



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

August 14, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5650
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 706 (Caballero): Public Contracts: Progressive Design-build: Local Agencies
(As Amended June 28, 2023) - **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Holden:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), I am writing to express support for SB 706, which expands the use of the progressive design-build procurement process for public works projects.

Metropolitan serves as the primary wholesale water provider for the Southern California region, catering to the water needs of approximately 19 million residents across its six-county service area. Over the last two decades, Metropolitan has demonstrated its commitment to promoting water sustainability and bolstering climate resiliency by proactively investing in a diverse range of water supplies to cultivate a more secure and reliable water future for its communities.

Metropolitan was given authority to use the progressive design-build process until 2028 and additional legislation expanded this authority for local public agencies until 2030. This bill would allow us to continue to use this authority for an additional year, extending the sunset to 2030. By allowing agencies to handle both design and construction through a qualifications-based selection, the progressive design-build process promotes early collaboration, resulting in better coordination, reduced project risks, and improved project outcomes. This approach encourages innovation and timely completion, enabling public agencies to deliver high-quality projects that meet the needs of Southern California.

Metropolitan is also supportive of the fact that this bill provides the authorization for all cities, counties, city and counties, and special districts to use the progressive design-build process for projects beyond the water sector. This expansion recognizes the broader applicability and effectiveness of this procurement method across various public works initiatives, fostering innovation and cost-effectiveness in our infrastructure development.

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For the aforementioned reasons, Metropolitan is in support of SB 706 and respectfully requests your support when this measure is before you in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. If you should have any questions, please contact Metropolitan's Executive Legislative Representative, Jay Jefferson II, at jjeffersonii@mwdh2o.com or (916) 538 – 4663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Hagekhalil', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

Adel Hagekhalil

General Manager

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Senator Anna Caballero
Patrick Le, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus