

Municipal Water District of Orange County **Legislative and Regulatory Policy Principles**

IMPORTED WATER SUPPLY

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation and regulation that:

- 1) Ensures the implementation of a state water plan that balances California's competing water needs and results in a reliable supply of high- quality water for Orange County.
- 2) Facilitates the implementation of the California WaterFix and EcoRestore, the co- equal goals of reliable water supply and ecosystem restoration, and related policies that provide long term, comprehensive solutions for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta that:
 - a) Provides reliable water supplies to meet California's short- and long- term needs;
 - b) Improves the ability to transport water across the Delta either for, or in supplement to, State Water Project deliveries;
 - c) Improves the quality of water delivered from the Delta;
 - d) Enhances the Bay-Delta's ecological health in a balanced manner that takes into account all factors that have contributed to its degradation;
 - e) Employs sound scientific research and evaluation to advance the co-equal goals of improved water supply and ecosystem sustainability.
- 3) Funds a comprehensive Bay-Delta solution in a manner that equitably apportions costs to all beneficiaries.
- 4) Seeks to expedite the California WaterFix and EcoRestore to improve water reliability and security.
- 5) Provides funding for Colorado River water quality and supply management efforts.
- 6) Provides conveyance and storage facilities that are cost-effective for MWDOC and its member agencies, while improving the reliability and quality of the water supply.
- 7) Authorizes and appropriates the federal share of funding for the California WaterFix and EcoRestore.
- 8) Authorizes and appropriates the ongoing state share of funding for the California WaterFix and EcoRestore.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Would make urban water supplies less reliable, or would substantially increase the cost of imported water without also improving the reliability and/ or quality of such water.
- 2) Imposes water user fees to fund non-water supply improvements in the Delta region or user fees that are not proportional to the benefits received from a Delta region water supply improvement.
- 3) Delays implementation of the California WaterFix.
- 4) Would impose conservation mandates that do not account for the unique local water-supply circumstances of each water district.

LOCAL WATER RESOURCES

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation and regulation that:

- 1) Supports the development of, provides funding for, and authorizes and/or facilitates the expanded use of, water recycling, potable reuse, conservation, groundwater recovery and recharge, storage, brackish and ocean water desalination and surface water development projects where the beneficiaries of the project pay for the portions of the project not funded by state or federal funds.
- 2) Recognizes that recycled water is a valuable resource that should be evaluated for economic justification, permitted and managed as such.
- 3) Reduces and/or streamlines regulatory burdens on water recycling projects and brackish and ocean water desalination projects, and provides protections for the use of these supplies during water supply shortages by exempting them from state mandated reductions.
- 4) Supports ecosystem restoration, increased stormwater capture and sediment management activities that are cost-effective and enhance the quality or reliability of water supplies important to Orange County.
- 5) Authorizes, promotes, and/or provides incentives for indirect and direct potable reuse projects and provides protections for the use of local supply projects during water shortages by exempting them from state mandated reductions.
- 6) Recognizes that the reliability of supplies to the end user is the primary goal of water suppliers.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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, and augment surface and groundwater supplies for local water agencies.

- 9) Reduces or removes regulatory hurdles that hinder the use of stormwater.
- 10) Provides incentives for the local or regional use of stormwater management and recapture.
- 11) Support changes that allow local water agencies to request and require federal agencies to evaluate the reoperation of reservoirs to provide an enhancement in water supplies.
- 12) Support changes in the Water Reform and Development Act (WRDA) to include environmental infrastructure projects as projects the Army Corps of Engineers must consider in its Report to Congress.
- 13) Allows Investor Owned Utilities to invest in redundancy and reliability projects.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Restricts a local governmental agency's ability to develop their local resources in a manner that is cost-effective, environmentally sensitive, and protective of public health.
- 2) Imposes barriers to the safe application of recycled water and continues to define recycled water as a waste.
- 3) Would make urban water supplies less reliable, or would substantially increase the cost of imported water without also improving the reliability and/ or quality of such water.
- 4) Restricts or limits a local governmental agency's ability to establish local priorities for water resources planning decisions.
- 5) Reduces a local agency's ability to fully benefit from local investments in drought-proof or emergency water supplies during water shortages.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation and regulation that:

- 1) Furthers the statewide goal of a 20% reduction in per capita water use by 2020 as set forth in SBx7-7, enacted in November 2009.
- 2) Would allow flexibility and options for compliance in achieving statewide water reduction goals.
- 3) Seeks to cost-effectively improve water efficiency standards for water-using devices.

- 4) Provides loans and grants to fund incentives for water conserving devices or practices.
- 5) Advances and ensures accurate reporting of the implementation of water efficiency measures of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the California Urban Water Conservation Council's Memorandum of Understanding.
- 6) Reasonably improves landscape water use efficiency and Commercial, Institutional and Industrial (CII) water use efficiency programs while preserving community choice and the local economy.
- 7) Encourages stakeholders to investigate and develop regionally appropriate statewide landscape water conservation standards and regulations that incorporate local land use and climate factors.
- 8) 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.
- 9) Provides incentives, funding, and other assistance where needed to facilitate water use efficiency partnerships with the energy efficiency sector.
- 10) Recognizes past investments in water use efficiency measures, especially from the demand hardening perspective.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulations that:

- 1) Fails to ensure balance in the implementation of water efficiency practices and requirements for both urban and agricultural use.
- 2) Would repeal cost-effective efficiency standards for water-using devices.
- 3) Diminishes local agency control or flexibility in implementing water efficiency practices or standards.
- 4) Places unreasonable conservation measures on commercial, industrial and institutional customers that would negatively impact or limit the potential for economic growth.
- 5) Fails to recognize the importance of both water use efficiency and water supply development.

