board of Directors' ability to govern the Water Authority's affairs or govern relations with its employees.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Diminishes the power of the Water Authority Board of Directors to govern the Water Authority's affairs.
2. Modifies the committee or board voting structure or member agency board representation unless such changes have been expressly authorized by the Water Authority Board of Directors.
3. Diminishes the power or rights of the Water Authority to govern relations with its employees.

## **Land Use and Water Management Planning**

The Water Authority generally supports legislation that coordinates land use planning with water management planning. The Water Authority also supports legislation that protects flood plains and water recharge basins.

The Water Authority generally opposes legislation that interferes with the Water Authority's ability to forecast demand and plan for water management.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Promotes enhanced coordination and linkage of general plans and water management plans.
2. Recognizes regional efforts to coordinate land use planning and water management planning in a manner consistent with the goals and objectives established by regional growth management strategies, affordable housing mandates, and local general plans.
3. Discourages piecemeal or uncoordinated land use and water management planning.
4. Requires that projected population and other demographic factors utilized in forecasting future water demands in accordance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act and SB 610 and SB 221, be consistent with the regional growth management plans and general plans applicable to the territory within the service area of the supplier.
5. Allows and funds land exchanges between local public agencies and federal or state agencies when mutually beneficial to all agencies and enhances water resources for the region.
6. Designates public lands that are tributary to drinking source water reservoirs as wilderness, habitat preserve, open space, or other protected status, provided such designation does not impede current or reasonable future use of those water resources.
7. Provides funding for, or otherwise facilitates, development of groundwater management plans pursuant to AB 3030.
8. Protects floodplains and lands over prime groundwater recharge zones for stormwater catchment and bioremediation.
9. Considers the multiple local variables and priorities that are associated with water supply planning and selection of water resources for implementation.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Restricts or limits the effectiveness of the Water Authority or its member

agencies in its continuing efforts to meet its obligations under the Regional Comprehensive Plan and develop demand forecasts based on SANDAG regional growth forecasts and general plan use information.

2. Restricts the Water Authority's or its member agencies' ability to utilize a demand forecasting methodology that is best suited for the region.
3. Imposes land use designations that preclude the use of such lands for public water infrastructure determined necessary to ensure a cost-effective, safe, and reliable water supply.
4. Requires the use of specific evaluation criteria in water supply planning and selection of potential water supply projects that fails to take into account or conflicts with existing local and regional planning policies and implementation priorities.
5. Imposes mandates requiring specific water resources be developed by water agencies that fail to take into account local factors, such as water reliability, hydrologic and geographic characteristics, and the economic, political, public acceptance, and social environment, which can influence selection of resources and/or fails to take into account or conflicts with existing local and regional planning policies and implementation priorities.

## **Integrated Regional Water Management Planning**

The Water Authority, along with the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego, developed the San Diego Integrated Water Management Plan. The Water Authority generally supports legislation that provides equitable funding for IRWM plans, based on population, and that allows the regions to set their own priorities for funding. The Water Authority also supports legislation that allows for binational funding for projects along the border.

The Water Authority generally opposes legislation that establishes state criteria and mandate for IRWM plans. The Water Authority also opposes legislation that excludes or reduces participation by water agencies in local IRWM plans.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Defines the "San Diego sub-region" and "San Diego county watersheds" as "those portions of the westward-flowing watersheds of the South Coast hydrologic region situated within the boundaries of San Diego County."
2. Requires the state agencies responsible for preparing the integrated regional water management grant program guidelines to conduct a comprehensive public outreach process that ensures stakeholders have an opportunity to provide adequate input on preparation of the guidelines and that the state agencies consider and respond to comments received through the outreach process.
3. Provides for population-based distribution of funds to ensure adequate distribution of grant funding throughout the state.
4. Allows for creation of sub-area plans that enhance, but do not duplicate or replace, a larger recognized integrated regional water management plan.
5. Requires the state to rely on the local process for selection and ranking of projects included in an approved integrated regional water management plan.
6. Establishes a task force to provide recommendations to the state on improving the integrated regional water management planning process in California.
7. Provides for the use of state grant funds for binational projects where the projects benefit water supply or water quality in the San Diego region.
8. Improves and streamlines the state's reimbursement process to ensure timely remittance of IRWM funds.
9. Promotes the ability of the Regional Water Management Group to more directly administer state grant funds specifically identified for IRWM Programs.
10. Ensures discretion for Regional Water Management Groups to determine the

composition and structure of their organization, rather than through the imposition of a “one size fits all” mandated structure applied statewide.

