

February 24, 1999

To: Board of Directors (Executive 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 to an additional \$350,000 under the agreement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since August 1, 1997, the law firm of Ellison & Schneider has been retained to represent Metropolitan's interest with respect to the appropriation of agricultural drainage water for desalting and eventual beneficial use, and to provide advice on other related Colorado River matters. In particular, Anne Schneider, a principal of the firm has provided advice with regard to the pending State Water Resources Control Board Petition by the Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority for approval of their proposed long-term water transfer. A separate report has been provided to the Board this month on that on-going matter. Additionally, Ms. Schneider continues to participate in the on-going Colorado River discussions, first as led by David Hayes, Counselor to the Secretary of the Interior, and presently amongst the California Colorado River contract holders.

DETAILED REPORT

As reported to the Board by separate letter this month, the State Water Resources Control Board has before it the pending Joint Petition for Approval of the Long-Term Transfer filed by the Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority. Additionally, before the State Board is the matter of the potential appropriation of agricultural drainage water for desalting and eventual beneficial use. Anne Schneider, a principal of the firm of Ellison & Schneider, has extensive experience in matters before the State Water Resources Control Board and thus was retained to provide Metropolitan with representation on these matters.

Because of the interrelationship of these pending State Board matters to the development of the California Plan and because of her expertise with regard to the development of groundwater programs, also an important component of the California Plan, Ms. Schneider has been an active participant in the on-going discussions as led by David Hayes, Counselor to the Secretary of the

Interior. Ms. Schneider would be expected to continue to provide advice and representation as we move into discussions amongst the California agencies.

Activity in these areas is expected to increase, particularly over the next few months. Continued representation by Ellison & Schneider will help Metropolitan achieve a successful resolution of these issues.

Ellison & Schneider is a certified women-owned business enterprise.

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