

**LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE POLICY PRINCIPLES
Adopted on February 6, 2024**

Climate Change and Resiliency:

SUPPORT legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities to assist with modification of existing facilities and investment in new infrastructure to ensure that California can meet the challenges resulting from or exacerbated by climate change.

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that advance federal and state policy to provide incentives and financial assistance for local investment in measures to mitigate the potential effects of climate change.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that establish greenhouse gas reduction actions that are not feasible with current technology.

Colorado River:

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that foster cost-effective utilization of Colorado River water with a contingency plan that minimizes the potential for shortages, while recognizing California's senior water rights.

SUPPORT legislation and regulatory measures that would reduce salinity concentrations in a manner that does not limit economic uses of the Colorado River.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that would impose Colorado River usage plans that are inconsistent with the Law of the River.

Conservation:

SUPPORT legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities that provide resources for water conservation, encourage local agencies and private enterprises to implement water conservation projects, and maintain or improve existing plumbing standards that promote greater water-use efficiency.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that require water-use efficiency standards that are not feasible, unattainable, or do not adequately account for the District's prior investments including those for its water recycling programs.

Bay-Delta Sustainability and Conveyance:

SUPPORT legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities for both short- and long-term actions that will contribute to a long-term, sustainable Delta that recognizes the co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.

SUPPORT legislation and regulations for the development of long-term Delta solutions that are cost-effective with fair cost-sharing agreements among all beneficiaries.

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that would improve water management and establish a comprehensive, long-term ecosystem restoration plan in the Bay-Delta to improve water supply reliability and water quality for State Water Project deliveries.

SUPPORT efforts to adequately fund Bay-Delta projects and programs that promote the implementation of an effective governance structure that represents all interests equitably.

SUPPORT water supply and water quality outcomes that are consistent with the Integrated Water Resources Plan of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and its member agencies.

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that facilitate progress on the Delta Conveyance Project and OPPOSE legislation and regulations that delay or frustrate its completion.

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that further the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes, formerly known as the "Voluntary Agreements," as the implementation pathway for updated Bay-Delta Plan.

Water Storage:

SUPPORT legislation and regulations to facilitate the construction of additional water storage to capture water supplies, particularly supplies that would otherwise be lost to the ocean during wet periods, and improve the water supply reliability for the District's customers.

SUPPORT legislation and regulations to advance the construction, operation and maintenance of Sites Reservoir.

Desalination:

SUPPORT legislation, regulations and funding opportunities that facilitate desalination of seawater, brackish and/or recycled water, including research and cost-effective development, financing, construction and operations.

Energy Management:

SUPPORT legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities that provide incentives for implementing renewable energy sources and energy storage to replace fossil fuel consumption in providing products and services for the public.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that inhibit the use of backup emergency diesel generators for critical facilities, including provisions for adequate runtimes for maintenance and testing.

Environmental Policy:

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that serve to achieve and maintain a healthful environment and to enhance the quality of life for Californians, with due recognition for the challenges of providing water services within LVMWD's unique and diverse service area.

SUPPORT legislation, regulations and/or research that would seek to recognize, control or reduce threats posed by invasive species.

SUPPORT legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities that encourage native plantings and financial incentives to develop those landscapes.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations not supported by sound scientific evidence.

Fiscal Policy:

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that provides increased funding for planning, design, and construction of water and reclamation projects; research and development of alternative water sources and water treatment processes; and financial assistance where federal and state law mandates capital projects to meet reasonable, scientifically supported water quality standards.

SUPPORT legislation and regulatory policies that reflect opportunities for cost savings, consistent with the District's stated goals, policies and operating procedures.

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that would renew or create tax incentives to benefit the District and/or its ratepayers.

SUPPORT safe and affordable drinking water for all Californians in a manner that maintains local agencies' discretion to develop and implement the appropriate measures without diverting ratepayer funds from any one ratepayer or jurisdiction to another.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that transfer funding, income or revenues away from the District.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that would reduce or eliminate the benefits of advanced refunding of bonds, affect the tax exemption of bonds, or reduce incentives for banks to invest in tax exempt bonds.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that result in undue burden or create disincentive to issuance of bonds or other debt instruments.

OPPOSE legislation and regulation that place undue burden on or increase opportunities to challenge rates, charges, and fees that are dutifully adopted in compliance with current California Constitutional provisions.

OPPOSE a county, state or federal tax or fee to be collected from ratepayers based on water usage.

OPPOSE proposals for a "one-size-fits-all" statewide approach that would disproportionately affect the District's ratepayers.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California:

SUPPORT legislation that ensures local control of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

SUPPORT legislation and measures that would improve the interconnectivity of the State Water Project-dependent areas to provide an equitable level of water supply reliability and ensure redundancy in case of natural disaster, drought or other emergencies.

OPPOSE legislation that would inequitably advantage one member agency over another.

Recycled Water and Potable Reuse:

SUPPORT legislation and regulatory changes that encourage the efficient use of Title 22 recycled water.

SUPPORT legislation, regulations and funding opportunities that promote or facilitate potable reuse including construction of new water recycling and purification facilities.

OPPOSE legislation that requires on-site water reclamation or the use of gray water for either existing or new development projects if the local water purveyor has or is planning to have a centralized reclamation or reuse facility in operation.

