

# **Eastern Municipal Water District Legislative Policy Principles**

## **Introduction**

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) has adopted a strategic objective to “Conduct a highly productive and effective federal, state and local advocacy representation program to effectively influence legislation, regulation and outside funding in a manner that responds to a shifting political landscape, benefits EMWD’s customers and consistently demonstrates industry leadership.” To achieve this goal, the Public and Governmental Affairs Department builds and maintains relationships with legislative leaders, their staff, and other opinion leaders, and involves all appropriate EMWD disciplines to formulate positions on legislative and policy issues.

EMWD monitors and, where appropriate, seeks to influence federal and state legislation to provide EMWD’s ratepayers safe and reliable potable and recycled water supply and wastewater services in an economical manner. Guided by the Legislative Policy Principles adopted by EMWD’s Board of Directors and the professional opinion of EMWD’s staff, the Legislative Affairs Team communicates EMWD’s position and takes action on pertinent legislative issues.

The EMWD Legislative Policy Principles represent areas of public policy that the Board of Directors has adopted an EMWD position. These principles are consistent with EMWD’s mission statement, guiding principles and are developed with careful consideration of EMWD’s Strategic Plan. Furthermore, the EMWD Legislative Policy Principles are dynamic in nature. As new legislative issues affecting the potable and recycled water and wastewater industries arise, EMWD will respond accordingly and update its Policy Principles.

During the review, analysis, and development of each Legislative Policy Principle, EMWD involves all appropriate EMWD disciplines and also takes into consideration the broader policy objectives of related associations to foster a synchronized advocacy effort. The final process for policy principle development includes formulating the principles with input of EMWD specialists in the various policy fields; analyzing and editing the principles in the Legislative Review Committee, examining and critiquing the policy in the appropriate Board Committee, and finally, the Board of Directors adopting the principles.

These Legislative Policy Principles reflect the proactive steps that EMWD takes in providing potable and recycled water supply and wastewater services in an economical, efficient, and responsible manner. With this proactive approach to legislation, EMWD continually enhances its partnership with the community and quality of service provided to its customers.

## Water Recycling

EMWD Policy: EMWD seeks to develop and implement strategies to achieve the highest beneficial use of recycled water to maximize the District's water supply reliability and sustainability.

This policy principle supports EMWD's Strategic Objectives addressing Water Recycling; and, Water Supply Diversity and Reliability: "Implement on-going treatment, storage, and distribution system projects and programs to allow 100 percent utilization of treated effluent for the highest beneficial and sustainable use possible."; and, "Develop and implement a portfolio of projects and management techniques to achieve a reliable and cost-effective balance of water supplies utilizing imported, local, and recycled water sources."

EMWD and its Board of Directors support legislative or administrative actions:

1. Acknowledging recycled water as a beneficial resource that should be permitted and managed as such.
2. Increasing public education and awareness of water recycling, its benefits and safety.
3. Advancing recycled water-marketing efforts.
- 4. To increase statewide recycled water use goals.**
5. To provide assistance and training for design, construction, and operation of recycled water systems.
6. Expanding the ability to advance recycled water application, when readily available, in a safe and cost effective manner.
7. Advancing new grants, low interest loans, and/or other funding for recycled water consistent with the following objectives:
  - a. Increasing recycled water and recycled water quality in California and the Colorado River Basin.
  - b. Research leading to advances in science and technology, health effects assessments, and facility, regional, and watershed planning.
  - c. To streamline administrative procedures for state low interest-rate loans and federal grants for projects and research.
- 8. Facilitating the completion of research consistent with the California WaterReuse Action Plan that outlines the need for research to complete the following:**
  - a. Measurement and removal of contaminants at increasingly lower regulated levels and other limits;**
  - b. Revising regulatory requirements and their application to recycled water end users;**
  - c. Preparing and responding to climate change impacts including both flooding and drought;**
  - d. Examining the effectiveness of alternative treatment trains; and**
  - e. Advancing new and increased uses of recycled water.**
- 9. Encouraging the implementation of the National Water Reuse Action Plan by the U.S. EPA, and other federal agencies.**
10. Encouraging voluntary cooperation and partnership among involved agencies to foster strategies for recycled water project implementation.
11. Supporting continuous review, appropriate revision and streamlining of water recycling regulations, **permitting** and administration consistent with experience gained in operations, public health and environmental protection to advance the development, permitting and implementation of direct and indirect potable reuse (reservoir augmentation and groundwater recharge) while ensuring water quality that protects public health.

12. Facilitating the application of recycled water for recreational use in a manner that protects public health and safety, and acknowledges local agency policies.
13. Acknowledging salinity management as a strategy to improve the sustainability and reliability of recycled water resources.
14. Promoting recycled water as a sustainable and efficient water supply during drought conditions.

EMWD and its Board of Directors oppose legislative and administrative actions:

1. Minimizing the distinction between graywater, on-site recycled water, and recycled water supplies.
  - a. Advancing the inclusion of source water supplies or end use applications for graywater and on-site recycled water systems that have not been scientifically studied, monitored, and regulated;
  - b. Restricting the ability of local cities, counties, or special districts to permit or restrict the installation of graywater systems and on-site recycled water systems; or
  - c. **Advancing or mandating the application of graywater or on-site recycled water systems in areas that have invested in a dedicated centralized recycled water system, or where such decentralized systems will jeopardize current or future investments in such a system.**
2. Inhibiting the safe application of recycled water.
3. Continuing to define recycled water as a waste.
4. Restricting the use of recycled water during a water shortage or emergency drought conditions.
5. **Seeking to arbitrarily mandate the reduction or elimination of ocean or bay discharges of treated effluent.**

*ADOPTED BY EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON DECEMBER 15, 2004 AND UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018.*

## Biosolids

EMWD Policy: It is the policy of EMWD to practice and support efforts to encourage sustainable, cost effective, responsible and environmentally sound management of biosolids as an integral component of its wastewater treatment program.

This policy principle supports EMWD's Strategic Plan Objective addressing Water Resource Management: "Implement cost-effective projects and programs to manage wastewater and biosolids to achieve long-term environmentally sustainable reuse."

### EMWD and its Board of Directors support legislative and administrative actions:

1. Promoting the utilization of biosolids for land application, providing that it is applied in a responsible manner.
2. Establishing appropriate funding mechanisms, including grants and low-interest loans, and/or other funding to treat, use, and/or recycle biosolids.
3. Providing financial incentives for research and development of new and/or improved methods and technologies for biosolids management.
4. Encouraging efforts to promote biosolids as an alternative, renewable fuel source (i.e. biofuel conversions).
5. Increasing EMWD's local management options, self-sufficiency, and independence in managing biosolids.
6. Protecting the public health and groundwater supply by providing increased funding and research for comprehensive management techniques.
7. Creating a market for advanced technologies by promoting the use of innovative products derived from biosolids, including biosolids pellets.
8. Fostering cooperation among governmental agencies, regulators, private corporations, and the agriculture community related to biosolids use and management.
9. Promoting cost effective management of biosolids.

### EMWD and its Board of Directors oppose legislative and administrative actions:

1. Unreasonably restricting local and regional biosolids management including land application.
2. **Efforts to regulate Per-and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) that could require biosolids to be treated as hazardous materials.**
3. Increasing the financial burden of managing biosolids without demonstrated equivalent environmental and/or public health benefit related thereto.
4. Duplicating existing programs and requirements.
5. Causing an unfounded negative public perception of biosolids and biosolid producers.
6. Requiring unreasonable treatment of biosolids for specific applications, without adequate scientific justification.
7. Limiting the transportation and land application of biosolids between counties or states.

*ADOPTED BY EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON FEBRUARY 20, 2008 AND UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018.*

## Groundwater/Sustainable Groundwater Management

EMWD Policy: It is the policy of EMWD to maximize the use of groundwater while protecting groundwater quality and sustainability and enhancing the basin yield in an environmentally and economically responsible manner in collaboration with local groundwater users.