WATER QUALITY

It is MWDOC's policy to support:

- 1) Legislation that protects the quality of surface water and groundwater including the reduction of salt loading to groundwater basins.
- 2) Funding that helps agencies meet state and federal water quality standards.

3) The establishment and/ or implementation of standards for water-borne contaminants based on sound science and with consideration for cost-effectiveness.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose:

- 1) Legislation that could compromise the quality of surface water and groundwater supplies.
- 2) Legislation that establishes and/ or implements standards for water-borne contaminants without regard for sound science or consideration for cost effectiveness.
- 3) Projects that negatively impact the water quality of existing local supplies.

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation that:

- 1) Compromises the existing governance structure and the representation of member agencies on the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors.
- 2) Would restrict MET's rate-making ability.

WATER TRANSFERS

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation and regulation that:

- 1) Encourages and facilitates voluntary water transfers.
- 2) Provides appropriate protection or mitigation for impacts on the environment, aquifers, water-rights holders and third-parties to the transfer including those with interests in the facilities being used.
- 3) Legislation that encourages transfers which augment existing water supplies, especially in dry years.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Undermines the operations and maintenance of the conveyance system conveying the water.
- 2) Interferes with the financial integrity of a water utility and compromises water quality.
- 3) Increases regulatory or procedural barriers to water transfers at the local or state level.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation and regulation that:

- 1) Employs a "beneficiary pays" principle that establishes a clear nexus between the cost paid to the direct benefit received. Likewise, those who do not benefit from a particular project or program should not be required to pay for them.
- 2) Establishes grants or other funding opportunities for local and regional water infrastructure projects.
- 3) Considers local investments made in infrastructure, programs, mitigation and restoration in determining appropriate cost shares for water infrastructure investments.
- 4) Would reduce the cost of financing water infrastructure planning and construction, such as tax-credit financing, tax-exempt municipal bonds, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (WIFIA), the Environmental Infrastructure Accounts and other funding mechanisms.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Establishes a fee or tax that does not result in a clear benefit to the District, its member agencies, and their customers.
- 2) Would reduce the total available water infrastructure financing measures such as WIFIA, state-revolving funds, and others.

ENERGY

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Facilitates the development and expansion of clean, renewable energy in California, including hydropower.
- 2) Supports water supply reliability as the primary focus of water agencies and energy intensity of water supplies as a secondary factor.
- 3) Recognizes the role and value of the water industry investment in water use efficiency and therefore recognizes WUE efforts towards greenhouse gas reduction, including funding such activities.
- 4) Recognizes hydroelectric power as a clean, renewable energy source and that its generation and use meets the greenhouse gas emission reduction compliance requirements called for in the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32).
- 5) Facilitates voluntary and cost effective local investments in renewable energy, energy management and storage, and energy efficiency which improve the water-energy nexus and reduce local agency costs.

FISCAL POLICY

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation or regulation that:

1) Requires the federal and state governments to provide a subvention to reimburse local governments for all mandated costs or regulatory actions.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Is inconsistent with the District's current investment policies and practices.
- 2) Pre-empts the District's ability to impose or change water rates, fees, or assessments.
- 3) Impairs the District's ability to maintain levels of reserve funds that it deems necessary and appropriate.
- 4) Impairs the District's ability to provide services to its member agencies and ensure full cost recovery.
- 5) Makes any unilateral reallocation of District revenues, or those of its member agencies, by the state unless the state takes compensatory measures to restore those funds.
- 6) Would impose mandated costs or regulatory constraints on the District or its member agencies without reimbursement.
- 7) Mandates a specific rate structure for retail water agencies.
- 8) Imposes a "public goods charge" or "water tax" on public water agencies or their ratepayers.

GOVERNANCE

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation or regulation that:

1) Advances good government practices and public transparency measures in a manner that does not take a "one-size fits all" approach, respects local government control, and facilitates technological efficiencies to meet state reporting and disclosure requirements.

It is MWDOC's policy to oppose legislation or regulation that:

- 1) Advances local government reform measures by imposing unnecessarily broad burdens upon all local governments, particularly when there is no demonstration of rampant and wide-spread violations of the public trust.
- 2) Shifts state programs, responsibilities and costs to local governments without first considering funding to support the shift.

- 3) Seeks to limit or rescind local control.
- 4) Reduces or diminishes the authority of the District to govern its affairs.
- 5) Imposes new costs on the District and the ratepayers absent a clear and necessary benefit.
- 6) Resolves state budget shortfalls through shifts in the allocation of property tax revenue or through fees for which there is no direct nexus to benefits received.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSION REFORM

It is MWDOC's policy to support legislation that:

- 1) Seeks to contain or reform public employee pension and other post-employment benefit (OPEB) cost obligations that are borne by public agencies via taxpayers and ratepayers.