



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



August 7, 2026

Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on the Draft California Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan 2026–2031

Dear Governor Newsom,

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and Northern California Water Association (NCWA) appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Draft California Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan 2026-2031 (Draft Plan). Metropolitan operates as a voluntary cooperative of 26 member agencies, which also are public agencies themselves. Its members are 12 special districts and 14 municipalities, all of which provide water at wholesale to their own member agencies and/or retail customers for municipal, domestic, agricultural, and industrial use. Metropolitan's member agencies, or their own member agencies, in turn, serve approximately 19 million people- almost half of California's population-throughout the southern California region in the counties of Ventura, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, and San Diego.

Northern California Water Association represents more than 80 water districts and companies and the cities and local governments in the Sacramento River Basin. The landscapes served by these water suppliers are incredibly varied, from the crests of the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Coastal Range and include: two million acres of family farms; freshwater habitat for threatened and endangered fish; rural communities and the State Capitol; seven National Wildlife Refuges, more than fifty State Wildlife Areas and other privately managed wetlands; hydropower; and recreation.

As agencies representing water suppliers in both Southern and Northern California, we support the Draft Plan's overall direction and its integration of landscape resilience, community wildfire preparedness, and regional action as the three pillars for statewide implementation. We appreciate the Plan's emphasis on:

- Science-based landscape resilience strategies
- Regionally appropriate approaches tailored to diverse ecosystems and communities
- Prioritization of high-risk areas facing climate-driven threats
- Reduction of capacity barriers and support for local community resilience

While the Draft Plan sets a strong framework, the absence of a clear long-term funding strategy remains a significant challenge. We urge the State to clearly define the Draft Plan's full implementation costs, expected funding availability, and consequences of potential funding gaps. These enhancements would improve transparency, strengthen statewide planning, and ensure that the Draft Plan fully equips the next administration to advance long-term wildfire and watershed resilience.

We look forward to ongoing collaboration. We value the Task Force's significant leadership in delivering science-driven, collaborative strategies for wildfire and watershed resilience.

Sincerely,



Shivaji Desmukh, P.E.
General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California



David J. Guy
President
Northern California Water Association