

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 580 (Wallis)

As Amended July 17, 2025

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Extends the sunset date to January 1, 2041, on the statute authorizing the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) to prepare a single master reclamation plan, known as the Metropolitan Reclamation Plan (Plan), for its earth moving operations conducted on lands it owns or leases, or upon which easements or rights-of way were granted to Metropolitan.

**Senate Amendments**

Reduce the extended sunset date from January 1, 2051, to January 1, 2041.

**COMMENTS**

Metropolitan has ownership of the land beneath and adjacent to the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA), including the excess stone, gravel, and sand used to construct the project. Metropolitan uses those materials to restore, repair, protect, and maintain berms, and access roads, and pipelines. Metropolitan currently maintains 19 borrow pit sites that supply aggregate materials for repairs and maintenance of the CRA and other infrastructure.

In 2017, San Bernardino and Riverside counties informed Metropolitan it had to comply with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) because some sites involved the removal of native soils, which constitutes a mining activity under SMARA. In response to the notice provided by the counties, Metropolitan has worked with both counties to identify sites that are subject to SMARA and in 2020, began preparation of a reclamation plan for each county. AB 442 (Mayes), Chapter 166, Statutes of 2021, authorized Metropolitan, until January 1, 2026, to prepare a single master reclamation plan. The Board conducted an annual inspection in April 2024 and submitted its report that all aspects of Metropolitan's surface mining operation is compliant with SMARA, and that all financial assurance cost estimates were also approved by the Board in April.

AB 580 extends the sunset date to 2041.

**According to the Author**

AB 580 ensures the Metropolitan Water District can maintain the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA)—a vital lifeline for 19 million Southern Californians—without unnecessary red tape. This bill removes the sunset date on a proven process that's worked since 2022, allowing faster repairs, consistent environmental oversight, and lower costs. The Aqueduct's maintenance shouldn't be bogged down by inconsistent county regulations when we've already seen the state-level plan succeed. AB 580 keeps our water flowing safely and efficiently for the long haul.

**Arguments in Support**

Metropolitan writes, "Since AB 442 was enacted, Metropolitan has worked diligently with the Mining Board to comply with SMARA. The Mining Board has conducted the required inspections of Metropolitan's reclamation sites and Metropolitan has submitted an annual report

on our operations. AB 580 will extend the sunset to January 1, 2051, which will allow Metropolitan to continue to comply with SMARA directly with the Mining Board."

### Arguments in Opposition

None on file

### FISCAL COMMENTS

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved this bill pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8 in reference to negligible state costs.

### VOTES:

#### ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 13-0-1

**YES:** Bryan, Alanis, Connolly, Davies, Flora, Garcia, Haney, Sanchez, Kalra, Muratsuchi, Pellerin, Schultz, Zbur

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Wicks

#### ASM WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE: 13-0-0

**YES:** Papan, Jeff Gonzalez, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Boerner, Caloza, Hart, Macedo, Celeste Rodriguez, Rogers, Tangipa

#### ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

**YES:** Wicks, Sanchez, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

#### ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0-8

**YES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer- Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Bryan, Chen, Ellis, Nguyen, Sanchez, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Wicks

#### SENATE FLOOR: 37-0-3

**YES:** Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNERney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Alvarado-Gil, Hurtado, Rubio

### UPDATED

VERSION: July 17, 2025

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