This policy principle supports EMWD’s Strategic Plan Objective addressing Water Supply Diversity and Reliability: “Develop and implement a portfolio of projects and management techniques to achieve a reliable and cost-effective balance of water supplies utilizing imported, local, and recycled water sources.”

### EMWD and its Board of Directors support legislative and administrative actions:

1. Providing appropriate funding mechanisms, including grants, low-interest loans, and/or other funding for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) compliance and development of groundwater projects, including groundwater cleanup to preserve the integrity of groundwater resources, and to advance plans on water available for recharge to protect communities from water shortages.
2. Recognizing the impacts of climate change on groundwater supplies and furthers local development opportunities to address potential impacts **and contaminants**.
3. Acknowledging salinity management as a strategy to improve the sustainability and reliability of local water resources.
4. Improving groundwater monitoring programs and technology (i.e. Geographic Information Systems) for resource development and groundwater management purposes and assists water districts to collect and manage local groundwater data required under SGMA.
5. Providing oversight and monitoring of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) operations that are protective of groundwater and surface water resources.
6. Providing additional tools and funding opportunities to foster cooperation and partnerships with local groundwater producers and other community stakeholders.
7. Enhancing local water supply reliability to reduce dependence on imported water.
8. Providing protection for groundwater recharge areas.
9. Providing local stakeholder flexibility to protect water rights.
10. Promoting integrity of groundwater basins, including long-term overdraft protection.
11. Facilitating transfers and exchanges of groundwater supplies with appropriate safeguards.
12. Encouraging storage of imported water through conjunctive use programs.
13. Protecting groundwater quality and enhances groundwater cleanup and recovery for beneficial use, including strategies to mitigate and prevent contamination.
14. Promoting agricultural and irrigational use of recycled water and/or other suitable non-potable water in-lieu of groundwater.
15. Requiring those who cause or contribute to pollution of a groundwater basin to make restitution for damage caused.
16. Promoting recycled water use and recharge in groundwater basins while ensuring water quality that protects public health.

### EMWD and its Board of Directors oppose legislative and administrative actions:

1. Restraining local stakeholder flexibility in the use of groundwater resources.

2. Imposing new water quality regulations or control actions that are not based on thorough consideration of scientific and technical evidence.
3. That do not provide demonstrated operational, environmental, or public health benefits.
4. That do not allow reasonable schedules for development, implementation, and compliance of new laws and regulations.
5. Duplicating existing program, requirements, and mandates.

*ADOPTED BY EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON JULY 7, 2006 AND UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018.*

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## Desalination

EMWD Policy: It is the policy of EMWD to utilize desalination for salinity management, to protect local groundwater quality and include desalted brackish water as an element of EMWD's balanced water supply portfolio to achieve long-term water supply reliability.

This policy principle supports EMWD's Strategic Plan Objective addressing Water Quality Salinity Management: "Achieve improved water quality through cost effective supply management, source control, to maximize utilization of recycled water and local water resources."

EMWD and its Board of Directors support legislative and administrative actions:

1. Acknowledging salinity management as a strategy to improve sustainability and reliability of groundwater production, and use of recycled water.
2. Providing grants, low-interest loans, and/or other funding for desalination research and development and implementation projects.
3. Acknowledging and promotes salinity management as a tool for economic development and recognizes that brackish desalination can play a major role in meeting California's future water needs.
4. Improving communication, cooperation, and consistency in the desalination permitting processes.
5. Recognizing the significance of energy costs for desalination and providing for strategies to optimize energy cost savings.
6. Promoting and incentivizing the development of renewable energy alternatives in conjunction with desalination facilities.
7. Creating a statewide desalination information database and data sharing opportunities (i.e. operational data, water quality data and research).
8. Providing funds for brine management projects, including alternative disposal methods, and recognizing that brine disposal is a major cost for implementation of inland brackish groundwater desalination.
9. Fostering partnerships with universities, state and federal agencies, and other institutions for the development of improved desalination and brine disposal and minimization technologies.
10. Encouraging desalination stakeholder work groups and outreach programs.
11. Promoting water use efficiency and reuse through desalination of recycled water for direct and/or indirect potable reuse.
12. Encouraging technology transfers among groups, agencies including state and federal government entities that have specialized expertise with new or emerging desalination technologies.
13. Encouraging regional collaboration within watersheds to manage salt impacts to surface and ground waters.
14. Promoting desalination as a drought resilient, hydrologically independent sustainable supply.

