

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

October 26, 1992

To: Board of Directors (Executive Committee--Information)

From: General Manager

Subject: Representation on Colorado River Board of California

Report

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, the committee requested that information about the nature of the Colorado River Board (Board) be provided in order to facilitate the Board's discussion of representation of Metropolitan on that Board.

The Board is a state agency, created to safeguard the state's interest in water and power issues as they relate to the Colorado River. The Board's work includes evaluation of analyses relating to engineering, legal, and economic matters which affect California's interests in the Colorado River system. The Board provides the policy directives to the Executive Director and his staff. Among the current matters in which the Board represents or coordinates the state's interests is the agreement to provide an emergency supply of Colorado River water to Tijuana through facilities in Metropolitan's and the San Diego County Water Authority's service areas. The Board also has recently begun discussions with other Colorado River Basin states over a memorandum of understanding proposed by ten Indian tribes which would provide a framework for transfer of water by the tribes.

As it does each year, the Board represented California in the development of the Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River during 1993, under which it is anticipated that the California agencies' requests for Colorado River water will be fully met. Long-term matters of interest in which the Board represents California include the development of new long-term operating criteria for the Colorado River, environmental studies with respect to the operation of Glenn Canyon Dam and other Colorado River facilities and proposed weather modification programs to increase precipitation in the Colorado River Basin, all of which entail discussions not only with federal agencies but also with the other basins states.

An additional purpose of the Board is to facilitate discussion among the California interests to arrive at consensus positions. A current example is the Board's participation in negotiations regarding Metropolitan's proposed agreement with the Central Arizona Water Conservation District on underground storage of Colorado River water.

Membership on the Board is composed of representatives of the agencies which have contractual interests on the river--Metropolitan, Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, Palo Verde Irrigation District, San Diego County Water Authority, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, two public members, and the Director of Department of Water Resources and Director of the Department of Fish and Game (or their designees). The Governor appoints the representative and an alternate for each of the six agencies; however, the Governor must choose from a list of at least three persons, submitted by the agency, identifying the agency's recommendation for each position. If the Governor does not appoint a representative within 60 days from submission of the list, the person recommended by the agency is deemed appointed. The public members also are appointed by the Governor. Representatives and their alternates do not serve a specific term, and may be replaced at any time by the Governor in the case of the public members, and by the Governor on request of the agency in the case of an agency representative.

The Board's regular meeting is held on the Wednesday following the second Tuesday of each month, generally, at the Board's offices in Glendale, California. Additionally, members of that Board may attend the annual Colorado River Water Users Association meeting and may also periodically attend out-of-state meetings involving representatives of the other basin states.

Approximately two-thirds of the Board's activities are funded by the six agencies listed above and one-third is funded by the state. The agencies' contribution towards funding are made through a Six-Agency Committee which is established by a joint powers agreement. The total amount to be contributed and the proportion to be paid by each agency is set forth by agreement of those agencies. The contributions are deposited by the Board in the State Treasury to the credit of the Colorado River Fund.

Board Committee Assignment

This letter is referred for information to the Executive Committee because of its responsibility to study, advise, and make recommendations with regard to matters relating to the Colorado River Board of California, pursuant to Government Code section 2417, subdivision (d).

Recommendation

For information only.



Carl Boronkay

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