

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

October 27, 1992

To: Board of Directors (Engineering and Operations--Information)
 (Water Problems Committee--Information)
 (Land Committee--Information)

From: General Manager

Subject: Transfer of Ownership of Morris Reservoir

Report

The Morris Dam and Reservoir (Morris) (see attached map), constructed in the 1930s, was acquired by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) from the City of Pasadena in 1941, as a standby emergency storage facility. Since 1945, pursuant to an agreement between Metropolitan, San Gabriel Valley Protective Association (Association) and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (County), a portion of Morris Reservoir storage space has been used and operated for the Association's water conservation purposes.

However, Morris can be operated more effectively for San Gabriel River conservation than as an emergency standby facility. Accordingly, on October 22, 1977, Metropolitan entered into an agreement to transfer ownership of Morris to the County. The Agreement has been extended on a number of occasions, to allow completion of specified conditions. These conditions have essentially been completed, including:

- Compliance with California Environmental Quality Act requirements.
- Metropolitan's modification of Morris Dam, satisfying State-mandated spillway requirements, in a manner acceptable to the County, at a cost in 1980 of approximately \$2.5 million.
- California Division of Safety of Dams certification that Morris Dam is structurally stable and may operate without restriction.
- U.S. Navy (Navy) execution of a new lease limiting the Navy's use of Morris to designated shore lands and in a manner compatible with public access to the reservoir.

The only remaining contracted condition is the transfer of Metropolitan's easements and permits from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to the County, executed at the time of ownership transfer. That transfer process is now being initiated. In addition, other conditions not specifically required by the 1977 Agreement have been completed, including:

- Transfer of responsibility for the maintenance of the Azusa Power Conduit to the City of Pasadena.
- Completion of a training program for County personnel regarding the operation of Morris.

Metropolitan also satisfied additional concerns recently raised by the County. A report from the Navy indicated the possibility of hazardous substance contamination on areas leased by Metropolitan to the Navy. The Navy's responsibility for handling and cleanup of hazardous substances was incorporated in the Navy lease. Additionally, Navy's responsibility for the removal and disposal of military devices that may be present in Morris Reservoir was also incorporated in the Navy lease, which was fully executed September 18, 1992.

The Right of Way and Land Division is in the process of transferring ownership of Morris from Metropolitan to the County. Title search has been completed and presently Metropolitan is conferring with the County to determine Metropolitan's interest in parcels to be retained for Metropolitan's existing and future facilities. It will also be necessary to waive Water Rights Permit 7174 and transfer the related adjudicated 72 acre-foot San Gabriel River water right to the County.

It is anticipated that the Grant Deed will be executed and the transfer completed by the end of this year. Pursuant to the 1977 Agreement, Metropolitan will retain a continuous authority to store a minimum of 2,000 acre-feet of imported water in the reservoir and will have the right to use any water in storage in the event of an emergency when there is any outage in the distribution system.

Board Committee Assignments

This letter is referred to:

The Water Problems Committee for information pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2481(b), granting

it authority to study, advise and make recommendations with regard to changes in the District's aqueduct system to provide for the changing needs of the District's member agencies.

The Land Committee for information pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2451(b), granting it authority to study, advise and make recommendations with regard to the purchase, sale and lease of land or buildings.

The Engineering and Operations Committee for information pursuant to the Administrative Code Section 2431(c), granting it authority to study, advise and make recommendations with regard to the operation, protection, and maintenance of the plants and facilities required for the production, exchange, sale, storage, treatment, and delivery of water and power and for the storage and treatment of water.

Recommendation

For information only.


for Carl Boronkay

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Attachment

MORRIS RESERVOIR