EMWD and its Board of Directors oppose legislative and administrative actions:

1. Unreasonably restricting EMWD's flexibility and authority to make decisions regarding desalination operation.
2. Imposing new water quality and related desalination regulations or control actions that are not based on thorough consideration of scientific and technical evidence.

3. That do not allow reasonable schedules for development, implementation, and compliance of new laws and regulations.
4. Duplicating existing programs and requirements.
5. Restricting the use of desalinated water during a water shortage or emergency drought conditions.
6. **Seeking to arbitrarily mandate the reduction or elimination of ocean or bay discharges of treated effluent, especially if such actions could restrict the discharge of brine from brackish groundwater desalination or other water treatment projects.**

*ADOPTED BY EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON JULY 7, 2006 AND UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018.*

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## Water Use Efficiency / Conservation

EMWD Policy: It is the policy of EMWD to promote efficient use of water in order to provide the most reliable supply at a reasonable cost.

This policy principle supports EMWD's Strategic Plan Objective addressing Water Use Efficiency: "Promote efficient use of water resources through the implementation of industry-leading programs and practices combined with customer education and awareness."

EMWD and its Board of Directors support legislative and administrative actions:

1. Encouraging the expanded and efficient use of recycled water, recognizing that recycled water is a drought resistant supply.
2. Encouraging planning and land-use agencies to require water efficient landscape in new development.
3. Implementing cost-effective new-product water efficiency standards.
4. Creating or expanding appropriate educational and informational programs to encourage conservation among water users (including the integration of water-use efficiency in state and federal energy-efficiency public outreach).
5. Stating that any water usage reduction requirements, emergency drought regulations, and advanced conservation mandates:
  - a. Establish and protect local control and local water management strategies to ensure lasting water supply reliability;
  - b. Stating that new policy should be flexible and preserve local control in achieving statewide urban conservation goals and any additional conservation mandates; and
  - c. Provide resources and funding to advance tools, including retrofit and landscape conversion programs for residential and commercial water use efficiency.
- 6. Making water conservation rebates tax exempt, at the state and federal levels.**
7. Encouraging the expanded and efficient use of recycled water recognizing that recycled water is a drought resistant supply.
8. Encouraging efficient use of water and the application of recycled water specifically, when available, during hydraulic fracturing (fracking) operations.
9. Supporting local efforts to increase on-site water retention and reduce runoff.
10. Implementing and/or enforcing local ordinances governing:
  - a. Water waste.
  - b. Implementation of/and funding for the retrofit of indoor and outdoor systems to water efficient models upon the resale of real property.
  - c. Statewide installation and reading of water meters and customer billing based on recorded usage.
  - d. Water efficient landscaping.
11. Increasing landscape water-use efficiency by:
  - a. Urging landscape irrigation device manufacturers to develop and market more efficient equipment.
  - b. Encouraging retailers to market and carry a broad array of water efficient devices, plants, and equipment.
  - c. Promoting guidelines for architects to design more efficient landscapes and/or irrigation systems.
  - d. Funding education/training on properly operating water-efficient irrigation systems and installing and maintaining water-efficient landscape.

- e. Limiting the use of turf and/or encouraging the application of native/water efficient plant life installed in yards.
  - f. Supporting the concept of “water budgeting” and the application of budget based tiered rate structures.
12. Increasing agricultural water-use efficiency by:
- a. Supporting studies and actions to improve agricultural water-use efficiency.
  - b. Supporting development of irrigation timing strategies to reduce peak demand on water supply systems.
  - c. Supporting implementation of water-use audits for agricultural irrigation.
13. Promoting commercial, Institutional and Industrial (CII) programs such as:
- a. Grants for CII conservation and rebate programs.
  - b. Evaluating new technologies and their implementation via new programs.
  - c. Offering incentives for the construction of water efficient buildings and communities.