It shall be the Water Authority’s policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Mandates a specific composition and management structure of the regional water management group that oversees integrated regional water management planning efforts within a region.
2. Precludes water wholesalers from serving on a regional water management group.
3. Dilutes public water agency participation on the regional water management group.
4. Establishes funding criteria that limits local discretion in project selection.



## **Jurisdictional Authority**

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to refer all such legislation to the Board of Directors.

## **Binational Issues**

The Water Authority generally supports legislation that funds and encourages cooperative projects that serve the San Diego/Baja California area. The Water Authority opposes legislation that takes away local control over binational water supply and infrastructure projects.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Provides funding for development of Board-approved water supply and infrastructure projects to serve the San Diego/Baja California region while protecting local interests.
2. Encourages enhanced cooperation between entities in San Diego and Baja California in development of supply and infrastructure projects that will benefit the entire border region.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Would usurp local control over the financing and construction of water supply and infrastructure projects in the San Diego/Baja California region.

## Water Quality Issues

Water quality is a major concern of the Water Authority. The Water Authority generally supports legislation that assists in providing high-quality water to the San Diego region through cleanup and remediation of contaminants and protection of water sources.

The Water Authority generally opposes legislation that regulates the conveyance, storage, and distribution of water supplies under the Clean Water Act.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Assists in achieving a year-round blend of imported water supplies that achieve Board-adopted water quality objectives from MWD that allows the region to maximize development of recycled water and reduce financial costs to the customer due to high levels of total dissolved solids in imported water supplies.
2. Assures cost-effective remediation and cleanup of contaminants of concern that have impacted groundwater and surface water.
3. Provides the necessary funding for research on the occurrence, treatment, health effects, and environmental clean-up related to contamination of drinking water sources.
4. Incorporates sound scientific principles in adopting drinking water standards for drinking water contaminants.
5. Provides for the protection of source water such as reservoirs and groundwater basins so that the waters can be beneficially used for consumptive purposes.
6. Implements and funds the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's triennial review of water quality standards.
7. Exempts the conveyance, storage, or release of water supplies from regulation as a discharge under the Clean Water Act and other water quality control laws.
8. Appropriately protects drinking source water reservoirs as special-purpose, man-made water bodies different in character than natural waterways, rivers, lakes, and coastal waters, while allowing maximum flexibility for operations as part of a managed water supply system.
9. Exempts terminal reservoirs with no significant nexus to the watershed from regulation under the federal Clean Water Act.
10. Revises NPDES standards and procedures to facilitate inland discharge of recycled water.
11. Establishes appropriate quality standards, testing procedures, and treatment processes for emerging contaminants.

12. Directs the state's participation or assistance in water quality issues related to or threatening the Colorado River water source.
13. Provides funding and support for Colorado River salinity control projects and other water quality management efforts.
14. Alters the definition of "lead free" to reduce the permissible amount of lead in fixtures, plumbing, and pipe fittings to be installed for the delivery of drinking water.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Regulates the conveyance, storage, or release of water supplies as a discharge under the Clean Water Act and other water quality control laws.

## California State Reorganization

In recent years, there has been considerable discussion of reorganizing the state government. One proposal that keeps recurring is the elimination of the Colorado River Board. The board is funded entirely by the California public agencies that take water from the river, and it is important because it serves as a liaison to other states and the federal government. The Water Authority generally supports legislation that preserves the Colorado River Board.

The Water Authority also supports legislation that makes the Regional Water Quality Control Boards more consistent in their application of state water quality laws. The Water Authority also supports legislation that allows non-state water contractors to access the SWP system to convey transferred water.

The Water Authority generally opposes legislation that would eliminate the Colorado River Board or the regional water quality control boards without creating other bodies that carry out their functions.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Preserves the California Colorado River Board.
2. Ensures the interests of the members of the California Colorado River Board continue to be addressed in any state government reorganization.
3. Ensures consistent application of the law by the State Water Resources Control Board and the nine Regional Water Quality Control boards.
4. Provides for continued certification by the state of urban water agency conservation efforts and achievements as reported to the CUWCC by signatories to the CUWCC Memorandum of Understanding.
5. Ensures that any reorganization of the State Water Project, including operations and management, preserves the ability for non-State Water Project contractors to access the facility for transportation of water to a non-State Water Project contractor.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Eliminates the California Colorado River Board without providing a comparable structure or forum that ensures the Water Authority's interests in the Colorado River are preserved.
2. Eliminates the State Water Resources Control Board and/or the nine Regional Water Quality Control boards without ensuring that the functions and expertise of the boards is maintained in any reorganized entity.

## **Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors**

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Returns the Metropolitan Water District to its membership structure prior to the enactment of SB 1885 (Ayala) in 1998.

## Climate Change

The potential effects of climate change are an important concern in water management planning. The Water Authority generally supports legislation that incorporates considerations of climate change into water management planning, as long as the climate change information is developed and provided by the state. The Water Authority also supports legislation that allows water agencies to partner with energy providers to improve energy efficiency in the conveyance and use of water. The Water Authority supports legislation that encourages innovation in developing responses to climate change, with maximum control at the local level.

The Water Authority generally opposes legislation that does not allow local control over responses to climate change. The Water Authority also opposes legislation that prohibits water agencies from entering into the carbon credits market.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support legislation that:

1. Incorporates state provided climate change information into statewide, regional, and local water management planning, and provides funding for projects that assist in adapting to effects of climate change on the state's water supply.
2. Provides financial support to local projects designed to mitigate or adapt to potential negative impacts of climate change on water supply reliability.
3. Encourages water agencies to partner with energy providers to help fund water conservation and other programs that result in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and/or provides opportunities and incentives for voluntary implementation of local water and renewable energy projects that directly or indirectly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Promotes public-private partnerships, encourages innovation, and focuses on quantifiable performance goals as opposed to top-down, "one size fits all" mandates.
5. Promotes continued development and deployment of more sophisticated and integrated hydrological, water quality, and meteorological water monitoring for the purpose of assessing water supply conditions resulting from climate change.
6. Promotes the coordination and integration of local, state and federal climate change policies and practices to the greatest extent feasible.
7. Provides incentives, funding, and assistance to water agencies so that they can comply with AB 32 (2006) requirements.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose legislation that:

1. Requires incorporation of climate change considerations into statewide, regional, and local water management planning unless climate change information is

provided by the state.

2. Imposes top-down, “one size fits all” climate change mandates that fail to account for hydrological, meteorological, economic, and social variation across the state and/or that fail to incorporate local and regional planning and implementation priorities and protocols.
3. Establishes a “loading order” for the development of local water supplies based on embedded energy.
4. Does not allow water agency participation in the carbon credits market.



## Water Bonds

The Water Authority generally supports water bond legislation that provides an equitable share to the San Diego region, focuses on statewide priorities that achieve the coequal goals of improving water supply reliability and restoring ecosystems in the Delta. The Water Authority also supports bond legislation that ensures the grant application is not unduly burdensome and is open and transparent.

However, the Water Authority generally opposes water bond legislation that does not provide equitable funding for the San Diego region. The Water Authority also opposes water bond legislation that does not result in real improvements in water supply and water supply reliability and resolve statewide conflicts over water supply.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to support water bond legislation or an initiative that:

1. Provides an equitable share of funding to San Diego County, with major funding categories being divided by county and funded on a per-capita basis to ensure bond proceeds are distributed throughout the state in proportion to taxpayers' payments on the bonds.
2. Focuses on statewide priorities, including restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, construction of an improved method of conveyance of water through or around the Delta that provides water supply reliability to Delta water users, promotion of greater regional and local self-sufficiency, surface storage, and promotion of water use efficiency.
3. Provides the states' share of funding for projects that advance the achievement of the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration.
4. Provides funding for water infrastructure that resolves conflicts in the state's water system and provides long-term benefits to water supply, water supply reliability, water quality, and ecosystem restoration.
5. Defines the "San Diego sub-region" and "San Diego county watersheds" as "those portions of the westward-flowing watershed of the South Coast hydrologic region situated within the boundaries of San Diego County."
6. Includes within IRWM funding money that a region may use over time to develop and refine its plan and to develop institutional structures necessary to establish and implement the plan.
7. Gives primary consideration to funding priorities established by local and regional entities through their IRWM planning process.
8. Ensures that the application process for funding is not unnecessarily burdensome and costly, with an emphasis on streamlining the process.
9. Limits state overhead to no more than five percent of bond funding amounts.

10. Places as much emphasis and provides at least as much funding for surface storage as for groundwater storage.
11. Funds emergency and carryover storage projects such as the San Vicente dam raise project.
12. Consolidates administration of all voter-approved water-related bond funding in one place, preserves existing expertise within the state bureaucracy to manage bond funding processes, and provides consistent application and evaluation of bond funding applications.

It shall be the Water Authority's policy to oppose water bond legislation or an initiative that:

1. Does not provide an equitable share of funding to San Diego County, based on San Diego County taxpayers' proportional contribution to repayment of the bond.
2. Does not provide funding for infrastructure that resolves statewide or regional conflicts over water supplies.
3. Does not provide funding that results in net increases in real water supply and water supply reliability.
4. Commits a significant portion of its funding to projects that do not result in net increases in real water supply or water supply reliability.