Regulatory Streamlining:

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that promote the simplification and/or consolidation of environmental planning and reporting requirements, without compromising the integrity of existing environmental protections.

SUPPORT legislation and regulatory measures to permit Build America, Buy America flexibility to ensure projects already in the planning stage can continue without delay and not result in a higher cost for ratepayers.

Source Water Protection:

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that promote protection of all source water supplied to LVMWD and provides funding to implement comprehensive watershed management programs necessary to protect LVMWD's water supply sources from existing and potential sources of contamination.

State Water Project Administration:

SUPPORT legislation that improves the California Department of Water Resources' ability to enter into industry-standard contracts on a timely basis for the purchase and sale of energy.

Watershed Management:

SUPPORT the development of watershed management plans that would address all water resources management objectives for the state's watershed, including source-water quality improvement, water supply reliability, flood protection, and ecosystem restoration.

Water Delivery:

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that would allow, promote, or enhance water delivery operations to meet changing conditions of water supply and demand.

Water Quality:

SUPPORT legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities that provide resources for health effects and/or treatment technology research for drinking water contaminants.

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that would utilize sound science in addressing drinking water standards and provide appropriate funding for the investigation and treatment of those constituents in drinking water.

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that limits LVMWD's liability and/or provides funding to address constituents of emerging concern in drinking water, wastewater, compost and brine.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that mandate numeric drinking water standards bypassing the established regulatory public review processes, and standards beyond what technology can reliably meet at the time or granting clean-up waivers to responsible parties for known contaminants.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that mandate the treatment of any constituent when there is no feasible technology.

OPPOSE legislation or regulations that would designate contaminants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) without addressing the concerns of "passive receivers" (i.e. wastewater agencies).

Water Supply Planning:

SUPPORT legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities that would ensure sound water supply management practices and utilize a water supplier's Urban Water Management Plan as the source document to ensure that water supply and demand needs are consistent with those forecasted.

SUPPORT legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities that promote the construction and/or maintenance of public water storage, treatment and delivery facilities.

Long-Term Water-Use Efficiency

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that promote feasible water-use efficiency, including new technologies, financial incentives, public awareness and billing methodologies, while recognizing local agencies' discretion to design and implement the appropriate measures and accounting for current or planned water recycling programs.

SUPPORT legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities that recognize the importance and need for local water supply/resources development in addition to water-use efficiency improvements.

OPPOSE proposals that mandate across-the-board, percentage-based water usage reductions or reductions that do not adequately account for current or planned water recycling programs that disproportionately or unnecessarily affect the District's customers.

Water Transfers:

SUPPORT legislation regarding water transfer policies that ensure public investments in infrastructure are not undermined; do not undermine the financial integrity of public agencies responsible for the State's vast infrastructure; protect the interest of ratepayers and taxpayers

who ultimately pay, or have paid, for infrastructure development and maintenance; and, maintain an agency's full operational control of its own facilities.

State Measures and Process:

SUPPORT the emergency regulation process when conditions warrant.

OPPOSE the use of budget trailer bills to enact significant policy issues that are unrelated to the budget and could adversely affect the District's customers.

OPPOSE proposals aimed at circumventing due process and/or the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) to adopt substantive policies that would affect the District's customers.

Housing:

SUPPORT legislation and regulations that would encourage and/or incentivize in-fill housing, which could support the housing needs of the District's workforce.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that prohibit the District from requiring separate meters and sewer connections or waive connection fees associated with the development of axillary dwelling units (ADUs) that would prevent property owners and occupants from paying their "fair share" costs for water and wastewater services.

Flexibility for Conducting Public Meetings and District Business:

SUPPORT legislation that promotes flexibility in conducting public meetings and District business without compromising accessibility, transparency and accountability.

SUPPORT legislation that promotes the utilization of modern technologies to enhance public engagement and maximize operational effectiveness.

Data Collection, Auditing and Reporting Requirements:

SUPPORT prudent and efficient collection of data when there is a tangible benefit for operational efficiency and effectiveness and/or the public/ratepayers.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that impose burdensome and unnecessary reporting requirements that divert human resources from core business functions or otherwise require the acquisition of additional human resources and/or software systems that would make water and wastewater services less affordable.

Local Control:

OPPOSE legislation that would limit or erode the autonomy of local water agencies in effectively addressing the unique needs and priorities of the District's constituents.

Water Rights:

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that would jeopardize or undermine existing water rights, potentially compromising the District's ability to meet the water demands of the community.

Stormwater Diversions:

SUPPORT legislation, regulations, initiatives and funding opportunities that promote stormwater diversions, allowing for the capture and reuse of water to augment local supplies.

Emergency Preparedness, Mitigation and Response:

SUPPORT legislation, regulations and funding opportunities to support LVMWD's emergency preparedness, mitigation and response to natural disasters, including but not limited to wildfire.

SUPPORT legislation to maintain and increase funding to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES).

Cybersecurity:

SUPPORT legislation, regulations and funding opportunities to support water agencies' cyber network security.

OPPOSE legislation and regulations that would impose burdensome requirements that divert human resources from core business functions or otherwise require the acquisition of additional human resources and/or software systems that would make water and wastewater services less affordable.