EMWD and its Board of Directors oppose legislative and administrative actions:

- 1. Establishing water providers as land-use decision-makers, rather than city and county government, or the State, as it relates to development, land-use, and enforcement of long range planning objectives.
- 2. Seeking to reform the Water Supply Assessment process in a manner that reduces a water provider’s flexibility to manage and allocate water supplies.
- 3. Impeding or eliminating a local government or public agency’s ability to adopt an ordinance to regulate the installation of graywater or on-site recycled water systems that are more stringent or restrictive than current law.
- 4. Applying water usage and emergency drought regulations:
  - a. Establishing additional drought management objectives and conservation mandates that fail to adequately consider local conditions including climate, water supply conditions, growth and investments in new water supplies; and
  - b. Establishing water providers in roles as land-use decision-makers as it relates to development, land-use, and enforcement of long range planning objectives.
- 5. Limiting local control on conservation and demand reduction programs.
- 6. **Supplants counties with community water systems as the required entity responsible for serving as a backstop for small systems in the countywide drought contingency planning arena.**

*ADOPTED BY EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON DECEMBER 15, 2004 AND UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018.*

## Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta/State Water Project

EMWD policy: Implement the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and environmental sustainability in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta (Delta) to ensure the delivery of adequate and reliable supplies of water to all Californians, while water districts simultaneously develop long lasting and robust local water supply portfolios.

This policy principle supports EMWD’s Strategic Plan Objectives addressing Water Supply Diversity and Reliability; and Water System Redundancy: “Develop and implement a portfolio of projects and management techniques to achieve a reliable and cost-effective balance of water supplies utilizing imported, local, and recycled water sources.”; and “Develop adaptable water storage, and delivery system improvements to manage uncertain delivery conditions and emergency outages.”

EMWD and its Board of Directors support legislative and administrative actions:

1. Ensuring that all beneficiaries of the Delta pay their fair share towards environmental restoration, flood management, and water quality.
2. Recognizing all beneficiaries of the Delta including water exporters, recreational, agricultural and environmental interests.
3. Requiring that all stressors on the Delta be considered and addressed in a manner that is fair and equitable.
4. **Ensuring identifying** that entities contributing to adverse environmental impacts should pay proportionally for mitigating those impacts.
5. Enabling the timely implementation and funding for the completion of critical studies necessary to establish a comprehensive and long term fix **for water conveyance** in the Delta.
6. Establishing state and federal funding opportunities to complete the environmental studies, planning, mitigation projects and construction of vital restoration projects.
7. **Urging immediate action by the Administration and regulators to advance a conveyance solution in the Delta.**
8. **Allocating funding and low-interest loans that would facilitate new surface and groundwater storage statewide.**

EMWD and its Board of Directors oppose legislative and administrative actions:

1. Failing to consider the full scope of the co-equal goals in terms of identification of a long term solution in the Delta.
2. Seeking to overturn or prohibit implementation of the 2009 Comprehensive Water Package.
3. Delaying the adoption and/or implementation of a Delta conveyance option, California EcoRestore, or the Delta Plan.
4. Establishing inequitable cost-sharing for those stakeholders responsible for program and project costs.

*ADOPTED BY EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON JANUARY 22, 2014 AND UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018.*

## Integrated Regional Water Management Plans

EMWD Policy: It is the policy of EMWD to utilize the State’s Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) process to maximize water use efficiency as well as the quality and quantity of water available to meet the State’s domestic, agriculture, industrial and environmental **water supply** needs.

This policy principle supports EMWD’s Strategic Plan Objectives addressing Water Supply Diversity and Reliability: “Develop and implement a portfolio of projects and management techniques to achieve a reliable and cost effective balance of water supplies utilizing imported, local and recycled water sources.”

