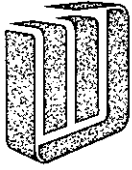


FILED by order
of the Board of Directors of
The Metropolitan Water District
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at its meeting held FEB 11 1992

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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Daren E. Duff
Executive Secretary

January 17, 1992

(Land Committee--Information)
(Engineering and Operations Committee--Information)
To: Board of Directors (Special Committee on Water Quality and
Environmental Compliance--Information)
From: General Manager
Subject: Update on the Lake Mathews Water Quality Management Plan

Report

This report is an update on the development of a plan for protecting the water quality in Lake Mathews from stormwater runoff generated in the watershed. Adoption of this water quality management plan by Metropolitan and a number of other cooperating agencies would allow urbanization of the watershed to proceed. In an October 1991 Board letter, you were informed about objectives of the plan and the need for preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The plan is expected to be finalized in Spring 1992.

Several options for financing the plan have been examined. Each relies on repaying loan or bond debt by assessment of benefited properties. The most attractive initial financing mechanism is to borrow funds from the State's Non-Point Source Loan Program. An application for the State Loan Fund is scheduled to be submitted by the County of Riverside in late Spring 1992. In addition, a Drainage Area fee will be established so that later subdivisions can be charged for their share of the program. Upon adoption of the plan, all of Metropolitan's costs for development and implementation of the plan would be reimbursed as described in the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Riverside, Metropolitan, and the primary developers in the watershed.

Central to Metropolitan's interest in the plan is the construction of a dam and detention basin on Metropolitan property immediately upstream of Lake Mathews on Cajalco Creek. The dam will capture and store stormwater until the water quality is acceptable for release into the lake. These structures also provide "back-up" protection for the upstream wetlands, which are designed to reduce flow and pollutants in normal-sized storms. Metropolitan will own and operate the dam and detention basin to meet water quality objectives. An analysis of alternative

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dam sites and designs has been prepared and Metropolitan's Engineering Division has sent a letter to the Department of Water Resources' Division of Safety of Dams presenting a preliminary design concept for the dam and detention basin.

Since the dam and detention basin will be located on Metropolitan's property, Metropolitan is providing a portion of the environmental documentation for the plan's EIR. As described in the October 1991 Board letter, Metropolitan has hired Woodward Clyde Consultants, at a cost not to exceed \$227,000, to provide the documentation. Additional costs have now been identified including: consultant assistance with processing 404 and 1601 permits (\$97,500), conducting surveys for Stephens Kangaroo Rats and preparing an accompanying mitigation plan (\$40,500), consultant assistance with management of Metropolitan's environmental documentation (\$120,000), conducting an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the plan for protecting water quality in Lake Mathews (\$15,000), and in-house engineering costs (\$120,000). Metropolitan's cost is now estimated to be \$620,000, due to additional tasks required to complete the environmental documentation. These costs will be reimbursed by the State Loan Fund or the Benefit Assessment District monies. A draft of the EIR is expected in February 1992 and it is scheduled to be presented to your Board and the Riverside County Board of Supervisors for certification in June 1992.

This informational letter regards preparation of an EIR in compliance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Board Committee Assignments

This letter is referred for information to:

The Land Committee because of its jurisdiction over the purchase, sale, and leasing of land and buildings, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2451 (b);

The Engineering and Operations Committee because of its jurisdiction over construction, operation, and maintenance of Metropolitan facilities, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2431; and

The Special Committee on Water Quality and Environmental Compliance for consideration of water and environmental issues, pursuant to Administrative Code Sections 2551 (b) and (c).

Recommendation

For information only.


for Carl Boronkay