



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

7-6

August 20, 1998

To: Board of Directors (Budget and Finance Committee--Action)
(Legal and Claims Committee--Action)

From: General Counsel 

Subject: Amendment of Agreement No. 15366 with Ellison & Schneider to Increase Total Amount Payable

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the General Counsel be authorized to amend Agreement No. 15366 with the law firm of Ellison & Schneider to increase the total amount payable an additional \$200,000 under the agreement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since August 1, 1997, the General Counsel has retained the Sacramento law firm of Ellison & Schneider to represent Metropolitan's interests with respect to the appropriation of agricultural drainage water for desalting and eventual beneficial use and to provide advice on other Colorado River related issues. The Board approved a contract with a total amount payable of \$150,000 with Ellison & Schneider. This contract amount has been nearly expended in the past 12 months and needs to be renewed. The proposed amendment to the contract increases the total amount payable under the contract an additional \$200,000.

DETAILED REPORT

Since August 1, 1997, the General Counsel has retained the Sacramento law firm of Ellison & Schneider to represent Metropolitan's interests with respect to appropriation of agricultural drainage water for desalting and eventual beneficial use, and to provide advice on other Colorado River related issues. Anne Schneider, the principal partner under this contract, has an extensive background in dealing with the State Water Resources Control Board and her assistance on the appropriation process has been extremely helpful.

Activity in these areas will continue over the next few years and continued representation by Ellison & Schneider can help Metropolitan achieve a successful resolution of these issues. In addition, Metropolitan is proceeding with water storage and transfer programs along the Colorado River Aqueduct. Ms. Schneider also has considerable experience on groundwater matters and her input on these potential transactions will be useful. The Board approved a contract amount of \$150,000 and the total fees and costs expended over the past year on the

contract will soon reach this limit. Accordingly, the General Counsel is seeking the Board's authorization to amend the contract with Ellison & Schneider to increase the total payable amount under the contract an additional \$200,000.

JK:gm
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