EMWD and its Board of Directors support legislative and administrative actions:

1. **Establishing funding opportunities for IRWMP either through the passage of new resiliency bonds or allocation of other funding.**
2. Providing flexibility and discretion to regions throughout California to determine the governance and implementation of IRWMP.
3. Improving multi-jurisdictional, multi-benefit coordination related to the IRWMP program.
4. Using IRWMP to support the goals and objectives of the State, as outlined in the State Water Plan Update, as well as local priorities as defined by each region.
5. Encouraging a robust stakeholder process but recognizes the need to leave decision making authority with the agencies, or steering committees comprised of those agencies, that have the statutory authority to provide IRWMP related services.
6. Promoting proactive, transparent communication and partnerships.
7. Providing increased funding for IRWMP.
8. Streamlining IRWMP grant administration and minimizes the cost of utilizing IRWMP grants.
9. Defining integrated water resource planning regions as those regions that have been accepted through the California Department of Water Resources Regional Acceptance Process or unique sub-watershed areas within those regions.
10. Requiring changes to IRWMP be vetted through a stakeholder driven, publicly reviewed process.
11. Utilizing IRWMP information to improve land use decision making.
12. Employing IRWMP process to develop adaptive water management strategies addressing climate change and other long term influences on water supply conditions.

EMWD and its Board of Directors oppose legislative and administrative actions:

1. Weakening the intent, purpose, and process of IRWMP.
2. Hindering improved coordination among agencies related to IRWMP.
3. Prohibiting funding allocations to sub-watershed areas with unique needs and characteristics.

*ADOPTED BY EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON FEBRUARY 20, 2008 AND UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018.*

## Water Infrastructure Financing

EMWD policy: Capital improvement projects and infrastructure financing should be accomplished in a manner that is beneficial, economical, and facilitates a means in which all beneficiaries pay for the goods and services received.

This policy principle supports EMWD's Strategic Plan Goal addressing Water Supply and Reliability: "Provide a safe and reliable water supply portfolio that achieves an optimum balance of imported, local, and recycled water at a reasonable cost."

EMWD and its Board of Directors support legislative and administrative actions:

1. Establishing grants, low-interest loans, and/or funding opportunities for local water infrastructure projects.
2. Offering public infrastructure financing mechanisms including, but not limited to tax credit bonds, as an alternative to tax-exempt municipal bonds.
3. Stating that for those capital improvement and infrastructure projects that provide direct, measurable benefits to water ratepayers a "beneficiary pays" principle should apply; over a public goods charge, resulting in financing that is accomplished in a manner that is beneficial, economical, and provides a means in which the beneficiaries pay for the goods and services they receive.
4. Establishing that investments resulting in broad public benefits should be funded by state and federal resources and not through local resources.
5. Securing flexibility in the manner in which EMWD may finance public infrastructure projects (e.g., community facilities districts, public-private partnerships, etc.).
6. Providing flexibility in the structure, reporting, and repayment of state loans, including:
  - a. Partial prepayment options;
  - b. Subordinate lien structure;
  - c. Alternative principal repayment options (other than "level debt service"); and
  - d. Streamlining application processes to reduce obstacles and facilitate access to state funds in a timely manner.
- 7. Allocating resources that have been defined under the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund as envisioned within the passage of SB 200 to ensure that limited resources are allocated in a manner that advances projects, infrastructure improvements, and consolidation actions that will achieve long-term sustainability for the system.**
- 8. Ensuring that the passage of any resiliency bonds or water bonds:**
  - a. Allocate resources in a manner that provides funding opportunities that would result in the broadest public benefit;**
  - b. Funds water recycling and groundwater desalination projects outside the IRWMP process;**
  - c. Protects existing water rights;**
  - d. Facilitates flexibility for local entities to leverage funding from the bond with other federal, regional, and local funding sources;**
  - e. Includes an equitable division of both grant and loan funding opportunities; and**
  - f. Supports special districts as applicants to any wildfire related funding opportunities.**

EMWD and its Board of Directors oppose legislative and administrative actions:

1. Establishing a fee or tax that does not result in a clear and commensurate benefit to EMWD and its customers.
2. Establishing a fee or tax without first considering alternatives for funding that may be better suited or have a more clear connection to the funding need.
3. Minimizing opportunities to fund water infrastructure through the passage of statewide or local bonds.
4. Eliminating the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.
5. **Allocates funding, grants, or loans in a manner that is geographically inequitable.**

*ADOPTED BY EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON JANUARY 18, 2012 AND UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018.*

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## Governance

EMWD policy: It is the policy of EMWD to function and operate in an open and transparent way while providing superior services to the community in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner.

