



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

June 27, 2023

The Honorable Dave Min  
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 3220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE:** AB 1573 (Friedman): Water Conservation: Landscape Design: Model Ordinance  
(As Amended, June 19, 2023) - **SUPPORT**

Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Dear Senator Min:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), I am pleased to express support for AB 1573, which would require the use of more native and water-efficient plants, and will prohibit the use of nonfunctional turf in new or renovated commercial and industrial areas.

Metropolitan and its 26 member agencies have a longstanding commitment to water efficiency and conservation and offer a robust portfolio of demand management customer support programs to Southern California's businesses, public agencies and households.

For nearly 30 years, Metropolitan has incentivized the removal of non-functional turf and its replacement with more sustainable California Friendly and native plants. These efforts have had a transformative effect, resulting in the removal of more than 200 million square feet of grass, saving enough water to serve 62,000 homes a year. In the fall of 2022, Metropolitan's Board took two additional steps related to non-functional turf that included the adoption of a [resolution](#) encouraging the elimination of irrigation of non-functional turf, and signing a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with other agencies in California and throughout the western United States that commits to reducing non-functional turf to help reduce demands on the Colorado River system.

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For the aforementioned reason, Metropolitan is in support of AB 1573 and respectfully requests your support when the bill is before you in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee to further enhance the sustainability and resilience of our water resources. If you have any questions, please contact Metropolitan's Executive Legislative Representative Jay Jefferson II, at [jjeffersonii@mwdh2o.com](mailto:jjeffersonii@mwdh2o.com) or (916) 538-4663.

Sincerely,



**Adel Hagekhalil**

*General Manager*

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

cc: Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Assemblymember Laura Friedman  
Genevieve Wong, Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Todd Moffit, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus