

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

September 1, 1992

To: Board of Directors (Water Problems Committee--Information)
From: General Manager
Subject: Completion of The Source Reduction Research Partnership Project

Report

In September 1987, your Board approved participation in the Source Reduction Research Partnership (SRRP). SRRP is a joint effort between Metropolitan and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to conduct a study to identify the potential for reducing hazardous waste at the source, thereby preventing groundwater contamination and air pollution. Source reduction of hazardous chemicals is of increasing interest to environmental policy makers and others affected by hazardous waste and groundwater contamination. The primary objective of the Metropolitan/EDF project was to develop information on the realistic potential for source reduction as a means of preventing groundwater contamination before it occurs.

The SRRP study is a compilation of working manuals for those chemical users in the various industries that can reduce the use and release of chlorinated solvents. SRRP generated twelve documents detailing real potential for the reduction of pollutants at the source. The twelve documents include: the Summary Report, Life Cycle Inventory and Trade-off Analysis, and ten technical support documents for the industries studied. The industries studied include: Flexible Foam, Paint Stripping, Adhesives, Electronics, Textiles, Dry Cleaning, Pharmaceuticals, Parts Cleaning, Aerosols, and Chemical Intermediates. The studies examined the industries and the extent to which source reduction is feasible and practical, including institutional problems in implementing source reduction, costs, and associated environmental, water quality and health trade-offs. The studies focused on the use and release of chlorinated solvents in Metropolitan's service area. These chemicals have been responsible for a significant amount of contamination in the major groundwater basins of Southern California, and continue to be in widespread use in the region.

At the writing of this Board letter, the SRRP project has been completed. Printing and distribution of the studies to numerous interested parties is currently underway. Copies of the study are available to interested Board members in the Executive Secretary's office.

As the reliability of imported water supplies into Metropolitan's service area continues to decrease, Southern California's groundwater resources become increasingly valuable. Metropolitan's participation in the SRRP project, through financial contributions and staff time, shows its dedication to protecting this resource.

Board Committee Assignments

This letter is referred to the Water Problems Committee for information because of its authority to advise and make recommendations regarding policies on underground storage of water, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2481(i).

Recommendation

For information only.


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