This policy principle supports EMWD's Strategic Plan Objective addressing Community Relations: "Promote and sustain timely and effective two-way communication between [EMWD] and the communities it serves and continue to be a trusted resource for the communities on all water, wastewater, and recycled water issues."

EMWD and its Board of Directors support legislative and administrative actions:

1. Streamlining state reporting requirements and establishing opportunities to utilize technology and data sharing methods that could result in more timely and open communication.
2. Establishing reforms to address systems that chronically fail to supply safe and reliable drinking water to their ratepayers by establishing a small system water authority that would allow for systems to:
  - a. Take advantage of economies of scale,
  - b. Employ competent and qualified staff, and
  - c. Establish enhanced internal and external financial capabilities as part of an effort to establish sustainable systems
3. Improving transparency of publicly-issued debt obligations.
4. Centralizing and consolidating all debt and investment reporting requirements to reduce redundancy and provide one location for the public to access information.
5. Providing standardized implementation guidance for reporting requirements to facilitate useful access to information.
6. Establishing funding sources to host educational opportunities and awareness campaigns to promote water conservation, water quality, and water recycling expansion.
7. Encouraging local governments to seek innovative means to address climate adaptation goals and advance service delivery (e.g., cost sharing, alternative energy pursuits, and technology advancements).
8. Providing funding, easily accessible data, and best practices to advance sustainability and climate adaptation strategies.
9. Recognizing that water purveyors have made significant strides in achieving sustainability and reducing GHG emissions, and that any future legislation or administrative actions should:
  - a. Account for and acknowledge past actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and advance climate resilient supplies;
  - b. Avoid the establishment of an arbitrary GHG or energy use target or baseline;
  - c. Create a clear path towards achieving sustainability objectives;
  - d. Avoids the application of a one-size-fits-all approach;
  - e. Clearly recognizes geographic, regional, and water supply variations and allows for water purveyors to address these variables in a manner that best suits the region; and
  - f. Supports and acknowledges local control.
10. Advancing an approach to address climate change and sustainability that is supported by a careful economic analysis and supports economic growth.
- 11. Establishing a pathway towards standardizing the process for assessing constituents of emerging concern and/or development of a maximum contaminant level, and further acknowledging that the process must include a public and transparent process and be grounded in science.**

12. Enabling EMWD to recruit and retain a diverse and highly qualified workforce.
13. Streamlining contracting procedures, while at the same time preserving EMWD's legal and safety obligations.
14. Enabling Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) to obtain service and boundary related information on private and mutual water companies to ensure the delivery of clean and reliable water supplies and compliance with state and federal safe drinking water mandates.
15. Streamlining or exempting water, recycled water, and/or wastewater projects from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
16. Providing liability protections to public water districts, and related wholesale water providers, seeking to consolidate troubled water systems that cannot consistently demonstrate that they are able to provide safe, clean and reliable water supplies to their customers.
17. Eliminating or minimizing redundant reports and studies on environmental impacts covered through subsequent state and federal regulatory efforts.
18. Securing the ability to apply tiered rates/allocation based conservation rates in a manner that is both fair to ratepayers and provides maximum flexibility and protections to the water providers.
19. Ensuring that transparency objectives do not jeopardize the protection of critical infrastructure.
- 20. Ensuring that any future benefit allocation plan for disadvantaged community residents or ratepayers making under two-hundred percent of the federal poverty level are disbursed in a manner that is financially viable and self-sustaining and takes into account water usage, and ability to pay where feasible and appropriate.**

EMWD and its Board of Directors oppose legislative and administrative actions:

1. Taking a "broad brush" approach to local government reforms that would confer unnecessary burden to all local governments in an effort to capture a small number of public trust offenders.
2. Seeking to establish a permanent funding source to address water accessibility and affordability concerns without first reforming service delivery and governance models to reduce costs and establish sustainable and well managed public water systems.
3. Seeking to limit local control.
4. Transferring responsibilities to local governments absent funding.
5. Seeking to establish a statewide low income water rate assistance program that is not consistent with conservation objectives, and burdens water providers with collecting fees and charges that are inconsistent with Proposition 218.
6. Jeopardizing public safety due to the disclosure of critical infrastructure information or personal employee or ratepayer data in advancing transparency measures.
7. Adding additional costs for EMWD and its ratepayers absent a clear and necessary benefit, or creates administrative reporting requirements that are duplicative or ambiguous, resulting in incremental cost to the ratepayer without providing proportional benefit.
8. Seeking to mandate financial reporting of public pension or other post-employment benefits using a risk-free rate of return as a discount rate in the measurement of actuarial liabilities.
9. Reallocating property tax revenues, and/or special district reserves, or imposes fees/fines that will impact EMWD and its operations.
10. Reducing or eliminating a local government's ability to establish price and parameters for cost-sharing activities.
11. Reducing or eliminating the state's obligation to compensate local governments on reimbursable mandate related activities.

12. Arbitrarily forcing or restricting consolidations of special districts.
13. Requiring water districts to collect, secure, and maintain sensitive customer data.
14. Implementing redundant and costly compliance measures.
15. Resulting in additional challenges to CEQA compliance or could result in opportunities for additional delays or legal challenges to projects
16. Seeking to implement a carbon tax or other fee based program to advance climate change initiatives without advanced economic analysis.

*ADOPTED BY EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON JANUARY 18, 2012 AND UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018.*

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## Renewable Energy/Energy Management

EMWD policy: It is EMWD’s policy to seek opportunities to expand energy conservation and renewable energy production efforts in a cost effective manner that will improve operational efficiency, reduce operating expenses, and maximize existing available resources in an effort to achieve state and local regulatory compliance and reduce energy costs for EMWD.

This policy principle supports EMWD’s Strategic Plan Objective addressing Energy Independence: “Plan and implement cost-effective energy projects and programs to optimize EMWD’s energy use portfolio and minimize its carbon footprint.”

### EMWD and its Board of Directors support legislative or administrative actions:

1. Providing incentives and funding opportunities for voluntary and regulatory compliance actions to expand renewable energy resources that enable EMWD to maximize available energy resources that includes, but is not limited to, solar energy, biodiesel, digester gas, and bio-methane.
2. Facilitating interconnection and capacity availability to gas pipeline and electricity transmission lines.
3. Enabling EMWD to access funding opportunities that will enable EMWD to pursue expansion/ development of energy efficiency/ renewable energy projects.
4. Facilitating opportunities where **water and wastewater providers can access revenues generated from the implementation of market based compliance measures under AB 32 (Pavley) Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 and SB 32 (Pavley) Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Emissions Limits that would be allocated to special districts and/or the from Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds water community** for the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and energy saving water use efficiency programs and development of alternative water supplies with lower embedded energy.
5. Requiring or encouraging electrical corporations to procure electrical generating capacity from small-scale biomass and biogas projects.
6. Establishing similar efforts to level the playing field between large biogas producers and smaller generators, especially in light of the initial investment costs for small-scale projects.
7. Providing flexibility to utilize available energy storage technologies to maximize use of renewable energy sources.

### EMWD and its Board of Directors oppose legislative or administrative actions:

1. Penalizing water districts for early adoption of energy efficiency and cost saving actions.
2. Requiring EMWD to invest in technology that would generate excessive costs for EMWD and its ratepayers and/or is unproven/unreliable.
3. Infringing on water/sewage districts ability to manage the production of biomethane through flaring or other means until technological solutions to treat and use biogas are available and cost effective.
4. Enacting changes to existing renewable energy project net energy metering contracts or utility incentive agreements mid-contract.
5. Requiring energy efficiency to take precedence over EMWD’s ability to develop and manage reliable and sustainable water supplies to meet the needs of its ratepayers.

*ADOPTED BY THE EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON JANUARY 22, 2014 AND  
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